SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

CALOOSA PATRIOT

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John L. Maier, Jr. - Newsletter Editor

The Second Continental Congress Creates An Army; George Washington Appointed Commander-in-Chief



Portrait of George Washington being appointed commanding general of the Continental Army (Currier & Ives, 1876)

In the spring of 1775, the American colonies were at a crossroads. Tensions with Great Britain had reached a boiling point following the skirmishes at Lexington and Concord. As the fires of rebellion spread across the colonies, the need for a unified response became increasingly urgent. It was in this climate that the Second Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia on May 10, 1775 — and one of its most momentous decisions was to create a Continental Army.

The first shots of the American Revolutionary War had already been fired, but the colonies lacked an organized, centralized military force. Up to this point, resistance to British authority had largely come from local militias, composed of farmers and tradesmen with minimal training and inconsistent leadership. Recognizing that a fragmented military effort would not be enough to stand against the professional British Army, the delegates to the Second Continental Congress resolved to form a unified fighting force.

On June 14, 1775, the Congress formally established the Continental Army. This was a decisive step — not just a military maneuver, but a political statement. [Continued on Page 2]

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By forming an army of their own, the colonies were effectively declaring that they no longer accepted British military authority on American soil. The formation of the army was not just a response to British aggression — it was a bold assertion of the colonies' right to defend their liberties. It demonstrated that the desire for self-governance and freedom was strong enough to risk everything, even war.

The next day, June 15, the Congress appointed George Washington of Virginia as Commander-in-Chief of the newly formed army. Washington was chosen not only for his military experience during the French and Indian War but also for strategic political reasons. As a respected Southern leader, his appointment helped to unify the Northern and Southern colonies in a common cause. Washington accepted the command with humility, refusing any salary beyond the reimbursement of expenses. His leadership would prove critical in shaping the fledgling army into a force capable of standing up to British troops. His leadership was instrumental in transforming a collection of disparate militias into a more organized and disciplined fighting force.

The creation of the Continental Army was only the beginning. The Army was underfunded, poorly equipped, and lacked a clear structure. Many of the soldiers were still local militiamen, and it would take time, discipline, and leadership to mold them into an effective fighting force. Soldiers endured harsh conditions, insufficient pay, and limited training. Moreover, the Congress itself was not yet united behind full independence. Many delegates still hoped for reconciliation with Britain, and the creation of the army was seen by some as a measure to strengthen the colonies' negotiating position, rather than a step toward outright revolution.

Throughout the Revolutionary War, the Army's composition and structure evolved. Foreign officers such as Marquis de Lafayette from France and Baron von Steuben from Prussia contributed essential training and organizational reforms. Von Steuben's Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States, commonly known as the "Blue Book," introduced standardized drills and procedures that professionalized the Army.

The decision by the Second Continental Congress to create a national army marked a pivotal moment in American history. It transformed a loose collection of colonies into a unified resistance movement and laid the foundation for the United States military. Under Washington's command, and despite all the hardship, the Continental Army would go on to fight numerous battles and ultimately secure American independence in 1783.

Following the war's end in 1783, the Army was significantly downsized due to widespread public distrust of standing armies, a sentiment rooted in colonial grievances against British military occupation. However, the need for a permanent force became apparent as the young nation faced threats from foreign powers, Native American tribes, and internal unrest.

In 1796, the Legion of the United States was reorganized and eventually evolved into the modern U.S. Army. The institution grew and adapted through successive conflicts, including the War of 1812, the Civil War, and into the 20th and 21st centuries, becoming a cornerstone of American national security.

Today, the U.S. Army commemorates its origins each year on June 14, honoring the legacy of those who first served. The birth of the Army represents not just the beginning of a military institution but also the embodiment of the American fight for self-governance and independence.

From humble beginnings, the Army has grown into a professional and global force, rooted in its revolutionary past and committed to defending the values upon which the United States was founded. In hindsight, June 14, 1775, stands as one of the key milestones on the road to American independence — a day when ordinary colonists became soldiers in the fight to create a new nation.

