CALOOSA PATRIOT

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John L. Maier, Jr, Editor

Patriots vs Loyalists
The First Battle of Ninety-Six
(November 19-21, 1775)



At the October Chapter meeting, our Compatriot Randy Moody reminded us that the First Battle of Ninety-Six, fought in November 1775 in South Carolina's backcountry, was one of the earliest armed clashes of the American Revolution in the South, and one of the first in which Americans fought Americans. The struggle between Patriot and Loyalist settlers in the frontier settlement of Ninety-Six exposed the deep divisions within colonial society and revealed how quickly political disagreement could ignite into civil war.

A Backcountry on the Edge of Conflict. In the months leading up to the battle, animosity between Patriot and Loyalist factions intensified throughout the South Carolina frontier. Many backcountry settlers distrusted the influence of coastal elites. They feared that the rebellion against Britain would bring lawlessness, economic instability, and renewed conflict with Native nations. Patriot influence, however, was strong among the committees of safety that had spread across the province. South Carolina Patriot leader William Henry Drayton wrote in August 1775 that the King's authority had become "but a name, a mere phantom," and that the people must now "govern themselves, or be governed by violence."

Loyalists viewed such sentiment as reckless rebellion, a threat to stability rather than a path to liberty. Prominent Loyalist leader Thomas Fletchall, who commanded a substantial force of frontier militia, warned that resisting the Crown would bring ruin. In his correspondence he declared plainly: "I will not turn my back on my King." These opposing convictions laid the groundwork for armed confrontation.
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The Gunpowder Incident. The conflict escalated over a controversial seizure of gunpowder. The Patriot Council of Safety ordered control over frontier ammunition stores, fearing Loyalists would distribute supplies to Native allies or receive British reinforcements. Loyalists misinterpreted this as an attempt to arm the Cherokee against them—an explosive misunderstanding. Patriot Major Andrew Williamson, who would command at Ninety-Six, defended the seizure by arguing that powder must not "fall into the hands of those who would oppose the liberties of this colony." Loyalist anger flared. Patrick Cunningham, one of the most influential Loyalist captains in the region, believed the Patriots had acted illegally. Witnesses later recorded him saying that the Patriots had "stolen the King's powder" and must be confronted before the frontier was thrown into chaos.

The March to Ninety-Six. By mid-November, both factions had mobilized. Williamson led roughly 550 Patriot militia to protect the seized supplies and secure the town of Ninety-Six. Lacking time to build proper fortifications, the Patriots created a makeshift stockade around a barn and nearby outbuildings. Opposing them were between 1,800 and 2,000 Loyalist militia, hastily assembled from backcountry farms and settlements. Despite their numerical advantage, the Loyalists lacked artillery and suffered from internal disagreements. But in their minds, they were defending order and loyalty to the Crown.

A Three-Day Exchange of Fire. The first shots were fired on November 19, 1775. Musket volleys cracked across open fields as the Loyalists attempted to overrun the Patriot position. Williamson noted in a later account that the exchange was "as fierce a fire as any I have seen," despite the inexperience of the combatants. The Patriots' improvised fortifications proved effective. Protected by the barn and stacked rails, they repelled repeated Loyalist advances. One Loyalist witness later remarked that the Patriots "shot from behind their works with uncommon quickness," while another recalled that the Loyalists "stood exposed in the field, with scarce a stump or tree for shelter." Yet, despite the intensity of the fire, casualties remained remarkably low—an outcome attributed to inaccuracy, cover, and the lack of artillery. Only one Patriot died; several were wounded. Loyalist losses were similarly small.



Reconstructed fort at Ninety-Six. Based on archaeology, it shows the shelter used by the Patriots in the battle.

Negotiation, Standoff, and Truce. For three days, both sides traded fire while attempting negotiations. But neither faction trusted the other, and each believed surrender would betray its principles. Patriot leader Drayton, writing from Charleston when news of the standoff reached him, captured the ideological stakes of the moment: "The contest is now between freedom and slavery; between the rights of mankind and the power of a tyrant."

To the Loyalists, such rhetoric was inflammatory. Loyalist spokesman Robert Cunningham, brother of Patrick, argued the opposite: "The laws of Great Britain are the safeguard of this country; to resist them is to invite destruction."

By November 21, exhaustion and the recognition of stalemate forced compromise. The parties agreed the Patriots would retain the contested gunpowder and that the Loyalists would disperse peacefully. Though the truce ended the immediate fighting, the hostility remained as sharp as ever.

Aftermath: Richardson's Snow Campaign. Peace lasted barely a week. Fearing renewed Loyalist resistance, Patriot Colonel Richard Richardson launched a massive campaign into the backcountry in December 1775. Known as the Snow Campaign (because of an unusual winter storm that struck during the operation), Richardson's army of about 4,000 militia swept through Loyalist strongholds. Dozens of Loyalist leaders, including Fletchall and Cunningham, were captured or forced to flee. One Patriot wrote afterward that the campaign "broke the spirit of the disaffected for a time," though at great cost to community unity. The Loyalists did not forget. Families and neighbors who once lived side by side found themselves bitter enemies. Many would return later in the war in far more violent and vengeful partisan fighting.

Historical Significance. The First Battle of Ninety-Six is an essential reminder that the American Revolution was not simply a colonial war against Britain—it was, in many places, a civil war among Americans. It demonstrated:

- How political disagreements hardened into armed conflict;
- How both Patriots and Loyalists believed they were defending liberty and law; and
- How the backcountry became one of the most fiercely contested regions of the entire war.

In the words of a South Carolina militiaman reflecting years later on the conflict that began at Ninety-Six: "It was brother against brother, and neither side would yield." The events of November 1775 thus stand as a powerful testament to the complexity of loyalty, identity, and resistance in America's southern frontier. The 1775 siege of Ninety-Six also brought the conflict to South Carolina. Until then, the war was seen as a northern (or New England) phenomenan. The fighting had started at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, in April. Bunker Hill had followed in June. At the time of the events at Ninety-Six, Boston was under siege. With the outbreak of violence in South Carolina, the war was seen as part of a larger stuggle, and South Carolinians were in common cause with the New Englanders.

