SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

CALOOSA PATRIOT

Volume XXI Issue VI | *Caloosa Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution Newsletter* | June/July 2026

John L. Maier, Jr, Editor

Continental Congress Adopts The Declaration of Independence

(250 Years Ago – 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 20 of this issue.]

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Sons of the American Revolution

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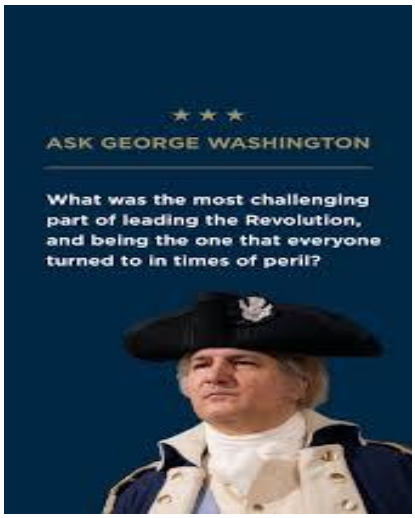

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A Message From Our President

Greetings, Compatriots:

We are fast approaching the 250th anniversary of the United States. I hope your summer started happily and healthily, spending time with family and friends.

Please visit the SAR website for more information on America's 250th at: https://america250sar.org/ for educational material and the *Decade of the American Revolution* calendar that lists Revolutionary War signature events.

The America250 webpage also has a calendar of events, some local, see https://america250.org/americas-250th/

Or, if you're into reading, look at the History Channel's 10 Books That Reframe the American Revolution: https://www.history.com/articles/best-books-on-the-american-revolution.

Finally, remember the words of President George Washington, "Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth."

Have a great summer.

Rick Parfitt

Rick Parfitt

President, Caloosa Chapter FLSSAR

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye!
Caloosa Chapter SAR 2026 Meeting Schedule

[Unless Otherwise Indicated]

Chapter Meetings Are Held At Famous Dave's
12148 South Cleveland Ave. Fort Myers, FL 33903

ExCom Meetings Are Now Being Held Virtually Via "Zoom" Connection
[Notify President Parfitt at Florida4rick@gmail.com or Vice-President John Maier at jmaier@wisclaw.com and request Zoom link if you'd like to attend]

Chapter Meetings		ExCom Meetings	
Wednesday Jan. 14, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026	11:30 a.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026	11:30a.m.
Wednesday, Mar. 11, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Mar. 3, 2026	11:30 a.m.
Saturday, April 11, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Mar. 31, 2026	11:30 a.m.
Saturday, May 9, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Apr. 28, 2026	11:30a.m.

Summer Break: No Chapter Meetings June through September
ExCom Meetings Will Begin Again In October

Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2026	[TBD]
Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026	[TBD]
Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2026	[TBD]

THE NEXT CALOOSA CHAPTER MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026 AT: FAMOUS DAVE'S BBQ RESTAURANT

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

Lunch Program Will Include The Induction Of Compatriots Whose Applications Have Been Approved Over The Summer Break

Lunch Buffet Menu:
St. Louis Style Spareribs, Roast Chicken, Garlic Red-Skin Mashed Potatoes, Creamy Cole Slaw, Corn Muffins, and Beverage (Soft Drink or Iced Tea)
Anyone needing a special meal (i. e., Vegetarian, other) let us know

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

All other details of the meeting will be posted in the summer issues of the Caloosa Patriot Newsletter

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.

Timeline: The Revolutionary Road To Independence

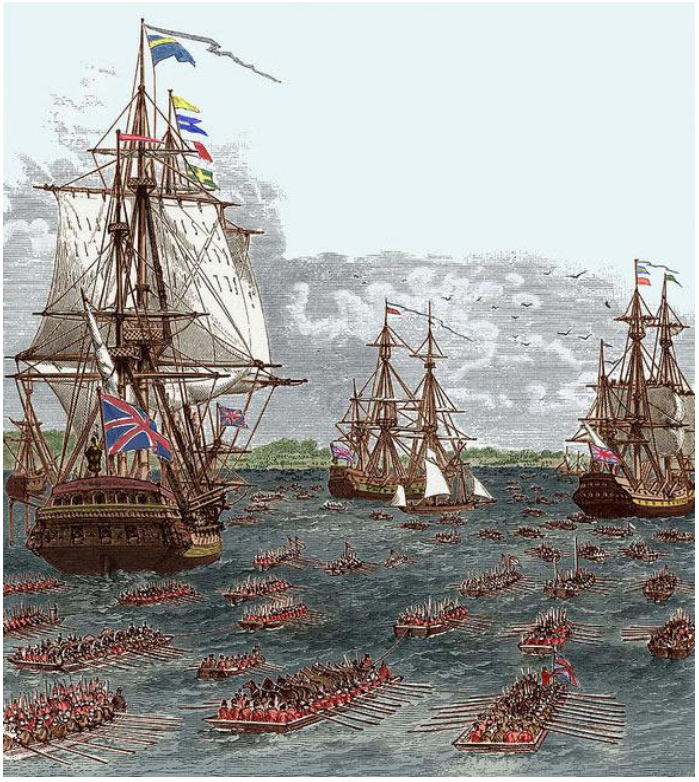
What Was Going On In June And July Of 1776?

As recounted in last-month's issue of The Caloosa Patriot, at the beginning of June 1776 the American war effort stood on the edge of its most perilous moment. The collapse of the Canadian campaign had left the northern frontier dangerously exposed. The remnants of the Continental Army—gaunt, sick, and demoralized—staggered back toward Lake Champlain in miserable condition. Disease hollowed out the ranks. Hunger gnawed at the men. Officers wrote despairing letters describing soldiers too weak to march, too sick to fight, and too dispirited to believe victory was possible. The dream of bringing Canada into the rebellion had evaporated, replaced by the grim realization that the British now held the initiative in the north.

But the true center of gravity was shifting southward—to New York. General George Washington, commanding the main American army, watched the waters around the city with growing dread. New York was the key to the Hudson River, the gateway to New England, and the most strategically important port on the continent. Washington knew the British would come for it, and he knew they would come in overwhelming force.

Throughout June, his soldiers labored to strengthen the city's defenses. They dug trenches on Manhattan, built redoubts on Long Island, and fortified the Hudson River with chains, chevaux-de-frise, (a defensive obstacle made of a frame bristling with long, sharp spikes, designed to stop cavalry, infantry, or even ships depending on the form) and hastily constructed batteries. The work was backbreaking, and the army—still plagued by short enlistments, uneven discipline, and chronic shortages—struggled to keep pace with the looming threat. Washington himself confessed in private letters that he feared the coming campaign would be the most difficult of the war.