The birth of the United States Army marked a pivotal moment in American history, laying the groundwork for what would become one of the most formidable military forces in the world

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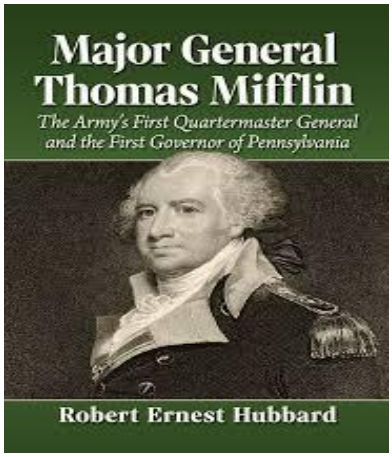
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A Message From Our President



Greetings to All!

Summer is definitely here in Southwest Florida. I just returned from Kissimmee and our Spring BOM. Our Caloosa Chapter had a very good showing, with seven members in attendance, Rev. Randy Moody, Bob McGuire, Ron Peck, Mike Buff, Mark Barie, Hamp Allen, and myself.

I am pleased to announce Caloosa Compatriot Jonathan Hunt received several honors. Jonathan was elected the Sr. Vice President. He was also awarded the Patriots medal, the top honor by the State SAR. He was also awarded the Gold Henry Knox award. Please join me in wishing Jonathan congratulations.

Naples President Doug Gibbons was elected the SW Region Vice-President. At BOM I also had the honor to assume the position of Florida Sons of Liberty Color Guard Commander.

Over the summer I will be taking suggestions for speakers at meetings for next season. If you have any ideas, please contact myself or Vice-President Parfitt with your suggestions.

In October we will be having our Youth Awards celebration and a presentation from the Genealogical Society.

We are also looking for candidates for our Chapter offices for 2026. If you have any nominations or would like to be considered please contact our Chapter Secretary, Bill Jenks.

If you are remaining in Florida this summer stay cool, if you are traveling, travel safely, and everyone please stay healthy! God Bless all of you and we will see each other in the Fall.

At Your Service,

Jeff

Jeffrey Brunelle, President
Caloosa Chapter FLSSAR

SAR
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Chapter Officers for 2024-2025



Immediate Past President
and Treasurer
Edward “Mike” Buff



President
Jeffrey F. Brunelle



Vice-President
Richard “Rick” Parfitt



Genealogist
Dr. Ronald L. Peck



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



Registrar
Chris Jenner



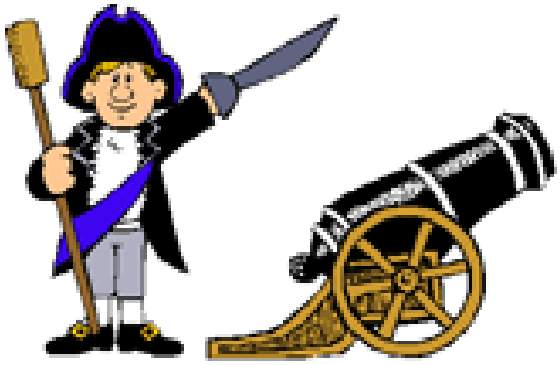
Member-at-Large
Jonathan Hunt



Chaplain
Rev. Dr. Randy Moody

Caloosa Chapter SAR

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



Chapter Meetings Are Held At Famous Daves

Looking Ahead
Caloosa Chapter SAR
2024-2025 Revised Meeting Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

FAMOUS DAVE'S BBQ RESTAURANT



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

Menu Choices, Cost of the Dinner, and Dinner Program Will be Announced in the 2025 Summer Editions of the Caloosa Patriot

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

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

Honor Our Fallen Soldiers This Memorial Day And Every Day Thereafter



Memorial Day (originally known as Decoration Day) is the day designated for the purpose of honoring and mourning the United States military personnel who have died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.