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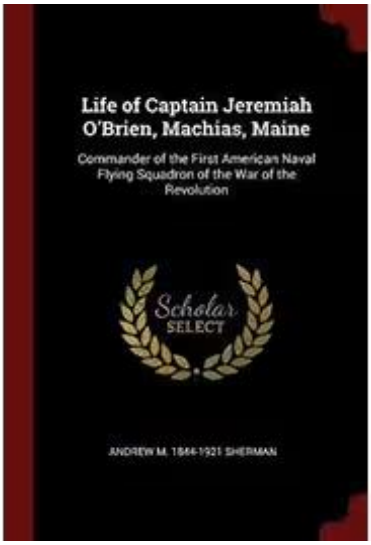
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Chapter Officers for 2025



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

A Message From Our President



To all of the members of the Caloosa Chapter, family, and friends, it is time for me to relinquish my duties as President of your Caloosa Chapter.

Your incoming President is a very qualified individual, Rick Parfitt. I would like to publicly thank Rick for all his support.

I would also like to thank the Caloosa Chapter ExCom for all their support. These are a team of talented individuals who have put in many hours behind the scenes. Without them, the team, the Chapter would not be the success it is today. Besides Rick, this includes; Bill Jenks, Mike Buff, Chris Jenner, Randy Moody, Ron Peck, Tom Gillaspie, John Maier, and Jonathan Hunt. When you see them, please take a little time to express your gratitude.

I also want to note we are only a few weeks away from 2026, the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America. We will have many opportunities to commemorate and celebrate the many events that led up to the founding of our great country.

On March 14th, a new monument will be dedicated on the beach at Pompano Beach. The monument will be the first to celebrate the Colonial Marines and their assault on the British Bahamas to capture gunpowder and ammunition. The monument is being sponsored by the Florida Sons of the American Revolution. I encourage everyone that can to attend the dedication.

Thank all of you for your patience with me over the past year. I look forward to serving you as the Chapter Treasurer.

At Your Service,

Jeff

Jeffrey Brunelle, President
Caloosa Chapter FLSSAR

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Caloosa Chapter SAR

2025-2026 Partial Meeting Schedule



[Unless Otherwise Indicated]
Chapter Meetings Are Held At Famous Dave's
12148 South Cleveland Ave. Fort Myers, FL 33903

Chapter Meetings		ExCom Meetings	
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.
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. 29, 2026	11:30a.m.

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

THE NEXT CALOOSA CHAPTER MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 10, 2025 AT: FAMOUS DAVE'S BBQ RESTAURANT

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



Join Our Caloosa Chapter SAR For A Meeting Filled With Frivolity, Fellowship And Also The Election And Installation Of Officers For The Coming Year Of 2026 – The Year In Which We Celebrate the 250th Anniversary Of The Declaration of Independence

Lunch Buffet Menu:
St. Louis Style Spareribs, Roast Chicken, 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 gathering will begin at 11:30 a.m.

Cost for the dinner is $25.00 per person paid at the link below by PayPal or Credit Card

Please RSVP to: https://caloosasar.org/our-chapter/meetings/

REMEMBER! If you make a reservation, we have to pay for your meal !

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.

November 8th Chapter Meeting
Sleuthing With The Lee County Genealogical Society

On November 8th, the Compatriots of the Caloosa SAR Chapter again gathered at Famous Dave's, and were treated to a great meal, another outstanding SAR America 250 Moment given by **Rev. Dr. Randy Moody**, the induction of a new Compatriot, **Thomas Boardman**, as well as an update on the many opportunities which are open to you as a member of the Lee County Genealogical Society, Inc. (the LCGS), given by the Society's Vice-President, and our own Registrar, **Chris Jenner**, and the Society's Newsletter Editor, **Pamela Fernandez**.



Pamela Fernandez (L) and Chris Jenner (R) describe the benefits of membership in the LCGS

Ms. Fernandez was proud to call attention to the fact that 2025 is the 50th Anniversary Year of the formation of the LCGS, and continues its mission to promote genealogy awareness and help to all in discovering our respective family stories while honoring our diverse heritages. Chris chimed in, confirming that members come from near and far, and that all are welcome to explore their family histories using the facilities and resources available through the Society. For example, Compatriots who haven't finished their genealogy search and are still curious – or for those who may be working on supplementals, the LCGS has a lot to offer, and you can join for a bargain. Annual membership cost is only $25 for an individual, and $35 for a family -- 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!



LCGS Vice-President and Caloosa Chapter SAR Registrar Chris Jenner describes the wide range of classes and programs available through the Society

Monthly meetings are held year-round in a convenient hybrid format, giving members the flexibility to attend either in person or virtually – whichever is best suited for the member. In addition, there are Society-sponsored events including Special Interest Group Meetings, Genealogy Workshops, seminars and meetings of other societies and genealogy-related organizations in Southwest Florida, as well as a LCGS Learning Library, and a Book Club.

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. The Society also 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. [Continued on Page 9]

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Thomas Boardman (L) is inducted by President Brunelle (R)

With the induction of **Thomas Boardman,** we welcomed yet another new Compatriot to our Chapter. Tom hails from LaBelle, and we are very excited and happy to welcome him into our Chapter. His Patriot ancestor was Ephraim Dutton, and we hope to gather more detailed information on Patriot Dutton's service for a future article in the Compatriot's Corner section of this newsletter.



Rev. Dr. Moody presenting his SAR America 250 moment

The November SAR America 250 moment was given by our Chaplain, **Rev. Dr. Randy Moody**, and for this meeting he chose the "First Battle of Ninety-Six" which occurred November 19-21, 1775. Until Randy Moody's exposition, I don't believe many in the room had ever heard of that battle, and thought that "Ninety Six" was a reference to a year. We were quickly disabused of that notion because Randy explained that Ninety-Six was in fact a small village located in the South Carolina backcountry. Ninety-six was a courthouse village, and the center of legal activity on the western frontier of the colony. It had a courthouse and a jail and was also the location of a storehouse for ammunition and cannons stored by the local Patriot militia. Rev. Moody went on to describe the deep divisions within colonial society at the time, and the struggle between Patriot and Loyalist settlers in this remote settlement that ultimately led to the November battle which was one of the first in which Americans fought Americans. For more detailed information on the First Battle of Ninety-Six, please refer to the cover article in this issue of the Patriot, on Pages 1-2.



L to R: Ron Peck, Bob McGuire, Andy Peterson, Mike Buff, and Jeff Brunelle – all Members of the Caloosa Chapter SAR Color Guard

Members of the Caloosa Chapter SAR Color Guard – The Light Horse Harry Lee Camp #13 – were recognized by the Daughters of the American Revolution and received Certificates of Appreciation for serving as the Color Guard for the DAR-sponsored September, 2025 Constitution Day celebration.

And, our Registrar, **Chris Jenner** received the Liberty Medal from the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution in recognition of outstanding service in the recruitment of new members.