His fears were justified. By mid-June, British ships began appearing off the coast in growing numbers. First a few transports, then a cluster of warships, and finally entire convoys. By the end of the month, the waters around Staten Island and the lower harbor were thick with masts.



British troops shown disembarking from the fleet Summer 1776

The British were assembling the largest expeditionary force they had ever sent abroad—eventually more than 30,000 soldiers and sailors, including thousands of Hessian auxiliaries. General William Howe commanded the army; his brother, Admiral Richard Howe, commanded the fleet. Their mission was clear: crush the rebellion in a single decisive blow.

The Americans watched helplessly as the British presence grew. Washington's army, though determined, was vastly outnumbered and inexperienced. Many of his soldiers had never seen a major battle. Others were nearing the end of their enlistments and counting the days until they could go home. The general knew he could not match the British in open battle, yet he also knew that abandoning New York without a fight would be politically disastrous.

Meanwhile, in the South, the American victory at Sullivan's Island on June 28 sent a surge of hope through the colonies. The British assault on Charleston had been repulsed with heavy losses, and the palmetto-log fort—later named Fort Moultrie—became a symbol of American resilience. But even this triumph could not overshadow the looming crisis in New York.

July brought no relief. The British continued to pour troops onto Staten Island, turning it into a massive staging ground. Washington's scouts reported that the enemy force was growing daily. The general prepared for the inevitable attack, shifting regiments, strengthening positions, and trying to instill discipline in an army that had never faced a professional European force on such a scale. By the end of July, the situation was unmistakable: the British were preparing to strike, and the fate of the Revolution would soon hinge on the defenses of New York.

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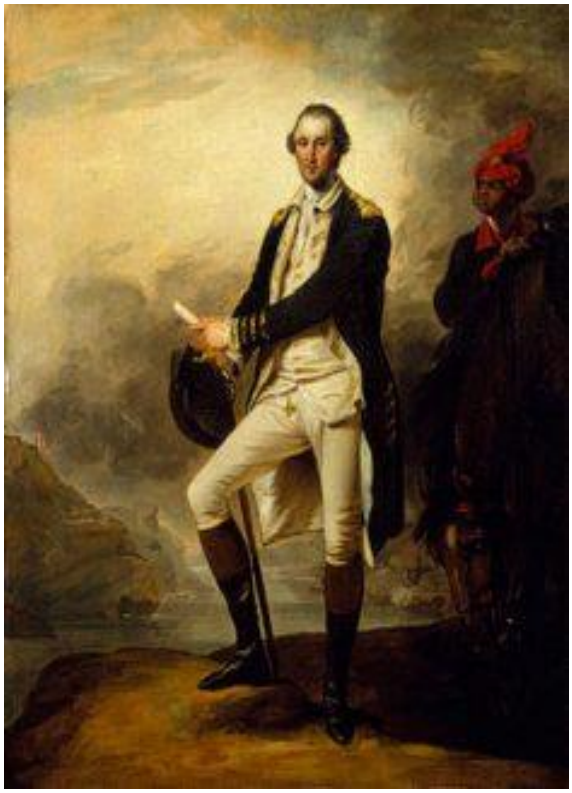
Washington's Anxiety and Howe's Strategy. Washington felt the weight of the coming campaign more heavily than at any other moment in the war thus far. By late June, he had spent weeks watching the British fleet grow like a dark, swelling tide at the mouth of New York Harbor. Each morning brought new sails on the horizon, new reports of troop landings on Staten Island, new rumors of Hessian regiments disembarking in perfect European order. The sheer scale of the British buildup was unlike anything the colonies had ever faced. Washington knew it; his officers knew it; even the rawest private could sense that something immense was gathering. In his private correspondence, Washington's tone shifted from cautious optimism to a kind of grim realism. He confessed that the enemy's numbers were "far beyond anything we have yet seen," and he worried that his own army—brave but inexperienced—might crumble under the shock of a full-scale British assault. He fretted over the unfinished fortifications, the shortage of powder, the uneven discipline, the constant turnover of short-term enlistments. Every deficiency seemed magnified by the knowledge that the British were preparing to strike with professional precision.



Gen. George Washington

Washington walked the lines daily, inspecting redoubts, questioning engineers, urging officers to drill their men harder. Soldiers later recalled seeing him ride silently along the entrenchments, his face set, his eyes fixed on the harbor as if trying to read the intentions of the enemy fleet. He knew that New York was a trap—surrounded by water, vulnerable to naval maneuver, impossible to defend on every front. Yet he also knew that abandoning it without a fight would be politically catastrophic, especially now that Congress was moving toward independence. The army had to stand. The city had to be defended. And Washington had to find a way to hold together a force that was outnumbered, outgunned, and dangerously green.

Across the water, Lord Howe was shaping his own strategy with calm confidence. Unlike Washington, Howe commanded a professional army supported by the most powerful navy in the world. His plan for retaking New York was methodical, flexible, and rooted in the advantages of sea power. He intended to use the fleet to land troops wherever the Americans were weakest, to outflank their positions, and to force Washington into a battle on ground of Howe's choosing.

Howe's first objective was to secure Staten Island as a staging ground, which he accomplished with ease. From there, he could strike at Long Island, Manhattan, or the Hudson River forts. His intelligence suggested that the American defenses on Long Island were incomplete and manned by inexperienced troops. A landing there, followed by a sweeping flanking maneuver, could trap Washington's army against the East River. If executed properly, Howe believed he could destroy the Continental Army in a single campaign—ending the rebellion before it fully matured.

Yet Howe also carried instructions from London to attempt reconciliation if possible. The ministry hoped that a show of overwhelming force, combined with an offer of pardon, might bring the colonies back into the imperial fold. Howe himself was not eager for a bloody, protracted war. He intended to offer terms once his army was in a position of undeniable strength. But he also understood that the Americans, emboldened by their political momentum, might refuse any overture short of full independence. Washington suspected as much. He believed Howe's peace feelers were a trap—an attempt to divide the colonies or sap the army's resolve. And so he prepared for the worst. As July drew to a close, the two commanders—one anxious, the other confident—stood on opposite sides of the harbor, each waiting for the moment when the war would enter its most decisive phase. [Continued on Page 10]

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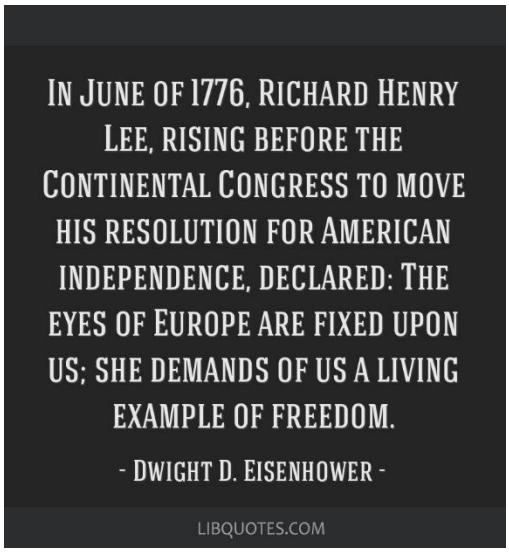
Political Situation: June–July 1776. While armies maneuvered and fleets gathered, the Continental Congress in Philadelphia was engaged in a struggle of its own—one that would determine not just the course of the war, but the very identity of the colonies.