The first national observance of Memorial Day occurred on May 30, 1868. Then known as Decoration Day, the holiday was proclaimed by Commander in Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic to honor Union soldiers who had died in the Civil War.

Official recognition as a holiday spread among the states, beginning with New York in 1873. By 1890, every Union state had adopted it. The ensuing World Wars I and II turned it into a day of remembrance for all members of the U.S. military who fought and died in service.

From 1868 to 1970, Memorial Day was observed on May 30th, but in 171, Congress standardized the holiday as a "Memorial Day" and changed its observance to the last Monday in May.

In Flanders fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies Grow
In Flanders fields.

By Lt. Col. John McCrae, composed
at the battlefield in Belgium, May 3, 1915





A Report on the May 10th Caloosa Chapter SAR Meeting: Solving the Mystery Surrounding the Sinking of the Battleship Maine



Award-winning author, and our Compatriot, Mark Barie

The sinking of the battleship USS Maine was a pivotal event in American history, marking a significant turning point that contributed to the outbreak of the Spanish-American War. On the evening of February 15, 1898, the Maine, which had been anchored in Havana Harbor, Cuba, was suddenly ripped apart by a massive explosion. The blast killed 266 of the 354 crew members aboard and left the ship a mangled wreck. Although the exact cause of the explosion has remained a mystery (at least until now), its immediate political impact was profound.

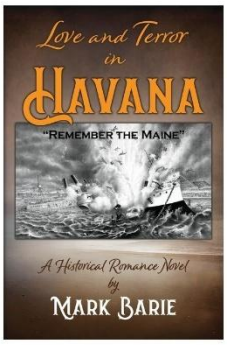
Recounting the historical facts and backdrop of the events, our attendees were treated to a spellbinding forensic report given by our own Compatriot, Mark Barie, at the May Chapter meeting. Mark reminded us that the USS Maine had been sent to Havana in January 1898 to protect American interests during a time of rising tensions in Cuba, then a Spanish colony. Cuban rebels were engaged in a prolonged struggle for independence, and Spain's harsh suppression tactics were widely criticized in the American press. The presence of the Maine was intended as a show of strength and reassurance for U.S. citizens and businesses in Cuba. When the ship exploded, it instantly became a national tragedy and a flashpoint for war fever.



Cause of the massive explosion on February 15, 1898 has remained shrouded in mystery

Initial investigations into the cause of the explosion led to different conclusions, but sensationalist journalism played a critical role in shaping public opinion. Newspapers led by publishers William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer seized upon the tragedy, promoting the theory that Spain was responsible for the attack. Their use of "yellow journalism" — the practice of exaggerating news to provoke emotional responses — helped inflame anti-Spanish sentiment in the United States. Headlines like "Remember the Maine, to Hell with Spain!" became rallying cries across the country.

Mark is an award-winning author, having published five novels in the last six years. He has won the gold medal for Historical Fiction from the Florida Authors and Publishers Association and received a Finalist Designation from the prestigious Eric Hoffer Book Awards, a nationwide competition that attracts some of the best writers in the country. One of his books, *Love and Terror in Havana,* begins with the mysterious explosion of the USS Maine. As he explained, it was during his extensive research on the subject during the writing of his book that led him to a conclusion that made headlines when the book first came out. [Continued on Page 10]



[Continued from Page 9] As Mark explained, in March 1898, a U.S. Naval Court of Inquiry concluded that the ship had been destroyed by a mine located outside the vessel. Though it did not directly blame Spain, the implication was clear, and the report further fueled calls for retaliation. Spain, for its part, denied any involvement and suggested the explosion could have been accidental. Later investigations into the incident were inconclusive. A 1911 Navy inquiry suggested that an external mine caused the explosion, but a 1976 study led by Admiral Hyman Rickover concluded that the blast was more likely due to an internal fire near the ship's ammunition stores.