Sons of the American Revolution

Christopher J. Jenner

has been awarded the

Liberty Medal

in recognition of outstanding services

in the recruitment of new members

All in all, our meeting was two hours of patriotism, education, and just plain enjoyment in the comradery that we all enjoy having a chance to share stories with each other.

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More Photos from our November 8th Chapter Meeting



L to R: President Brunelle, Tom Boardman, Chris Jenner



L to R: Compatriots Camden Myers, Bill Jenks and Forrest Myers



President Brunelle Calls Our Meeting to Order



Randy Moody (L) with Brian Mangan (R), reviewing Brian's SAR application before signing, with Randy as 1st Sponsor and Ron Peck as 2nd Sponsor



The Gathering Before The Meeting!

Special thanks to our Compatriots from the Myers Family – Albert, Forrest and Camden – for all the photos! Your work is much appreciated. J. Maier]

Compatriots Corner

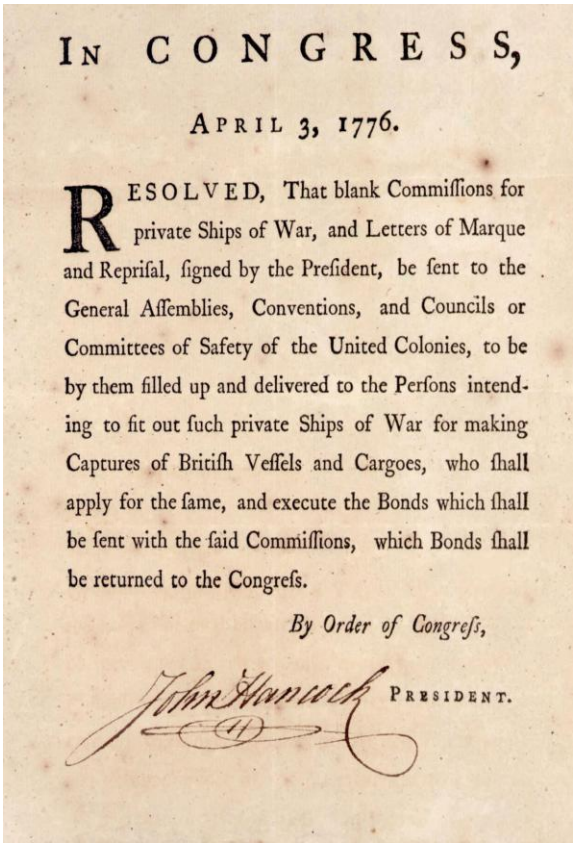
The purpose of the "Compatriots Corner" page is to follow the mission and goals of the SAR by recounting our patriot ancestor's participation in the War for Independence. I would like everyone to consider writing that story and share it with me. *But fear not - if you need assistance, genealogist Christine 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 18 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 Dan Curcio.

My Patriot Ancestor: Thomas Mendenhall Was a Privateer!

By Compatriot Daniel Curcio (with Christine Racine and Compatriot Mark Barie)

My Patriot is Thomas Mendenhall.

Thomas Mendenhall served on the *John,* a Revolutionary War schooner whose shipmaster was James Tinker. Just before the war ended, the *John* would be captured by the British and converted into a prison ship. Tinker was taken prisoner. But my patriot managed to avoid the same fate.



IN CONGRESS,

APRIL 3, 1776.

RESOLVED, That blank Commiſſions for private Ships of War, and Letters of Marque and Repriſal, ſigned by the Preſident, be ſent to the General Aſſemblies, Conventions, and Councils or Committees of Safety of the United Colonies, to be by them filled up and delivered to the Perſons intending to fit out ſuch private Ships of War for making Captures of Britiſh Veſſels and Cargoes, who ſhall apply for the ſame, and execute the Bonds which ſhall be ſent with the ſaid Commiſſions, which Bonds ſhall be returned to the Congreſs.

By Order of Congreſs,

John Hancock PRESIDENT.

The *John* was one of 800 ships whose owners were granted "Letters of Marque" by the Continental Congress. The ship's owner or investors were required to post a bond of up to 5000 pounds sterling. In return, they were given the legal right to attack and capture enemy ships, both merchant and military, including their cargo and onboard weaponry.

Being a privateer during the war could be a very lucrative occupation. Privateers could earn as much as $1000 on a single trip. That would be more than 10 times a sailor's annual wage in 1776. Initially, George Washington demanded that his privateers accept no more than 1/3 of the profits from their raids on British ships. A bit later, the Continental Congress upped the ante, ruling that privateers could keep 100% of whatever amount of booty they captured. The owners of the ship and his investors would traditionally retain 50% of the "prize". The balance was divided equally amongst the crew.

And the privateers were equal opportunity employers! Privateer ships regularly included African Americans as members of the crew. In fact, one slave named Titus, was permitted by his owner at the time, to recruit African Americans as crew members on privateer ships. Life on a privateer ship was not entirely pleasant, despite the huge financial rewards. My patriot's daily life was organized into watches, two or three per day. He would work several hours on and several hours off. His tasks included trimming the sales, steering the ship, reefing in the midst of a storm, serving as a lookout, maintaining the rigging, cleaning guns, and handling cargo from the ship's latest "prize".

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My patriot's diet consisted of hard tack biscuits, salted meat and fish, and whatever fresh food he and his shipmates could find while in port. Drinking water was regularly rationed and his health and safety was never a certainty. For example, he risked contracting scurvy, dysentery, smallpox, and other diseases, each of them made worse by cramped living conditions and poor hygiene.

As a member of the ship's crew, my patriot also faced harsh discipline if he didn't accomplish his assigned tasks. Flogging and weeks of confinement were regular punishments on board a privateer ship. But when an enemy ship was spotted, the crew went into action.



American Privateer – the Clipper Schooner Lynx

Privateers relied on speed and surprise to snare their victims. They would chase down their prey, fire a warning shot, and then either force the Brits to surrender or board the enemy ship. If they were successful, a crew of privateers would be installed on the captured ship, and the two vessels would sail to a friendly port to divvy up the spoils of war.

My patriot was always at risk of being captured by the British. And that meant almost certain death. Shortly after the war began, the British Parliament passed a law which decreed that captured privateers would not be given the normal rights of a POW. Privateers could be held without trial, and they would never be the beneficiary of a prisoner exchange. Instead, a privateer would be forced onto a British prison ship and remain there for the balance of the war. Almost always, the prisoner would die from malnutrition or disease. These floating prisons, usually abandoned ships and often moored in the New York Harbor, housed more than 11,000 prisoners during the course of the war. The shipmaster on my patriot's vessel, the *John*, became one of those prisoners.