The question of independence, long debated in whispers and pamphlets, now stood at the center of political life. By early June, the collapse of royal authority in the colonies, the bloodshed of the past year, and the arrival of massive British reinforcements had convinced many that reconciliation was no longer possible. The war had already created de facto independence; the question was whether Congress would declare it openly.

On June 7, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia introduced his famous resolution calling for the colonies to declare themselves "free and independent States." The proposal electrified the chamber. Some delegates embraced it immediately; others hesitated, fearing that a premature declaration might divide the colonies or provoke harsher British retaliation. Congress postponed the vote, but the momentum was unmistakable.

As debate continued, Congress took a decisive step. On June 11, it appointed a committee to draft a declaration explaining the reasons for independence. The committee consisted of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston, and the young Virginian Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson, admired for his eloquence, was chosen to write the first draft.



Jefferson worked in a rented room on Market Street, writing late into the night, shaping the grievances of a people into a statement of universal rights. His draft, completed on June 28, was submitted to Congress for debate. Over the next several days, delegates edited, revised, and in some cases softened Jefferson's language, but the core of his argument remained intact.

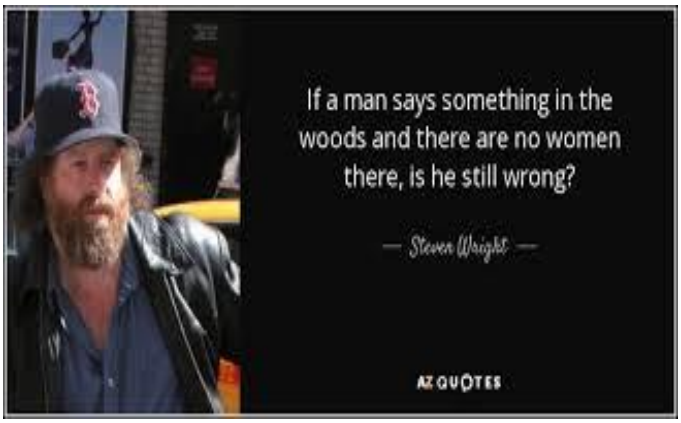
Meanwhile, the political landscape outside Philadelphia was shifting rapidly. Colonial assemblies—now calling themselves state conventions—were drafting new constitutions. Town meetings passed resolutions supporting independence. Newspapers printed arguments for separation. The colonies were transforming themselves from subjects of a king into citizens of emerging states.

On July 1, Congress resumed debate on Lee's resolution. The arguments were intense, but the tide had turned. One by one, the colonies declared their support. On July 2, the resolution passed. John Adams wrote that the day would be celebrated "as the great anniversary festival" for generations to come.

Two days later, on July 4, Congress approved the final text of Jefferson's Declaration of Independence. The document announced to the world that the colonies were no longer part of the British Empire—they were a new nation, united in the cause of liberty. Yet even as the ink dried on the Declaration, the reality of war pressed in. The British fleet in New York Harbor was preparing to strike. The northern frontier was exposed. The Continental Army was outnumbered and untested.

The political birth of the United States had occurred at the very moment when its military survival was most in doubt.

Just For Laughs!
Ponder These Observations From the Genius of Comedian Steven Wright



1 - I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.

2 - Borrow money from pessimists -- they don't expect it back.

3 - Half the people you know are below average.

4 - 99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.

5 - 82.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot.

6 - A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.

7 - A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

8 - All those who believe in psycho kinesis, raise my hand.

9 - The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

10 - I almost had a psychic girlfriend, ... But she left me before we met.

11 - OK, so what's the speed of dark?

12 - How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?

13 - If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.

14 - When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

15 - Hard work pays off in the future; laziness pays off now.

16 - I intend to live forever ... So far, so good.

17 - If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?

18 - What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

19 - My mechanic told me, "I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder."

20 - Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?

21 - If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.

22 - Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

23 - The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.

24 - To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.

25 - The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.

26 - The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.

27 - The colder the x-ray table, the more of your body is required to be on it.

28 - Everyone has a photographic memory; some just don't have film.

29 - If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.

30 - If your car could travel at the speed of light, would your headlights work?

Washington's Army in Crisis

The Struggle to Forge a Fighting Force in the Summer of 1776

As pointed out in last month's issue of the Caloosa Patriot, when the British evacuated Boston in March 1776, Americans celebrated the moment as a triumph. Church bells rang, crowds cheered, and newspapers declared the victory a sign of divine favor. But General George Washington felt no such triumph. Even as the last British sails disappeared over the horizon, he was already looking southward, toward New York—the next and far more dangerous battleground. And as spring turned toward summer, Washington's private letters reveal a commander who feared that his army, fragile even during the Boston siege, was now on the brink of falling apart entirely.

The crisis had begun months earlier when enlistments expired at the start of the year. In January, Washington warned Joseph Reed that the army was evaporating beneath him: "*Few people know the predicament we are in.*" He explained that he was attempting something nearly impossible: "*Search the volumes of history through, and I much question whether a case similar to ours is to be found… to have one army disbanded, and another to raise, within the same distance of a reinforced enemy; it is too much to attempt.*"

Washington had managed to hold the siege lines long enough to force the British out of Boston, but the victory masked a deeper truth: the Continental Army was not ready for a real war. It was a collection of short-term enlistees, militiamen who came and went unpredictably, and officers who had never commanded more than a handful of men before 1775. By early summer, the problems that had plagued the army in Boston had grown worse. Supplies were scarce. Pay was months in arrears. Discipline was weak. Desertion increased. And the militia, whose enthusiasm had briefly surged after the British retreat, began drifting home again. Washington's letters from May and June show a commander who felt the ground shifting beneath him. Writing to John Hancock and the Continental Congress, he warned repeatedly that the army was not prepared for the coming storm. In one letter, he confessed that he had been forced to hide the truth: "*I have been obliged to conceal the true state of the army from my friends, and indeed from my own army.*"

By June, those difficulties had multiplied. The army was now spread across a vast defensive perimeter in New York, attempting to fortify Brooklyn, Manhattan, Governors Island, Paulus Hook, and the Hudson Highlands—all with troops who were sick, unpaid, poorly trained, and increasingly demoralized. Disease swept through the camps. Smallpox, dysentery, and fevers thinned the ranks. Washington had already warned Congress earlier in the year that smallpox could "*ruin the army*" if not contained. In New York, his fears were realized. Entire companies were rendered unfit for duty.