Fascinating is the only word that captures the 'vibe' present in the room when Mark's vivid presentation placed us all at the scene of the explosion and, step by step, he presented the evidence sufficient to enable us to decide for ourselves who, or what, caused the explosion of the USS Maine and triggered the Spanish American war. That conclusion caused us to abandon everything they told us in high school history class!

Mark's personal investigation collected the following facts. First, no sailor ever witnessed any suspicious boats approach the Maine while it was moored, and there was no geyser of water to suggest an external explosion from a mine or torpedo. Further, the engineering investigation conducted years later determined that the explosion had not come from outside the hull.

Second, there has never been any evidence of fire having triggered the explosion of the munitions magazine. Sailors were constantly on the watch for fire in a ship that had massive coal bunkers which were 3-stories high. There were thermostats placed to warn of high temperatures – and these were checked constantly with no problem indicated. There had never been a coal fire.

Third, for those who suggested the boilers may have exploded, this theory was discarded after the boilers were found to be intact. So what happened?

Mark answered his own question when he connected the prior facts with contemporaneous witness testimony to the event. A number of individuals had reported hearing not one, but two, explosions – but this testimony had been discounted in the previous investigations. Mark then tied that evidence to what every coal miner has been taught to watch for – methane buildup in their mine which could lead to a disastrous explosion triggered by the smallest spark or flame. Methane gas is odorless, tasteless, and lighter than air. There was only one vent in the coal bunker on the Maine, and the coal bunker was located adjacent to the ship's magazine, filled with high explosives.

Mark believes it to be likely, therefore, that methane gas had accumulated in the coal bunker, and the sole vent did not allow it to dissipate. A spark from a faulty thermostat, or frayed wire chewed by one of the many rats on board caused a 'short' which then caused the methane gas to explode, triggering the secondary, much larger, explosion of the ordinance stored in the adjacent magazine.

The incident served as a catalyst for war. Under increasing pressure from both the public and Congress, President William McKinley requested authorization to use military force. On April 25, 1898, the United States officially declared war on Spain, initiating the Spanish-American War. The conflict was brief, lasting only a few months, and resulted in a decisive U.S. victory. As a result, the U.S. gained control over former Spanish territories including Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines, significantly expanding its global influence.

The legacy of the Maine remains significant. During the 1911 investigation, the ship's remains were raised and the wreck was later scuttled at sea with military honors. The Maine's destruction remains a stark example of how a single incident can shift the course of history — igniting war, transforming public opinion, and redefining national policy.

Thank you, Mark, for a great program. Now can you move on to whether Bigfoot exists. I'd really like to know!

If You Are Interested . . .

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

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



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

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

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

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

DAR
Daughters of the American Revolution

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

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

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

THE CONSTITUTION WEEK LUNCHEON 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

Choice 1: Citrus roasted chicken

Choice 2: Herb de Provence salmon

Choice 3: Portabella pasta stroganoff

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

Dessert: Strawberry shortcake with whipped cream and blueberries

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

Member: _____ Menu #___ Chapter: _____

PM: _____ Menu #___ Chapter: _____

Guest: _____ Menu#___

Compatriots Corner

The purpose of the "Compatriots Corner" page is to follow the mission and goals of the SAR by recounting our patriot ancestor's participation in the War for Independence. I would like everyone to consider writing that story and share it with me. *But fear not - if you need assistance, genealogist Christine Racine, and her husband, award winning author Mark Barie, can help you get your story down on paper. Just let me know. We can help – see page 17 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 Compatriots, Dr. Paul Lancaster and his sons, Paul and John.

My Patriot Ancestor: John Lancaster
A Freedom Fighter Without A Uniform

By Compatriots Dr. Paul Lancaster DiGiorgi, MD, and sons Paul Albert and John Douglas DiGiorgi
(with Christine Racine and Compatriot Mark Barie)

Our Patriot ancestor is "Captain" John Lancaster of Charles County, Maryland.