In the end, privateers like my patriot got the job done. They seized more than 2200 British vessels, tons of musket shot, thousands of muskets, hundreds of artillery rounds, and they captured more than 10,000 British seamen. Historians now claim that, but for George Washington's makeshift navy, the British might very well have been victorious.

My patriot was one of thousands who, despite the odds, defeated the world's best army and largest navy. He was a privateer in the American Revolutionary War.



Patriots, Loyalists and Neutrals, Oh My

I recently heard about two brothers engaged in a heated discussion, so heated in fact that they were finally thrown out of the tavern they were visiting. One was pointedly upset and agitated about the state of the government and those in control of the government, argued that its leaders were not legitimate, and that it seemed to him as though he was being unduly taxed, and that the only solution was to engage in a protest and rebellion against it. The other argued that it was unwise to create chaos by engaging in violent protests, that such protests were morally wrong, and would endanger the established economy which they and their families benefited from. You might conclude from that brief scenario that the difference of opinion and the focus of the argument was whether to vote Republican or Democrat in the upcoming 2024 Presidential election!

But if I added a follow-up fact that less than a year from that discussion, the brothers would find themselves dressed in differing uniforms, having joined opposing armies, in a war that would last years and cost many thousands of lives, your mind would likely focus on the American Civil War – a logical conclusion.



Loyalist Refugees Fleeing to Canada by Howard Pyle

But if I then added a final fact that one of those brothers had joined the side of Great Britain, you would immediately realize that America's "first civil war" was indeed the Revolutionary War or War for Independence. The decision to separate from England led to an intense, emotional, debate and in many cases, a fight between friends, neighbors, and even family members. How many people, for example, know that William Franklin, the royal governor of New Jersey, and son of Patriot leader Benjamin Franklin, became a Loyalist leader after his release from a Patriot prison in 1778, and then worked to build Loyalist military units to fight in the war!

As recounted in our cover story about the First Battle of Ninety-Six, Patriots (also known as Whigs, Rebels or Continentals) were colonists in the Thirteen Colonies who opposed Great Britain's governance during the colonial era and supported and helped launch the American Revolution. They were inspired by the republican ideology that was part of the Age of Enlightenment, rejected monarchy and aristocracy, and supported individual liberty and natural rights.

Loyalists were colonists who remained loyal to the British Crown during the American Revolutionary War, and were often also referred to as Tories, Royalists or King's Men at the time. Prominent Loyalists repeatedly assured the British government that many thousands of them would spring to arms and fight for the Crown, and as was discussed elsewhere in this Newsletter, the British government acted in expectation of that, especially during the Southern campaigns of 1776, 1780 and 1781. As the War spread, people were forced to choose a side. Declaring yourself neutral and undecided was just not allowed. Patriots watched suspected Loyalists very closely and would not tolerate any organized Loyalist opposition. Many outspoken or militarily active Loyalists were forced to flee to areas controlled by the British. There have been recent studies which have attempted to better understand colonial attitudes towards independence. Most have concluded that staunch Loyalists constituted about 20% of the population, while committed Patriots accounted for about 40% of the population. The balance of 40% held moderate views and just wanted to be left alone to live in peace.

In areas under Patriot control, Loyalists were subject to confiscation of property, and outspoken supporters of the king were threatened with public humiliation such as tarring and feathering, or physical attack. Tarring and feathering was usually used as a form of vigilante justice and became a favorite of early American patriots in their protests against British taxation. Tax collectors, customs officials, or avowed Loyalists were apprehended , stripped of their clothes, and then hot pine tar would be brushed or poured all over their body, which would often blister or burn the skin. While painful, the punishment was not meant to be deadly. The tar would then be covered with feathers, resulting in the person having the humiliating appearance of a chicken or large bird. The person would then often be placed in a cart or carried about on a rail and paraded through town to make a mockery of them.



The Tarring and Feathering of John Malcolm

Between the Loyalists and Patriots, approximately 400,000 men (or about 20% of the entire free population fought for the cause in which they believed. If you adjust for women and children, an argument could be made that that about half of all men fought on one side or the other in the American Revolution. This is significantly higher than the percentage of men who fought in the American Civil War. In such a circumstance, one can better understand how difficult it would have been for the men of South Carolina in the backcountry frontier settlement of Ninety-Six, fighting against their fellow South Carolinians.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL !

On September 25, 1789, as the First Federal Congress drew to a close in New York (then the nation's capital), a Resolution was introduced calling on President Washington to "recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer . . ." and the House passed the Resolution as one of the last pieces of business before completing the proposed Bill of Rights. The Senate concurred three days later, and on October 3, 1789 President George Washington signed the document – America's first Presidential Thanksgiving Proclamation.

Americans enthusiastically accepted Washington's Proclamation, newspapers printed it, citizens celebrated across the country, and churches used the occasion to solicit donations for the poor. Washington himself contributed $25. In 1795, reflecting on "the unexampled prosperity of all classes of our citizens," Washington issued his only other Presidential Thanksgiving Proclamation, calling on Americans to "acknowledge our many and great obligations to Almighty God and to implore Him to continue and confirm the blessings we experience."

Later, John Adams and James Madison would issue their own Thanksgiving Proclamations, but the holiday typically remained a state-by-state matter. It was not until Abraham Lincoln was elected that the next national Thanksgiving Proclamation was given. Lincoln began by closing government offices for a day in 1861, and in March 1863 he issued another Proclamation, calling for a day of "national humiliation, fasting, and prayer." Soon after, Lincoln was moved by a letter from Sarah Josepha Hale, who had lobbied the four prior presidents unsuccessfully to make Thanksgiving a third national holiday in addition to Independence Day and Washington's Birthday. On October 3, 1863, exactly 74 years after George Washington's Proclamation, Lincoln established the fourth Thursday in November as a national day of Thanksgiving, setting the precedent that remains to this day.

Thanksgiving was not made a legal federal holiday until 1941 when Congress named the fourth Thursday in November as our national day of thanks. Interestingly, Congress was spurred on to act in answer to a public outcry over President Franklin Roosevelt's attempt to extend the Christmas shopping season by moving Thanksgiving from the traditional last Thursday to the third Thursday of November!

President George Washington's Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1789

By the President of the United States of America, a Proclamation.

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor-- and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be—

That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks--for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation--for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his Providence which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war--for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed--for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted--for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

and also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions-- to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually--to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed--to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord--To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the encrease of science among them and us--and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

George Washington

Last Call To Renew Your SAR Membership

Caloosa Chapter, Florida Society Sons of the American Revolution 2026 Dues Invoice

Dear Compatriot,

It is time to renew regular membership dues for 2025. The breakdown of dues includes National Society dues $50.00. Florida Society dues $20.00, and Caloosa Chapter dues are $30.00.