Meanwhile, British ships began appearing off the coast. By late June, more than a hundred vessels crowded the waters around Staten Island, with more arriving every day. Washington climbed vantage points to watch the fleet assemble, knowing that each new mast represented another regiment he would soon have to face. He wrote to Congress that the enemy's force was "*beyond any thing we have ever seen*," and that the Continental Army was "*not equal to the task before us*" unless drastic measures were taken.

Yet Washington did not despair. Instead, he undertook the most ambitious project of his life: to build a real army in a matter of weeks. So what steps did he take to begin to give the Patriots a real chance of success?

The Continental Army was transformed over time with hard work, discipline and training

His first task was structural. The army that had marched from Boston was a patchwork of regiments raised by different colonies, each with its own traditions, officers, and expectations. Washington imposed a new organizational scheme—brigades and divisions under major generals and brigadiers—designed to create coherence where none existed. He assigned experienced officers like Nathanael Greene, William Heath, and Israel Putnam to command these new formations. Greene, in particular, became Washington's most trusted organizer. He drilled his brigade relentlessly, insisting on regular roll calls, standardized camp layouts, and strict discipline. Washington pointed to Greene's camps as examples for others to follow.

Training became Washington's next priority. He ordered daily drills, sometimes twice daily, across the sprawling defenses of Manhattan and Brooklyn. Officers were instructed to teach their men the British manual of arms—the very system used by the enemy—because Washington knew that only disciplined volleys and coordinated maneuvers could stand against British regulars.
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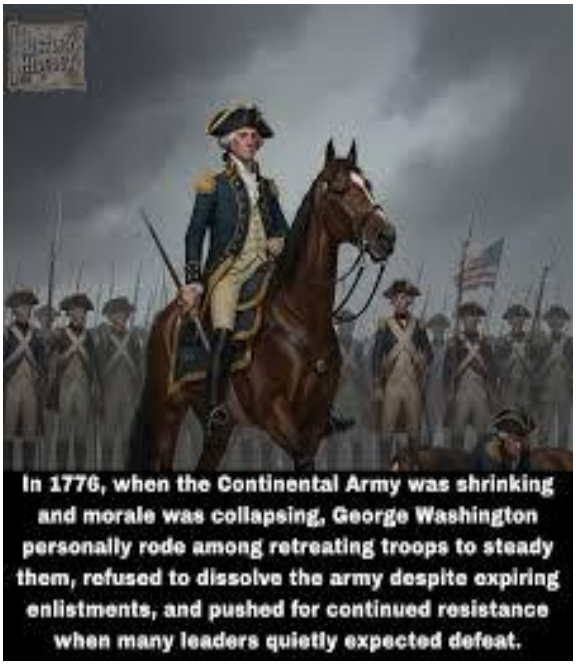
Washington demanded that officers stop treating drill as a formality. "*The fate of America depends upon it,*" he told them. He wanted soldiers who could load and fire three rounds a minute, maintain formation under fire, and execute bayonet charges—something the militia had never practiced.

The bayonet, in particular, became an obsession. British infantry excelled at the bayonet, and Washington knew his men feared it. Many had no bayonets at all. Those who did often lacked scabbards or training. Washington pushed Congress and state governments to supply more, and he ordered officers to drill bayonet work relentlessly. "*Teach them to rely on the bayonet,*" he wrote, "*for it is the weapon on which we must depend.*"

Training alone would not save New York. Washington needed fortifications—massive ones. He ordered the construction of a defensive network stretching from the Battery at Manhattan's southern tip to the Harlem Heights in the north, and across the East River to Brooklyn. Thousands of soldiers became laborers. They dug trenches, built redoubts, erected palisades, and mounted cannon on hastily constructed platforms. Washington oversaw the work personally, riding from position to position, urging officers to push their men harder. He knew the British would strike where the defenses were weakest.

Equipping the army proved harder than training it. Congress had little money, and the states were slow to send supplies. Washington wrote letter after letter—pleading, demanding, warning. He needed muskets, powder, flints, tents, blankets, shoes, uniforms, and above all gunpowder, which remained scarce even after the Boston victory. He sent officers into Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania to purchase arms. He ordered the repair of every musket in camp, no matter how old. Blacksmiths worked day and night. Powder was rationed so tightly that soldiers drilled with empty muskets to conserve it. Clothing was another crisis. Many soldiers arrived in New York wearing the same garments they had worn through the winter siege of Boston. Washington feared disease, desertion, and the demoralizing effect of ragged appearance. He begged Congress for uniforms and ordered quartermasters to scour the countryside for linen and wool. Food, too, was uncertain. New York's population strained the army's supply lines. Washington reorganized the commissary department, appointed new officers, and demanded strict accounting. He knew that an army that went hungry would not stand and fight.

Discipline became the soul of Washington's reforms. Courts-martial became common. Drunkenness, desertion, theft, and insubordination were punished swiftly. He did not enjoy harsh measures, but he believed they were necessary. He also cracked down on officers who failed to enforce discipline. Some were dismissed. Others resigned rather than meet Washington's expectations. He wanted leaders who could command respect, not men who treated their positions as political appointments.



Washington also understood that soldiers fight not only with muskets but with morale. He worked to instill a sense of purpose in his army. He read congressional resolutions aloud to the troops. He encouraged chaplains to preach about liberty and duty. He reminded his men that they were defending their homes, their families, and the future of the continent.

When the Declaration of Independence arrived in early July, Washington ordered it read to every brigade. The effect was electric. For the first time, the soldiers understood that they were not fighting for reconciliation but for a new nation. Washington hoped that this realization would stiffen their resolve.

What level of understanding and support, you may ask, did Washington receive from Congress?

I was surprised to find in researching for this article that even as Washington labored to build an army, Congress's expectations diverged sharply from his reality.
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The distance between Philadelphia and New York was not merely geographic—it was philosophical. Congress imagined a war fought by citizen-soldiers who would rise up in defense of liberty, serve briefly, and then return home. Washington, watching his army melt away through disease, desertion, and expiring enlistments, knew that such a vision was not merely naïve—it was fatal.