You may recall Charles County as the famous hiding place for an escaped murderer. The fugitive, suffering from a broken leg, sought the help of a Charles County physician, Doctor Samuel Mudd. The injured man then spent a week hiding from the authorities while trudging through the county's largest swamp. When the escapee finally came out of hiding, he was shot and killed by Union soldiers. John Wilkes Booth is a name that will live in infamy.

John Lancaster, on the other hand, is not famous for his skill with a pistol. Indeed, even his title was no more than a family nickname. John Lancaster's father was a long-serving captain and mariner on several merchant ships. In fact, our patriot never served in the military. He was, instead, a Charles County Justice of the Peace and a member of the Charles County Maryland Committee of Observation. In colonial times, a justice of the peace (an appointed position), presided over legal cases, selected and organized juries, was responsible for most of the county's official records, and supervised all real estate transactions.

But it was John Lancaster's membership on the Charles County Committee of Observation that earned his designation as a Revolutionary War Patriot. In Maryland, like most other colonies, it was the job of the Committee of Observation to serve as a "shadow government" in active opposition to British rule. The Committee would enforce the boycott of British goods. Its members, including our Patriot, were tasked with monitoring the county's residents for behavior disloyal to the patriotic cause. They also identified "loyalists" who violated patriot resolutions and directives. It was John Lancaster's very difficult job to further the cause of American independence under the watchful eyes of the very government they sought to overthrow.

Lancaster's predecessors on the Committee were well known patriots and truly historic figures. Robert H. Harrison was an attorney to George Washington and the commander-in-chief's Aide de Camp during the Revolutionary War. Later, Harrison would become one of Washington's nominees to the United States Supreme Court. (Harrison declined the nomination for health reasons.) Harrison was also a Justice of the Peace in Charles County and a member of its Committee of Observation.

And then there was Daniel St. Thomas. He served as President of the Maryland Committee on Safety. Thomas was responsible for organizing and implementing the colony's military preparedness for battle with the armed forces of Great Britain. He too served as a Charles County Justice of the Peace and as a member of the Charles County Committee of Observation.

It should be pointed out that a justice of the peace, as they were called during colonial times, were today's version of a county court judge. Serving as a patriot judge, in the midst of hostile forces, was more than enough to incur the wrath of Great Britain's military establishment. (Many of them were arrested.) But serving as a member of the Committee of Observation could get you imprisoned -- or worse, executed for treason.

These men, including our Patriot, never fought on a battlefield. Instead, they served in secret meeting rooms and in public courtrooms. They risked their lives, their liberty, and their fortunes in the mighty struggle for our nation's independence.

They too, were Patriots.
[Editor's Note: Please see companion story on Committees of Organization during the Revolutionary Era, on Page 14]

Local Enforcement of the Dictates of the First Continental Congress
The Critical Importance of the Committees of Safety, Correspondence, and Observation to the Success of the Revolution

During the American Revolutionary era, Committees of Safety, Correspondence, Inspection and Organization played a critical role in mobilizing colonial resistance against British rule. These committees formed the backbone of revolutionary infrastructure. They served as local governing bodies in the absence of British authority and were instrumental in spreading revolutionary ideals, enforcing non-importation agreements, and ultimately helping transition from protest to open rebellion.

The earliest of these committees, known as Committees of Correspondence, emerged in the early 1770s. The Massachusetts House of Representatives, under the leadership of Samuel Adams, established one of the first such committees in 1772. Its primary goal was to coordinate responses to British policies and to communicate grievances and actions among the colonies. These networks of communication proved crucial in unifying colonial opposition and fostering a shared sense of purpose across disparate regions.