Your total dues for 2026 are $100.00, and are payable before November 15, 2025, to:

Caloosa Chapter, FLSSAR c/o Bill Jenks
9084 Windswept Drive
Estero, FL 34135

So that we may update our records, please make any change to your information below and submit with your payment. Make certain we have valid email address for you.

Name:

Address:
City, State, Zip:

Telephone:

Email:

Thank you for your prompt response to this notice. We hope to see you at an upcoming Chapter meeting.

Sincerely, Bill Jenks
Caloosa Chapter Secretary
Email: billjenks.sar@yahoo.com

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.

Caloosa Chapter SAR To Elect Slate Of Officers To Serve During 2026 At December Chapter Meeting

It is that "time of the year" when our Chapter will elect officers for the coming calendar year. The ExCom / Nominating Committee has developed a list of candidates for most of the offices to be filled, as follows:

Office	Name of Candidate
President:	**Rick Parfitt**
Vice-President:	**John Maier**
Secretary:	**Bill Jenks**
Treasurer:	**Jeffrey F. Brunelle**
Registrar:	**Christopher J. Jenner**
Genealogist:	**Dr. Ronald L. Peck**
Chaplain:	**Rev. Dr. Randy Moody**
Sergeant-At-Arms:	**Tom Gillaspie**

Chapter Members may nominate other candidates for the above offices during the meeting. Any contested office will be decided by secret ballot. The vote on uncontested offices will be taken by voice vote upon motion to elect by acclamation.

In addition to the above, the offices of **Member-At-Large** and **Historian** are open, and will be filled by election at the meeting.

No one has currently indicated a desire to run as Historian; hence, at the Chapter Meeting, nominations will be sought from the floor.

For the office of **Member-At-Large**, the following Chapter members each have declared themselves to be a candidate:

Edward M. (Mike) Buff
Jonathan Hunt
Robert McGuire

As with all other offices, additional members may be nominated for this office during the meeting. There is only one Member-At-Large to be elected, and the election will be conducted by secret ballot.

Pursuant to the Chapter's organizational documents, the offices of Newsletter Editor, Color Guard Commander, and Webmaster are filled by appointment of the President, and serve as nonvoting members of the ExCom.

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, 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) a list of members to serve as Officers for 2026 has been formulated, and are shown on this page of the Caloosa Patriot; and (b) nominations will be received for the position of Chapter Historian at the December election meeting; and (c) volunteers to serve on the Chapter's Color Guard are needed; and (d) the SAR 2025-2026 school year contests are under way for the Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest, the SAR Middle School Brochure Contest; and (e), the deadline for the Knight High School Essay Contest is Nov. 30th, and for the Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest is December 31; and (f) all of the information on rules, guidelines and deadlines for each of the Contests is available on the Chapter Website: https://caloosasar.org/.

From Florida SAR State President Chris Washler

As many of you know, and some of you may not know, at the Spring 2024 Board of Management meeting for the Florida Society, the BOM authorized the Florida Society to undertake an effort to build a first-in-the-nation monument to commemorate the very first amphibious assault landing conducted by Continental Marines in 1776.

On March 3-4, 1776, Continental Marines and Sailors landed in the Bahamas and attacked British forts there to obtain gunpowder and cannons that were desperately needed by Patriots fighting in the Revolutionary War in the 13 colonies. The success of the raid was not only the capture of military stores and gunpowder, but it also forced the British to maintain a presence in the Caribbean, which meant fewer British soldiers and ships could fight for the Crown in the colonies.

The monument that the Florida Society SAR has undertaken will be the first and only monument in the United States that commemorates this significant event in the American Revolution. We've chosen to construct this monument in Pompano Beach because it is the closest logical location in the US to where the actual assault landing took place. The City of Pompano Beach has donated space on their pier which attracts nearly 280,000 visitors annually.
This effort is truly the embodiment of our Society's mission to honor our Revolutionary War Patriots by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our country. It will capture the attention and imagination of people from all over the country for generations to come!

Our committee has been working non-stop to make this monument a reality. There is a website for the memorial (https://link.edgepilot.com/s/2c9a38aa/kOeCRgcwnEizwpRIacG6Ow?u=https://1776landing.org/) where you can see pictures and full information on the monument; there are Facebook and Instagram accounts; and the committee members have been reaching out to compatriots here and around the country plus businesses and individuals throughout the state raising funds to build this monument. They have had great success in raising funds up to this point, but help is still needed.

Gentlemen, as I said in my remarks at the Annual Meeting banquet, NOW is our time as a Society. The state and the entire country have a renewed focus and interest in the American Revolution, and now is the time for the Sons of the American Revolution to lead the way, and the Florida SAR is doing just that with this monument! When we unveil this monument on March 14, 2026, the eyes of the state and the country will turn to the Florida SAR!

We still have a way to go to reach our goal of total funding for this project, and we need your help! To fully fund the monument, the flagpoles, and the two primary plaques that will go on the monument, we still need to raise additional cash. Many chapters and compatriots from around the state and the country have already donated – joining the "250th Muster Roll" and the project's "Minuteman Roll." I want to express my sincere thanks to those who have already donated, and my continued thanks to those who may yet donate. We cannot do this without the support of our chapters and our compatriots, AND our friends and family.

Your executive leadership is dedicated to making this monument happen and putting the Florida Society front and center in the minds of everyone as we celebrate America's 250th birthday. To that end, I have asked FLSSAR Sr. Vice President, Jonathan Hunt, to join me in a fundraising challenge for our compatriots. I have committed to matching the first $1,000 to be donated as a result of this challenge, and Jonathan has committed to matching the 2nd $1,000 to be donated. No matter the size of your donation - $20, $50, $250 – it is vital to our effort, and this "challenge" is an opportunity to double your donating power.

If you choose to donate to this effort, and I sincerely hope that you will, there are three different ways to donate: 1) via Club Express, 2) via Zelle, and 3) by personal check, made to "FLSSAR" and mailed to: FAAM Committee, 20210 Moss Hill Way, Tampa, FL, 33647. Please add "FLSSAR Leadership Challenge" to the memo or notes for any donations that are part of this challenge.

Compatriots, to have this monument built in time for the planned dedication on March 14, we need to act now. I sincerely hope that each of you and each of your chapters will thoughtfully consider making a donation to help us make this monument to our ancestors a reality. Now is our time as a Society, and now is our chance to lead the way! Please feel free to reach out to me or the Committee if you have any questions about the monument!