Most in Congress still clung to the Revolutionary ideal that a standing army was a threat to liberty. Many delegates believed that short-term enlistments and militia service were the safest way to defend the new nation without creating a military caste. Washington, however, had already lived through the consequences of this philosophy during the Boston siege. He had seen regiments vanish overnight, officers resign without warning, and militia units refuse orders they found inconvenient. Now, in New York, he faced the same problem on a far larger stage. Congress expected enthusiasm to compensate for inexperience. Washington knew better. He had seen how enthusiasm evaporated under fire, how militia units broke at the first sight of a bayonet, how men unused to discipline could not hold a line when British regulars advanced in perfect formation. Congress believed that liberty itself would inspire steadfastness. Washington believed that steadfastness required training, discipline, and long-term enlistments—none of which Congress had yet provided.

The supply situation revealed the same disconnect. Congress assumed that the states would furnish arms, clothing, and provisions. Washington saw firsthand that the states were overwhelmed, disorganized, and often indifferent. Muskets arrived without locks, powder arrived damp, shoes arrived in mismatched sizes or not at all. Congress imagined that patriotic fervor would fill the gaps. Washington knew that an army marched on its stomach, not its ideals.

Even the Declaration of Independence, which Washington had read to the troops in early July, revealed the tension between Congress's vision and Washington's reality. Congress believed that declaring independence would galvanize the army and the people. Washington hoped it would—but he also knew that declarations did not build fortifications, cure smallpox, or teach a man to stand firm when a British bayonet glinted ten yards away. Independence raised the stakes; it did not solve the problems.

Congress also underestimated the scale of the British response. Many delegates believed the British would not commit their full strength to the war. Washington, watching hundreds of ships fill the harbor, understood that the British intended to crush the rebellion in a single campaign. He wrote to Congress warning that the enemy's force was "beyond anything we have ever seen," but Congress still imagined that militia levies and short-term enlistments would suffice.

The result was a growing tension—unspoken but unmistakable—between the civilian leadership and the commander in the field. Congress expected Washington to defend New York, hold the Hudson, protect the Jerseys, and maintain the army's morale, all while relying on troops who served for a single year or less. Washington knew that such expectations were impossible. He needed a professional army, long-term enlistments, reliable supplies, and a unified command structure. Congress, wary of centralized military power, hesitated to grant any of these.

Yet Washington never openly challenged Congress. He understood the fragility of the new nation and the necessity of civilian control. Instead, he worked within the constraints imposed on him, improvising solutions, pleading for resources, and pushing his officers to do more with less. He trained the army Congress had given him, not the army he wished he had. By the end of July, the gap between expectation and reality had become a chasm. Congress believed the army was ready. Washington knew it was not. But the British were coming, and there was no more time for debate.

The test would come soon enough—on the fields and forests of Long Island.
[Editor's note: This series will be continued in coming issues of The Caloosa Patriot.]

If You Are Interested . . .

BECOME A GENEALOGICAL SLEUTH 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 19, 2026

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. 19, 2026. The Invitation, including the Luncheon Menu, follows on the next page. Reservation deadline is September 1, 2026.

THE CONSTITUTION WEEK LUNCHEON 2025

Naples-on-the-Gulf Chapter, National Society DAR
Invite you, your guests, and prospective members
to Commemorate the 239th Anniversary of the Ratification of the Constitution of the United States of America

Check in: 10:30 - 11:30 am on Saturday, September19, 2026
The Naples Sailing & Yacht Club
896 River Point Drive, Naples, FL 34102
(Valet is required and included in the price)

RESERVATIONS ONLY !
Deadline for reservations is Tuesday, September 1st, 2026.
Cancelations after this date will not be refunded.
Cost is $55.00 per person if paid by July 19, 2026
and $59.00 if received after that date.

Mail to: Juliana Meek
599 Tamiami Trail N, Suite 309
Naples, FL 34109

OR PAYPAL.ME/NOGDAR
*Please provide name, chapter, phone number and meal choice

*Checks should be made out to "Naples-on-the-Gulf Chapter, NSDAR" and included with the bottom half of this flyer, completed with the required information.

If you have questions, please contact Carolina Novo at: **carolinaandjose@hotmail.com**

Cut here:……

1- Lobster Salad: Sliced Granny Smith Apples, Asparagus and Tomato Ribs with Maine Lobster Meat and Honey Citrus Dressing in a Radicchio Cup

2- Grilled Mahi Mahi with Lemon Butter and Pineapple Relish, Cous Cous and Broccolini

3- Roasted Chicken Breast: Free Range Statler Chicken Breast served with Thyme Jus Black Rice and Grilled Asparagus

4- Grilled Vegetable Salad with Sundried Tomato Hummus and Pita Chips: Watercress topped with Grilled Asparagus, Zucchini and Squash, Tomato, Capsicum, Portobello, Kalamata Olives and Raspberry Vinaigrette

Dessert: Chocolate Truffle Cake with Raspberry Coulis

Name:_____ **Chapter:**_____ **Phone:**_____

Menu Choice:_____

Mourning the Loss of our Compatriot
A Tribute To Albert Myers

Albert Myers at a Caloosa Chapter FLSSAR Meeting in 2017
(Photo courtesy of Bob McGuire)

Albert Myers, a friend and spiritual leader to thousands of people in the United States and Canada, "finished the race" and was welcomed home by his Creator, on May 22nd of this year.

The Caloosa Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution grieve the loss of its former president and genealogist, as do a half dozen other lineage societies and houses of worship in Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wyoming, and Toronto. As a husband, a father of four and a grandfather to eight, Myers spent most of his working life breathing life into struggling church communities. Without exception, they responded almost immediately to the exhortations of a true Christian.

Albert refused to utter a bad word about any man, striving each day to "judge not, lest ye be judged". His Christian example was happily witnessed by the Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants, the General Society of the War of 1812, the Sons of Veterans of the Civil War, SUVCW Camp No. 2, and the Sons and Daughters of the Colonial Militia.

The popular Lutheran minister possessed a PhD in Divinity and made good use of it. In addition to assignments in more than a dozen church communities, Myers spent the last 24 years of his career as the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches. The Council included as its members, almost fifty churches, many of a different denomination. His universally praised work was recognized by Pope John Paul II, whose letter of commendation was hand-delivered to Albert, under seal, by a Prince of the Catholic Church, a cardinal. Not bad for a Lutheran Minister.