As tensions increased, particularly following the Boston Tea Party in 1773 and the passage of the Coercive (Intolerable) Acts in 1774, the role of these committees expanded. By Resolution of 18 July 1775, the Continental Congress recommended that each colony appoint a committee of safety "to superintend and direct all matters necessary for the security and defence of their respective colonies in the recess of their assemblies and conventions." In reaction, towns and counties throughout the colonies formed committees of inspection and observation to enforce the decisions of the First Continental Congress, particularly the Continental Association. This agreement called for a boycott of British goods and a halt to exports to Britain. The committees ensured compliance, often inspecting shops and warehouses, monitoring merchants, and publicly shaming or penalizing those who violated the boycott.

In July, 1775, the Convention of Maryland chose by ballot the Council of Safety of Maryland. Acting as an executive body, the Council enforced its dictates and those of the Continental Congress through a system of County Committees of Observation – which included the Charles County Committee of Observation of which John Lancaster was a member, our highlighted Compatriot Patriot ancestor of the month.

The Maryland Council of Safety administered all matters and measures connected with the policy of resistance. Its varied responsibilities included licensing privateers, instituting boycotts, and summoning militia. The Maryland Council was also charged with taking the Maryland Census of 1776.

In due course, the colonial committees throughout the colonies also began to assume governmental powers. With royal governors losing control and colonial assemblies dissolving, the committees filled the vacuum. They organized local militias, managed the distribution of arms and supplies, and maintained law and order. They took on judicial functions, resolving disputes and conducting investigations into suspected loyalists. In many cases, they imposed loyalty oaths and sanctioned punishments for those who supported British rule.

By 1775, committees of safety had become the de facto governments in many areas. These bodies coordinated with provincial congresses and later the Continental Congress, playing a vital role in preparing for and sustaining armed resistance. They supervised the collection of intelligence, oversaw the raising and outfitting of troops, and managed local defense efforts. Their ability to mobilize communities quickly and effectively gave the Patriots a significant organizational advantage over British forces and Loyalist factions.

The influence of these committees was profound. They fostered a sense of self-governance and local control that laid the groundwork for the development of republican government in the United States. They also helped create a political culture centered on vigilance, accountability, and civic participation. While their authority sometimes led to internal divisions and accusations of tyranny, their overall impact was one of unity and resistance. In summary, the committees of organization during the American Revolutionary era were essential to the success of the colonial rebellion. Acting as communication networks, enforcement arms, and provisional governments, they were the practical means by which revolutionary ideals were translated into action. Their legacy is reflected in the democratic institutions that would later form the foundation of the American republic.

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 News

Congratulations to our Compatriot
Caloosa Chapter Member Jonathan Hunt



At the Spring Florida BOM in Orlando:
Elected Senior Vice-President FLSSAR
Awarded the Gold Henry Knox Appreciation Medal
Awarded the Patriot's Medal

The Patriot's Medal is the highest award presented to a Compatriot by a State Society and recognizes long, faithful, outstanding, and distinguished service at the state and / or chapter level.

We are proud to be your friends and Compatriots, and happy that you have been recognized for all your contributions to the Mission of the SAR.

Announcements

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

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

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



Capture of Fort Ticonderoga May 10, 1775

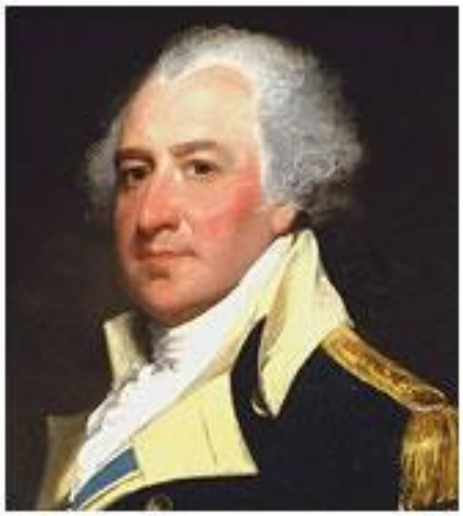
The 250th Anniversary of the Capture of Fort Ticonderoga was the subject of Rev. Dr. Randy Moody's monthly series of "America250 SAR Moments" given to the Compatriots gathered at the May 10th Caloosa Chapter Meeting. The combined forces led by Benedict Arnold and Ethan Allen were able to overwhelm the British guards by surprise.