Patriotically yours, *Chris Washler,* President Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Coins Commemorating the Anniversary of the United States

By Compatriot Rick Parfitt, Caloosa Chapter SAR Vice-President

Part One: Coins of the Classic Commemorative Era

The founding of the United States has not had a long history of being commemorated in its coinage. The U. S. Mint was established in Philadelphia in 1792 to produce coins for trade and commerce. Though commemorative coins have been issued for centuries throughout the world to mark important people, places, events, and anniversaries it wasn't until 100 years after the mint opened that the U. S. began its official commemorative coin program with the World's Columbian Exposition half dollar in 1892 in what is now called the Classic Commemorative Era. In that period the program first commemorated the 150th anniversary of the battles of Lexington and Concord in 1925 with a half dollar commemorative. See images below:



See: https://www.money.org/1925-Lexington-Concord-Sesquicentennial-Half-Dollar/

The coin depicts the image of the Minute Man in Concord, Massachusetts based on the Daniel Chester French statue there. The coin is proudly inscribed "Patriot Half Dollar." There were 300,000 half dollars authorized but Mint numbers show only 162,013 were minted. The coin's reverse depicts the "Old Belfry."

The bell was used to summon worshipers, warn them of danger, and "tolled" for residents' deaths. Upon receiving the warning the British were coming, by riders Paul Revere and William Dawes, it was used to assemble the Lexington militia on the green on April 19, 1775.

The following year the Mint produced the first coin commemorating the founding of the United States, the 1926 *Sesquicentennial of American Independence* half dollar. This was the first time a living president was depicted on a U. S. Coin.

The obverse of the half dollar had the heads of President George Washington and then current president, Calvin Coolidge; the reverse shows the cracked Liberty Bell. All the authorized one million coins were minted in Philadelphia, but the National Sesquicentennial Exhibition Commission overestimated interest in the coin and 859,408 of the coins were returned to the Mint and melted. See images below:



See: https://learn.apmex.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/image-634.png

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Additionally, Congress authorized commemorative quarter-eagles ($2.50). These gold coins, beyond the budget of most Americans featured Liberty on the obverse and Independence Hall on the reverse. See images below:



The final year a commemorative coin was issued during the Classic era was 1954 and the commemorative program was discontinued because of criticism of some coins issued, reaching its peak in 1936 when 16 different commemorative coins were issued. Legislators still had opposition to commemoratives in the early 1970s when a bicentennial commemorative was being considered. It was decided that the bicentennial would be honored with changes in circulating coins instead of a commemorative coin.

The Mint produced a circulating dollar, half dollar and quarter coins commemorating the bicentennial. The Eisenhower dollar had been circulating since 1971, the Kennedy half dollar since 1964 and the Washington quarter since 1932. Each of these coins bore the dual date, 1776-1976 and were issued beginning in July 1975.

Each coin maintained the original obverse and the reverse was changed. The quarter reverse has a colonial military drummer and a victory torch encircled by 13 stars, The half dollar reverse depicts Independence Hall, and the dollar coin depicts the cracked Liberty Bell superimposed on the Moon.

This was the first-time circulating coinage had been re-designed to honor American Independence. The new reverse designs were from a Department of the Treasury national competition with the chosen winner receiving a $5,000 award. See images below:



Quarter Obverse



Quarter Reverse



Dollar Obverse



Dollar Reverse



Half Dollar Obverse



Half Dollar Reverse

See: https://www.usmint.gov/learn/coins-and-medals/circulating-coins/1976-bicentennial-of-america
[Editor's Note: Part 2 of this article will appear in the next issue of the Caloosa Patriot, December, 2025]

HEROES OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD
Jeremiah O'Brien: Naval Captain



Captain Jeremiah O'Brien (1744 - 1818)

Dawn crept over the ragged shoreline of Machias, Maine, on June 12, 1775, with the faintest blush of rose light. The tide lapped calmly against the hulls of moored sloops, as if unaware that before nightfall the quiet harbor would witness the first naval battle of the American Revolution. Jeremiah O'Brien, a young mariner with a wiry build and a steady gaze, stood on the deck of the sloop Unity and watched the morning fog lift like a veil from the bay.

"There she is, Jeremiah," his brother Gideon muttered beside him. "The Margaretta looks peaceful today. Shame she won't stay that way."

Jeremiah nodded. The British armed schooner *HMS Margaretta* sat anchored farther down the harbor, its masts cutting sharp lines in the brightening sky. Even from this distance he could sense its authority—King George's will, floating on American water. But the people of Machias had grown tired of British authority. Tired of their timber being stolen, tired of unfair taxes, tired of threats. And today, they planned to do something no colonial town had yet dared to do -- seize a British warship!

Jeremiah wiped the damp from his palms against his coat. "If we don't rise up now, we'll never be free. Better to stand a man today than regret a lifetime."

He believed every word. Born in Kittery and raised along the rugged Maine coast, Jeremiah O'Brien had saltwater in his lungs and independence in his bones. His family had grown up working the sea—fishing, trading, harvesting timber—and they had watched, year by year, as British officials tried to tighten control over the very livelihoods that kept frontier families alive. When the Battle of Lexington and Concord erupted two months earlier, Jeremiah felt the shock of it like a cannon blast. "War's begun whether we're ready or not," he'd told his brothers. "Machias should be counted among the first to answer."

Now, as the sun climbed higher, Jeremiah felt a ripple of unease in the pit of his stomach—not fear, but the weight of responsibility. He had volunteered to lead the men of Machias in their desperate gamble, and those men now looked to him for calm, clear command.

Below deck, he could hear the restless murmurs of fishermen, lumbermen, and townsfolk who had gathered as makeshift sailors. They were not trained, nor were they armed for navy combat. Most carried hunting rifles or clubbed weapons, and some had nothing but their fists and stubbornness. But they were determined. Every one of them.

The church bell in the center of town tolled once followed by a hush over the harbor. It was time.

Jeremiah straightened. "Cast off the lines. Bring her about."

Their ship, the *Unity*, eased from the dock with the grace of a vessel well accustomed to the waters, though today she sailed not for trade, but for revolution. Behind them, another captured sloop, the *Falmouth Packet*, followed under the direction of Jeremiah's brothers. A soft wind filled the sails, and soon both ships glided toward the Margaretta.