Albert's youngest son, 63-year-old Forrest Myers, speaks openly about his years as a "PK". (A pastor's kid)
"I was 25 years old when my father and I became friends," said the youngest Myers.

He describes hours-long walks in the woods of Penobscot, Maine, the family's ancestral home. And the passionate fury with which his father would search the property for long forgotten gravestones, repair and clean the grave markers, research the deceased person's lineage, and then celebrate when an ancestor of generations ago, "came to life."

And there was that time when Pastor Myers spent some of his own money for the construction and installation of a crucifix at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Richmond Hill, Ontario. It was 100 feet tall. A metaphor, perhaps, for the giant of a man whose career was spent doing nothing less than the work of God.

Forrest Meyers bubbles over when asked about his fondest memories of his father, the Pastor. For example, skipping school to attend a World Series game between the Pirates and the Oakland A's. Walks. A mile and a quarter long, his father on the way to church, the boy on his way to elementary school.

In the years just prior to the pastor's passing, there were weekly visits. All of them on a Wednesday. Father and son would share the latest news, reminisce about the "good old days," and speak quietly about that day that each knew would soon arrive.

Albert Myers insisted on no formal funeral. "If the kids need closure, I want it to be a private ceremony," he said. And it was. The man's genuine humility required nothing less.

Forrest recalls the last time he spoke to his dad. A Wednesday. He nearly forgot to give the old man a kiss goodbye. The son retraced his steps in the Assisted Living Facility hallway, planted a kiss on his father's cheek, turned and said, "See you next week." Albert knew better. "Yeah," he said, "Unless the good Lord takes me home."

He did. Forrest would never see his father again.

All of us mourn the loss of this great man. But we rejoice that for a painfully brief period of time, Albert Myers walked in our midst.

Mourning the Loss of our Compatriot
A Tribute To William H. "Bill" Mellor

(L to R) William "Bill" Mellor, shown with son, John

Compatriot William Harvey "Bill" Mellor, father of Compatriot John Frederick Mellor, passed away at age 101 on Tuesday, April 30, 2026. He was born on December 22, 1924, in Ft. Myers, a son of attorney Fred H. Mellor of Pensacola, who came to Ft. Myers to practice law in 1921, and the former Fannie Anderson of Tampa. Bill was educated in Lee County schools, the University of Florida and Georgia Tech. He served three years in the U. S. Navy during World War II, in the Pacific theater, as a flight engineer with Photo Reconnaissance Group 2. One the last living WW II veterans, he served as the photographer on a mission in which he flew on a B-24 over Hiroshima and captured the blast of the atomic bomb. Bill's only brother, John Frederick Mellor I, lost his life in the Philippines in that same war.

After WWII, Bill married Patricia Humfleet of Ft. Myers, who passed away on December 14, 2024, at age 98, after 77 years of marriage. He was also predeceased by his son John Frederick Mellor of Ft. Myers, and his only sister Noralee Stephenson of Richmond, previously of Falls Church, VA. Survivors include daughters Catherine Mellor Carter (Billy) of Jacksonville, FL, and Barbara Mellor of Highlands, NC, three grandsons, six great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren, and his nieces and nephews.

Bill was a general building contractor for many years. He developed Sabal Shores Subdivision at Ft. Myers Beach, built residential and commercial buildings, including one of the first strip shopping centers in Ft. Myers, which was built to his own original design. He also served his community well. He was a lifelong member of the First Presbyterian Church of Ft. Myers, and in his earlier years, was active in civic and patriotic organizations at Ft. Myers Beach, such as Lions Club and American Legion. He also served as a state director of the Isaac Walton League, and in the 1960's he was a member of the Committee of One Hundred, a group dedicated to improving downtown Ft. Myers.

However, Bill was probably best known as the founder of the Lee County Conservation Association, Inc., of which he was president and spokesman for many years. This organization is credited with stopping the once flagrant practice of destroying Florida's estuaries to create land for development. On September 11, 2012, the Board of County Commissioners of Lee County passed a Resolution thanking Bill for his leadership in saving Estero Bay from dredge-fill development and for his many years of dedicated effort leading to the establishment of the forty-one Aquatic Preserves now in the state of Florida. He has also been honored several times on anniversaries of the 1966 establishment in Lee County of the first Aquatic Preserve.

Bill was also a proud, and long-time, member of the Caloosa Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, and enjoyed going to the Chapter meetings with his son, John, who was also a member. They had a great time together when the opportunity presented itself for both of them to attend the same meeting. Bill's wife, Pat, was a proud member of the Daughters of the American Revolution in her own right.

Bill was one of the "Potato Hole Woodsons" who earned their monicker when one of their ancestors, Robert Woodson, was hidden by his mother in a pit made for keeping potatoes to save him from marauding Powhatan Indians in 1644. Generations later, both Colonel John Woodson and his son, Ensign John Jr. served in the Revolution. It is John Jr. who was the Patriot ancestor of our Compatriots William and John Mellor. And, in fact, Ensign John Woodson Jr. of the Continental Forces was present to witness the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. The complete story, including the tie-in of the Woodson family with none other than President Thomas Jefferson, is the subject of an excellent article written by Pat Mellor and Compatriot Robert McGuire and included in the October 2015 edition of the Caloosa Patriot Newsletter (available on the Chapter Web Page).

While the original technical meaning of the word "Compatriot" might simply be one who is a fellow countryman, today the term has grown to include those who are your friend, your buddy, your colleague, or your comrade. Bill would certainly have viewed it as such, and the feeling was mutual. We as the members of the Caloosa Chapter, SAR, send our prayers and condolences to the Mellor Family and thank them for sharing him with us. We are forever grateful that he enjoyed our company as much as we enjoyed his.

Compatriots Corner

The purpose of the "Compatriots Corner" page is to promote the mission and goals of the SAR by recounting our respective patriot ancestor's participation in the War for Independence. Award winning author Mark Barie, and his wife, Christine Racine, have been writing these vignettes now for some time, and we thank both of them for continuing to help getting our patriots' stories down on paper. Each of our Patriot ancestors' contributions combined to bring about the birth of the United States of America. Mark and Christine enjoy writing about the Revolutionary War exploits of our own Patriot ancestors! And what great stories they are indeed. What follows is the story they wrote regarding the service of Benjamin Register, the Patriot ancestor of our Compatriot Philip Snyderburn, Jr.