Not only was the impressive stone fort now the prize of the American forces, but the artillery and other military supplies and equipment were later taken by Henry Knox overland during the winter, and placed on the outskirts of Boston, leading to the evacuation of the city by the British. This fort's capture was the first offensive victory against the King's forces in North America.



"Victory at Fort Ti" Randy Moody's latest in his series of America250 SAR Moments
(Photo Courtesy of Albert Myers)

Unsung Heroes of the Revolutionary Period: Thomas Mifflin Merchant, Patriot, Politician, and Pennsylvania's First Governor



Major General Thomas Mifflin
1st Quartermaster General of the Continental Army (1775)

Thomas Mifflin was a prominent American figure during the Revolutionary era, serving as a soldier, politician, and statesman. Born on January 10, 1744, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Mifflin played a vital role in the founding of the United States and was instrumental in shaping the early government of Pennsylvania. His life and career reflect the complex transformation of the American colonies into an independent republic.

Mifflin was born into a prosperous Quaker family and received a strong education, graduating (at age 16) from the College of Philadelphia (now the University of Pennsylvania) in 1760. After graduation, he joined the mercantile business of William Biddle, a prosperous Philadelphia merchant. Later, he established a commercial business partnership with his brother, George Mifflin. By 1770, Mifflin's talent as a speaker had drawn him into politics, and his attention shifted to public service. In 1772, he was elected to the provincial assembly and became recognized as a champion of Colonial rights. Mifflin became involved in the growing resistance to British rule, and served one of the youngest and most radical members of the First Continental Congress. His eloquence and leadership quickly brought him to the attention of revolutionary leaders.

He was also elected to the Second Continental Congress, but when the Revolutionary War broke out, Mifflin joined the Continental Army, was commissioned as a major, and turned his attention to recruiting and training troops for the Continental Army. John Adams declared that Mifflin " ought to have been a general" because he was the "animating soul" of the revolutionary movement.

On June 23, 1775, Mifflin was appointed as General Washington's aide-de-camp. Then, on August 14, 1775, Washington selected him as the Continental Army's first Quartermaster General, responsible for organizing supplies and logistics. While he was effective in this role, he faced criticism and accusations of mismanagement, which haunted his reputation for years. Nevertheless, Mifflin continued to serve with distinction, eventually rising to the rank of major general.
[Continued on Page 19]



"The Death of General Mercer at the Battle of Princeton, January 3, 1777"
painting by John Trumbull (Mifflin on far left, leading the cavalry charge)

[Continued from Page 18]
Mifflin actually preferred front line duty to administrative duties. An eyewitness declared that he "never saw a greater display of personal bravery" than when Mifflin exhibited his "cool and intrepid conduct" in leading an attack on a British foraging expedition at Lechmire's Point on November 9, 1775, and a month later Mifflin was advanced to the rank of Colonel. Then, on May 16, 1776, he was promoted to Brigadier General. Mifflin was also present at the battles of Trenton, Princeton, and the defense of Philadelphia, and appointed to the rank of Major General in October 1777, all while continuing his duties as Quartermaster General.

After the war, Mifflin returned to politics. He served in the Confederation Congress from 1782 to 1784 and was elected its president in 1783, during which time he accepted George Washington's resignation as commander-in-chief—an important symbolic gesture confirming civilian control over the military. Mifflin supported the movement for a stronger federal government and was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1787. He signed the U.S. Constitution, helping to shape the foundational document of the new nation.