British lookout sailors called warnings across their deck. Jeremiah could hear them faintly: "Colonials approaching—armed men aboard!" The Margaretta cut its anchor lines and maneuvered toward open water. Jeremiah leaned forward, eyes sharp. "After her! We can't let her escape!" The Unity surged ahead, her bow splitting the cold Atlantic water with determination.

Musket fire cracked across the waves. A ball snapped past Jeremiah's shoulder and embedded in the mast behind him. Another whizzed overhead. "Down! Keep low!" he shouted, though he himself remained standing, unwilling to take his eyes from the fleeing schooner.

The Margaretta attempted to outrun them, but the wind favored the colonials. Jeremiah guided the Unity with bold, almost reckless seamanship, closing the gap until the two ships were nearly broadside. When the moment came, Jeremiah seized it. "Board her! Now!"

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With a roar, the men of Machias surged forward. Grappling lines flew through the air. The hulls thudded together with a shudder. Jeremiah leapt the rail and landed on the deck of the Margaretta, brandishing nothing more than a cutlass and the force of his conviction.



British marines rushed toward him. The clash erupted instantly—a blur of muskets used as clubs, fists, shouts, and splinters of shattered wood. Jeremiah fought fiercely, parrying a swipe from a British sailor before knocking him backward.

"Stand fast, lads! For liberty!" he bellowed.

One of the British officers fired a pistol. The shot grazed Jeremiah's coat, but he pressed on. His brothers stormed the deck beside him, their strength turning the tide. Slowly, the British resistance weakened. Panic flickered in the eyes of the remaining sailors as the colonists overwhelmed them with sheer determination. When the British captain—Midshipman James Moore—fell wounded, the rest of the crew surrendered. Silence settled over the battered schooner. The men of Machias stared in disbelief. They had done it. Against all odds, untrained and under-armed, they had captured a British warship. Jeremiah exhaled at last, wiping sweat mixed with sea spray from his brow. "Men," he said, voice low but steady, "this is the first stroke of the American Navy. Let it not be the last."

The captured Margaretta was escorted back to Machias under colonial control. News of the victory spread swiftly throughout New England, sending waves of hope through communities waiting for signs of resistance beyond Lexington's fields. In Boston, patriots rejoiced. John Adams would later write that the Machias victory was "the first naval battle of the Revolution, and as bold an enterprise as any recorded in the annals of war."

For Jeremiah O'Brien, the triumph marked only the beginning. Over the following months he and his brothers launched additional daring missions, capturing more British vessels and defending the Maine coast with stubborn courage. Though his official naval commission would not come until later, many already called him "Captain O'Brien"—a title he wore with quiet pride. Yet he never boasted of his achievements. "We fought because freedom demanded it," he once told a local minister. "The sea is wide enough for any man to live honest and unafraid. The Crown tried to make it otherwise."

Years later, historians would look back on the Battle of Machias as the birth of the American naval spirit—raw, improvised, and fueled by determination rather than resources. And at its heart stood a young mariner with a steady gaze, a daring heart, and the belief that liberty was worth any risk. Jeremiah O'Brien never commanded a great fleet, nor did he lead massive battles. But on that June morning in 1775, he helped light the first spark of American naval independence—a spark that would grow into a flame carried by generations of sailors.

And those who stood with him that day would never forget his rallying cry, shouted across the blood-stained deck of the Margaretta:

"Stand fast, lads! For liberty!"



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.

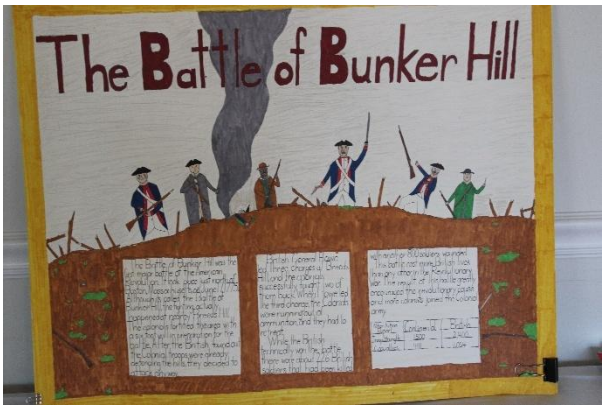
The SAR 1776 Campaign, started in 2015, is also available and recognizes donations in the amount of $1,776 and fractions and multiples thereof. The SAR has a story to tell, and your continued support will allow the SAR to champion our rich heritage for all to appreciate by building The SAR Education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

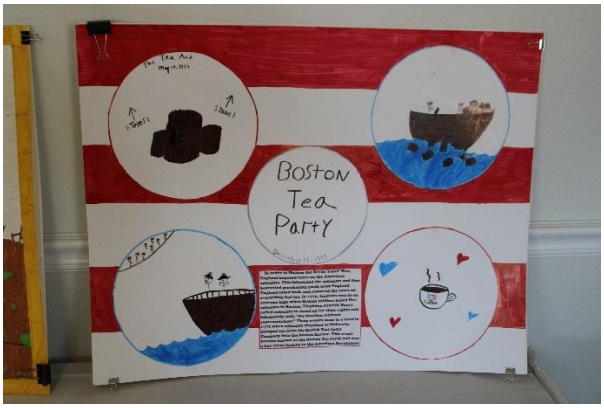
The 2025 – 2026 School Year SAR Elementary, Middle School And High School Americanism Contests Are Off And Running!

RULES AND GUIDELINES – ELEMENTARY SCHOOL POSTER CONTEST

The National Society SAR developed the Elementary School Poster Contest to help stimulate interest in and aid the study of American History in the 3rd, 4th or 5th Grade Curriculum (depending on the grade the subject is taught). This Contest also includes; Cub Scouts, Brownies, Children of the American Revolution and other youth organizations recognized by the NSSAR Council of Youth Programs Committee in addition to public, private, parochial, or home schools. Participants from organizations other than schools must be of equivalent age for 3rd, 4th or 5th grade, whichever year that they teach American History in the specific school district. If they teach American History in lower grades at selected schools, an entry may be accepted for the competition at the discretion of the NSSAR Council of Youth Programs. Judging of ALL entries will be on an equal basis regardless of point of origin. [**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL: FEBRUARY 28, 2026]**

For more information: https://www.sar.org/americanism-elementary-school-poster-contest-2/
Examples of prior submittals:

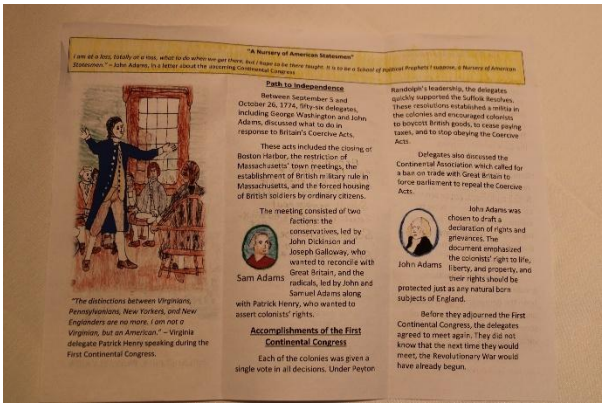


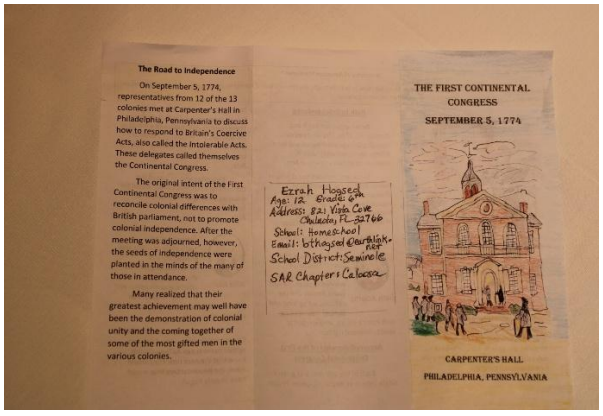


RULES AND GUIDELINES – SGT. MOSES ADAMS MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL BROCHURE CONTEST

The SAR Middle School Contest is to create a tri-fold brochure out of a typical 8 ½ x 11" piece of paper. The brochure must conform to the contest theme which is one of the nine foundational documents of the United States which the student selects. The brochure will be judged on Content, Creativity and Correctness. The judging criteria rates highest personally drawn artwork and text authored by the student as opposed to 'cut and paste' from books, magazines and the internet. The use of software tools by the student for creating the brochure, and even the artwork, is permissible. [**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL: FEBRUARY 28, 2026]**

For more information: https://www.sar.org/sgt-moses-adams-memorial-middle-school-brochure-contest/
Examples of prior submittals:





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RULES AND GUIDELINES – JOSEPH S. RUMBAUGH HISTORICAL ORATION CONTEST

The Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest invites all students attending 9th through 12th grades in public, parochial or private schools; or home-school students studying at the same grade levels. The preliminary rounds of the contest begin at the local chapter level; students have the opportunity to advance to the state or national levels where scholarships and cash prizes are awarded. Participants must write an original oration of not less than five minutes, or more than six minutes. The oration must be delivered from memory and without the use of notes or any kind of props. The subject of the oration shall deal with an event, a personality, or a document pertaining to the Revolutionary War with a mention of our nation's 250th anniversary celebration. It is essential that each oration show the relationship it bears to America today. Evidence of historical research and creative presentation are also important. The oration will be judged based upon its composition, delivery, significance, historical accuracy and relevance to our 250th anniversary. **[DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL: DECEMBER 31, 2025]**

For more information: https://www.sar.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/OrationFlyer202223.pdf

RULES AND GUIDELINES – YOUTH VIDEO CONTEST

The SAR Youth Video Contest is an exciting new format where you can share what you know about the American Revolution. Tell us about a person, battle, document, or event during the American struggle for independence and do it in video form. Eligible contestants are students attending 6th through 12th grade in public, parochial, or private schools; or home-school students studying at the same grade levels. Your 3 to 5 minute video could be filmed or animated. The key is to be creative! It could look like a cable news broadcast, or a pretend movie trailer. Perhaps you would create a music video or even a rap battle. Show the judges you can think outside of the box. Entries must contain original content and must be based on scholarly research of the presented topic. Content may not violate copyright laws. Emphasis on the 250th anniversary of the Revolution is recommended. The style, approach, and perspective are not limited. **[DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL: DECEMBER 31, 2025]**

For more information: https://www.sar.org/youth-video-contest/

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 (SPRING 2026): APRIL 25, 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 29
Was Rescheduled From October 18, 2025 to April 25, 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!

FLSSAR President Washler Announces Creation Of New "Younger Members Committee" And Seeks Volunteers

Compatriots of the Florida Society,

As you've probably heard me say multiple times already this year, I sincerely believe that the Sons of the American Revolution has a significant opportunity in front of us this year. The attention of the entire country is turning toward America's 250th Anniversary and the American Revolution, and that means that their attention is on US! We have a great opportunity to grow our society with nearly every age group that we serve. But to do that, we are going to have to be willing to go beyond the "tried and true" (or possibly the tired and true) ways that we have always done recruiting and retention of our members.

Our most significant growth potential right now is in the younger age demographics. Men who are still in the prime of their working years and have not yet reached the mid-century mark are showing an increased interest in the Revolutionary and Founding period of our country's history. We need to act now to capitalize on that interest!

To further that goal, I am pleased to announce that I am establishing a Younger Members Committee for the Florida Society. Under Article V of our bylaws, I have the authority to form ad hoc committees, so the Younger Members Committee will only be an ad hoc committee at this point. The Charter of the Committee is modeled on the NSSAR's Younger Members Committee:

Purpose: To foster a greater relationship between the Younger Members, the Florida State Society, and respective chapters.

Members: There shall be a chairman and at least four committee members appointed by the President of the Florida Society whose terms shall be concurrent with that of the appointing officer. Membership is restricted to members 40 years old or younger with the exception of one advisory member who may be between 40 and 50 years of age.

Functions: To bring new, fresh, and innovative ideas for membership involvement that go beyond "traditional" SAR meetings and events. The Committee will help to promote recruitment and retention of younger members by serving as a resource of information on topics relevant to younger members of the Florida Society.

I will be looking to the members of this committee to bring forward fresh new ideas for attracting and retaining SAR compatriots in our younger age brackets. They will likely work closely with the existing Membership Promotion and Retention Committee, but I believe that their work will be complementary to each other and not redundant.

At this point, I have not appointed a chairman of this committee. Nor have I appointed any members. This is where I need your help!

If you are a compatriot who is 40 or younger (or if you know of a compatriot in your chapter who fits this requirement), and you have an interest in serving on this committee, please reach out directly to me. I would like to have this committee up and running before we get to the Fall Board of Managers Meeting, so time is of the essence!

I look forward to an "avalanche" of interest and to seeing what this committee does!
Chris Washler
President
Florida Society Sons of the American Revolution
(850) 380-1329

Find us at https://link.edgepilot.com/s/fb3904b5/HaK4ScDdHESVE71h7iJQZw?u=http://www.flssar.org/ or on Facebook (Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution)

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.