Father and Son Fighting the Tory War

By Compatriot Philip Snyderburn, Jr. (With Christine A. Racine and Compatriot Mark Barie)

My patriot was Benjamin Register, who fought in the Tory Wars of 1781 under Colonel James Kenan. Kenan was a major Revolutionary War leader from North Carolina who fought a number of his battles within earshot of my Patriot's home. And although the region was a hotbed of Tory support, it was also home to a newly established gun factory, built especially for the Patriot cause.

In 1776, the North Carolina Provincial Congress declared their independence from British rule. They also allocated 1,000 pounds ($40,000 in today's money) for creation of a gun factory very near where my patriot lived.

Despite a loyalist governor, (Josiah Martin), and a large contingent of active Tory sympathizers, the gun factory was able to produce 100 muskets, three rifles, and six smooth-bore guns. The North Carolina Provincial Congress dictated that the weapons would cost no more than five pounds each. Keenan and his troops directly benefited from these newly minted muskets. The muskets, (commonly known as a Brown Bess), came with an 18-inch bayonet. The long rifles included a three-quarters inch bore and were three feet eight inches in length.

The Brown Bess

Ironically, one of Keenan's recruits, and presumably a beneficiary of the gun factory's production, was none other than Benjamin Register's son, John. John Register would serve in the militia for a total of 12 months. He would see action as a foot soldier and later on as a member of the cavalry. He fought with Kenan at the Battle of Big Bridge. And while there is no historical record showing that father and son fought in the same battle, the senior Register is almost certain to have fought with the colonel, elsewhere in the local Tory War.

The senior Register lived in the area when a total mobilization of every able-bodied Whig/Patriot was in effect. In addition, his financial records clearly show that he was paid for service in the North Carolina militia at the precise time when Kenan's regiment actively engaged the Tory supporters. As a result, it is believed that my patriot, then 41 years old, fought at the Battle of Cohera Swamp and at the Battle of Portevents Mills. Both skirmishes occurred very near my patriot's residence.

I am truly honored to know that both my Patriot AND his son risked their lives in support of our nation's independence. And it is especially gratifying to know that they fought for our freedom with weapons that were made in their own backyard.

Unsung Heroes of the American Revolution
A Narrative of Risk and Resolve: The Signers of the Declaration of Independence

When the delegates of the Continental Congress gathered in Philadelphia in the summer of 1776, they did so under the shadow of a gallows. No one said it aloud, but every man in the chamber understood the stakes. The parchment before them was not merely a political statement; it was a death warrant—signed by their own hands.

To declare the colonies independent was, in the eyes of the British Crown, nothing less than treason. And treason carried a penalty as brutal as it was certain: hanging.

And nevertheless, on July 4, after weeks of debate, edits, and hesitation, fifty-six men stepped forward to affix their names to the Declaration of Independence. They did so knowing that the ink might as well have been made from their own blood.

The Weight of a Signature. John Hancock signed first, and he signed large. *"So that King George may read it without his spectacles,"* he reportedly said. It was bravado, but it was also defiance—a symbolic gesture that the others felt in their bones.

Once the signatures were added, there was no turning back. The Crown would not forgive rebellion, and the British army was already on American soil.

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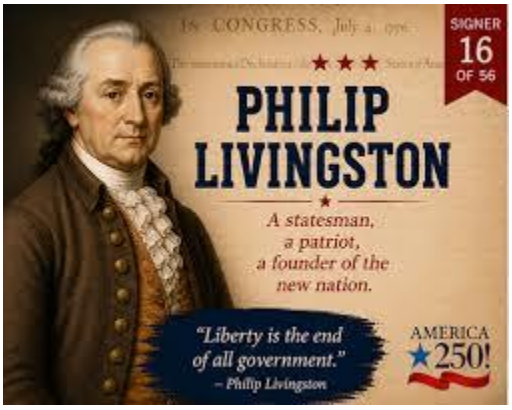
Most of the signers were not soldiers. They were lawyers, merchants, physicians, planters, and scholars—men with families, estates, and reputations. They were not revolutionaries by temperament. Many had spent years trying to reconcile with Britain. But by 1776, reconciliation was a fantasy, and the only path forward was perilous.

Signing the Declaration meant risking everything: property, liberty, family safety, and life itself. And for many, those risks became reality.

The British Came for the Signers. As the war intensified, the British targeted the signers deliberately. They understood that the rebellion's strength came not only from Washington's army but from the political legitimacy provided by these men. If the signers could be captured, broken, or publicly ruined, the rebellion might collapse. Some signers paid almost immediately.

William Floyd of New York returned home after the British occupation of Long Island to find his estate seized and his family driven into exile. They lived as refugees for seven years.



Lewis Morris, also of New York, saw his lands ravaged, his livestock stolen, and his home burned. He died in debt, having sacrificed his fortune to the cause.

Philip Livingston, another New Yorker, lost his home and properties to British confiscation. He died in 1778, worn down by illness and financial strain.

The war was especially cruel to those whose homes lay in contested regions. **Thomas Nelson Jr.**, governor of Virginia, faced a terrible choice during the siege of Yorktown. British General Cornwallis had taken over Nelson's own mansion as headquarters. Nelson urged Washington to open fire on it. The American artillery complied. Nelson's home was destroyed, and he died a few years later, financially ruined.

Richard Stockton

Imprisonment, Exile, and Hardship. Some signers suffered directly at the hands of the British.

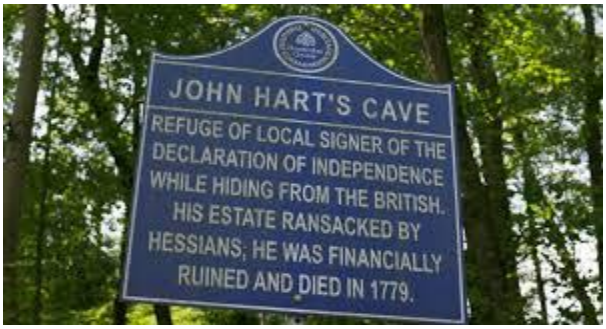
Richard Stockton of New Jersey was captured while attempting to evacuate his family. He was dragged from his bed, imprisoned, starved, and abused. By the time he was released, his health was broken, his estate plundered, and his law library—his life's work—destroyed. He died in 1781, a shattered man.

George Walton of Georgia was wounded and captured in 1778. He spent months in harsh captivity before being exchanged.

Edward Rutledge, **Thomas Heyward Jr.**, and **Arthur Middleton**—all from South Carolina—were captured when Charleston fell in 1780. They were imprisoned in St. Augustine, Florida, under brutal conditions. Their estates were looted, and their families displaced.

The Quiet Sacrifices. Not all suffering came from bullets or prisons. For many signers, the war brought slow, grinding loss.