Mifflin also played a key role in state politics. In 1790, Pennsylvania adopted a new state constitution and elected him as its first governor. He served three consecutive terms from 1790 to 1799, guiding the state through the challenges of the early republic. As governor, he promoted public education, road and infrastructure improvements, strengthening the Pennsylvania State Militia, and judicial and fiscal reform. He also had to deal with internal unrest, including the Whiskey Rebellion, which tested the power of the new federal government. After Mifflin retired as Governor in 1799, he continued to serve in the Pennsylvania legislature until his death on January 20, 1800, and was honored to be interred at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Today, Thomas Mifflin is remembered as a committed revolutionary and an important early American leader. His life illustrates the challenges of leadership during a time of upheaval and transformation, and his efforts helped lay the groundwork for both Pennsylvania's governance and the federal structure of the United States.



"General George Washington Resigning His Commission"
painting by Jonn Trumbull (Mifflin standing at far left) December 23, 1783

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

Prior articles published in the Caloosa Patriot have reported on the efforts of our Caloosa Chapter SAR Compatriot, Earl Kennedy, and the Combat Infantrymen's Association, Inc., of which he is a member, to bring a monument dedicated to all veterans, and those presently serving the nation, to Fort Myers. The group named their proposed sculpture the ***All Veterans Memorial Monument*** (the "AVMM"). Recently, Compatriot Kennedy announced the formation of a new not-for-profit corporation: "All Veterans Memorial, Inc." the purpose for which would be to see to the construction and future management of the AVMM. The Mission of the All Veterans Memorial, Inc. is ***"To design, fund, install and support a commemorative memorial honoring all veterans and families of veterans from every branch of military service in the United States of America."***



A site at Centennial Park in Fort Myers has been finalized, work on the sculptures and the bases for the sculptures is ongoing, and construction will commence once the funds necessary have been raised. The project completion date is weather dependent, but planned to occur by the end of 2025, and the estimated cost of the project is $279,000. Fundraising has begun, and all donations are 100% deductible under current tax laws.

For more information, and to donate, control + click here to follow link:

Home | AVM, Inc.

Or, alternately, control + click here to follow link:

[https://www.avmemorial.org]

Nation Set To Celebrate Birthday Of The 'STAR SPANGLED BANNER' On Flag Day June 14. 2025



The Birth of Old Glory by Percy Moran (1862 - 1935)

In the United States, Flag Day is celebrated on June 14, and commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777 by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. The United States Army also celebrates the US Army Birthday on this date.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day; and in August 1946, National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress.



140th US Flag Day Poster (1777 - 1917) The birthday of the Stars and Stripes, June 14, 1917.
'Tis the Star-Spangled Banner, oh, long may it wave, o'er the land of the free and home of the brave!'
Library of Congress description: "Poster showing a man raising the American flag,
With a Minuteman cheering and an eagle flying above."

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.

If You Are Interested . . .

SAR 250th Commemoration of the U.S. Army



Compatriots,

Register today for the SAR Army 250 National Commemoration to be held on Saturday, June 14, 2025, at George Washington's Mount Vernon and the National Museum of the United States Army. Events include the Army 250 Ceremony at Mount Vernon, Grave Marking for George and Martha Washington, Luncheon at the Mount Vernon Inn, Tour of the National Museum of the U.S. Army at Fort Belvoir including the new Revolutionary War 250 exhibit and an Army 250 Gala Dinner hosted by George Washington.

Register Here

Accommodations will be available from June 13-16 at the Westin Alexandria Old Town, located at 400 Courthouse Square in Alexandria, VA. Reservations must be made no later than May 24, 2025 for the SAR group rate.

SAR Hotel Reservation Link

Click here to see the Army 250 event flyer for additional information:
PowerPoint Presentation

In Patriotism,
Jeff
Jeff Thomas
Historian General
America 250 Chair
Sons of the American Revolution

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 nearly 1200 WWII, Korean and Vietnam veterans on this deeply emotional and well-deserved trip. Support for these trips is provided by volunteers and is at no cost to the veterans. Top priority is given to our most senior heroes.

DATE FOR MISSION 29 (FALL 2025) TO BE ANNOUNCED



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
Will Be Scheduled For The Fall On A Date TBA
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.