Robert Morris, the financier of the Revolution, risked his vast fortune to keep the Continental Army alive. He signed loans, mortgaged properties, and poured personal wealth into the war effort. After the war, he fell into debt and spent years in debtor's prison.



John Hart of New Jersey fled into the woods when British and Hessian troops raided his farm. He spent months in hiding, sleeping in caves and forests, unable to see his dying wife or protect his children. When he returned, his farm was ruined. He died in 1779, worn down by hardship.

Francis Lewis of New York saw his wife captured by the British. She was imprisoned, denied basic comforts, and treated harshly. Though eventually exchanged, she never recovered and died shortly after her release.

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The Cost to the Signers of Their Convictions. It is tempting to imagine that the signers were uniformly heroic, but they were human—afraid, uncertain, and painfully aware of the consequences. Some lost sons in the war. Some lost their health. Many lost their fortunes. A few lost their lives prematurely because of the strain.

Yet none recanted. None betrayed the cause. None asked to have his name removed. Their unity was not perfect—political disagreements persisted—but their commitment to independence held firm. They had pledged "our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor," and for many, that pledge became literal.

What They Won. By the end of the war in 1783, the signers had helped achieve something unprecedented: the successful creation of a republic founded not on monarchy or aristocracy but on the radical idea that government derived its power from the consent of the governed.

Some lived to see the nation take shape. **John Adams** and **Thomas Jefferson** became presidents. **Benjamin Franklin** helped negotiate peace and shape the Constitution. **Samuel Adams** guided Massachusetts through its early years of statehood.

Others died before the new nation stabilized. But all of them—whether they died wealthy or penniless, honored or forgotten—had taken the same leap into the unknown.

The men who constituted the Drafting Committee of Five: (L to R) John Adams, Robert Sherman, Robert R. Livingston, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin, were assigned the task of preparing the draft Declaration before it was presented to Congress for debate, agreed revisions and ultimate adoption..

The Legacy of Their Risk. The signers of the Declaration of Independence were not perfect men. They were like us, flawed human beings, contradictory, and products of their time. But on that July day in 1776, they did something extraordinary. They knowingly risked death so that a new political order might be born. Their signatures were more than names. They were acts of courage—quiet, deliberate, and irrevocable. And the nation that emerged from their defiance remains their enduring legacy.

Our Continuing Obligation to Their Sacrifice. [Your Editor's Editorial Conclusion] In reflecting on the courage of the Declaration's signers, we inherit more than a historical memory—we inherit a responsibility. ***Their willingness to hazard their lives for the principle that all people possess inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness demands more from us than admiration.*** Responsibility calls for vigilance. It calls for civic virtue. And responsibility calls for a renewed commitment to the dignity and freedom of every individual. The signers understood that rights are not self-executing; they survive only when citizens defend them with clarity, conviction, and moral steadiness. We owe no less to our forefathers.

So, in our own time—amid its noise, its divisions, and its temptations to cynicism—let us all honor their sacrifice best by safeguarding the liberties they risked everything to proclaim. Their signatures were a promise. It falls to us to keep it!

They risked it all, and concluded the Declaration as follows:
". . . we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor."

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, Rick Parfitt.

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 Rick Parfitt at: **Florida4rick@gmail.com** 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.

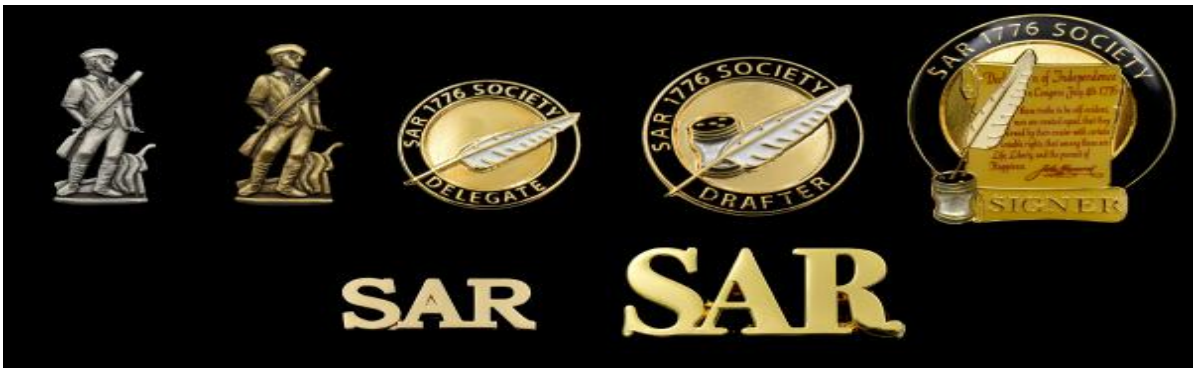
This unit became one of the best-known in the Continental Army's history, and in 1780 Lee was given authorization to form a formal Legionary Corps. Many of the best soldiers from other units either volunteered or were specially invited to join its ranks. In 1780, Lee was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel 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.

HAPPY
JULY 4th!

God Bless America
While the storm clouds gather far across the sea, let us swear allegiance to a land that's free.
Let us all be grateful for a land so fair, as we raise our voices in a solemn prayer.
God bless America, land that I love.
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with a light from above.
From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans, white with foam.
God bless America, my home sweet home.
God bless America, my home sweet home.
-- Irving Berlin



Dear Compatriot,

The SAR 1776 Campaign recognizes support of the SAR Education Center & Museum through distinctive commemorative lapel pins and museum recognition opportunities.

These lapel pins are visible symbols of dedication to preserving the legacy of the American Revolution and the future of the SAR. Worn proudly at chapter meetings, Congress, and leadership events, fellow compatriots immediately recognize the significance of these distinctions and the commitment they represent.

Many members enjoy adding each level to their SAR collection while advancing toward higher recognition within the campaign. In addition to the lapel pins, Quill-level donors receive permanent recognition within the museum.

• **Bronze Quill** — $5,328 • **Silver Quill** — $8,880
• **Gold Quill** — $17,760

Click Here to Contribute to the 1776 Campaign

Click Here to Download the 1776 Campaign Pledge Card

These quills will remain on display within the SAR Education Center & Museum as a lasting tribute to those helping preserve our nation's history for future generations. Partial donations are accepted and may be applied toward future recognition levels. Thank you for your time and please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions. I would love to speak with you!

Sincerely,

Amanda Holmquist

Amanda Holmquist
SAR Foundation Fundraising Manager
aholmquist@sar.org
502.588.6125

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 30 (FALL 2026): OCTOBER 10, 2026

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 30
October 10, 2026
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.