SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

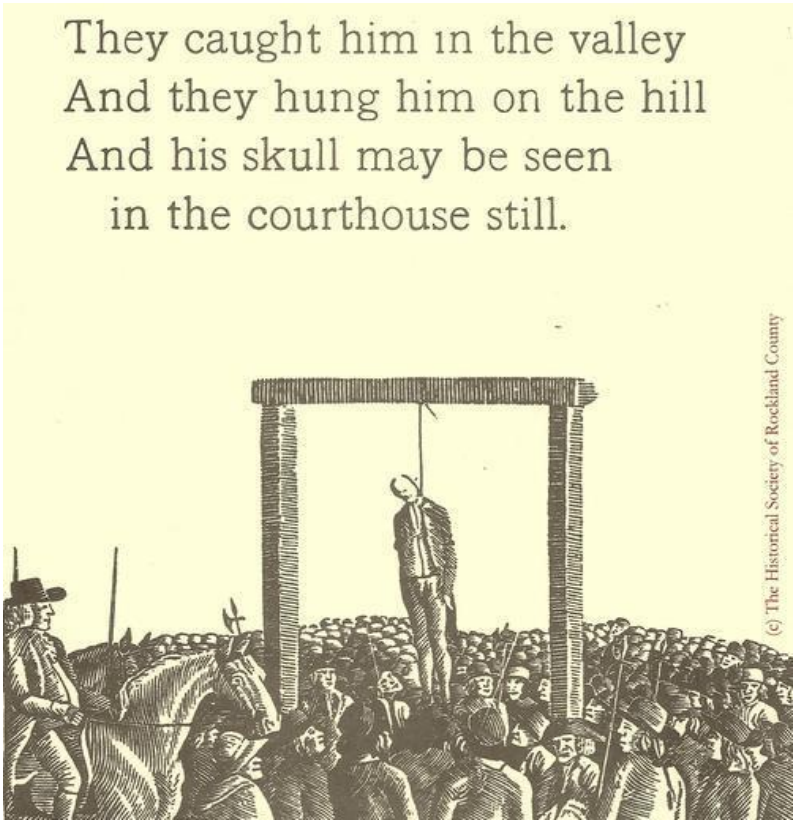
CALOOSA PATRIOT

Volume XX Issue I *Caloosa Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution Newsletter* January 2025

John L. Maier, Jr. - Newsletter Editor

Notorious Tory Villian Hanged

Outlaw Claudius Smith Meets His End on the Gallows January 22, 1779



According to historian Charles Dewey, writing in the Journal of the American Revolution, while there were many Revolutionary-era Loyalist outlaws, Claudius Smith and his gang, the *Cowboys of the Ramapos,* stand apart. Dewey writes: "Their story has long been exaggerated and romanticized through local legends, but the true account of their actions is far more violent. Smith and his band – comprised of his children, outlaws, deserters, Native Americans, and local Tories – terrorized the Whig Patriots of Orange County, in southeastern New York during the Revolution."

Smith and the Cowboys used beatings, robberies and murders against combatants and noncombatants alike throughout the middle years of the Revolution, retreating into the dens of the Ramapo Mountains to hide out.

Born in Brookhaven, New York, in 1736, Smith moved with his family to Orange County, NY, in 1762, and his early life was relatively unremarkable until the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. As is more fully explained in the article "Patriots, Loyalists and Neutrals" on Page 18 of this issue of the Patriot, the War divided the American colonists between those supporting independence (Patriots), those remaining loyal to the British Crown (Loyalists), and those who just wanted to be left alone (Neutrals).

By 1769, Smith had managed to generate a reputation as a minor criminal. A newspaper advertisement appeared in the *New York Gazette* offering a fifty-dollar reward for Smith who had recently escaped from jail after being confined for "debt, theft, and rioting." He was described in the ad as having a white beard, pale complexion, short hair and powder burns under his right eye. The newspaper went on to warn the reader that Smith was "a great bully and will fight wherever he goes, being very conceited of his strength." Four years later, a follow-up ad reported that Newark, NJ, lawmen had arrested "the notorious Claudius Smith, who justly deserves to be ranked among the first in his profession [horse stealing] in this country." The ad went on to say that Smith had escaped from prison four separate times because he had a "dexterity peculiar to himself," and added that he utilized multiple disguises to mask his crimes. When the Revolutionary War came to Orange County the crimes continued, only the crimes became partisan acts of violence and thievery to the British government. [Continued on Page 2]

[Continued from Page 1]

Smith earned the label "*Cowboy of the Ramapos"* for his terrorizing of patriot civilians. He and his cohorts stole livestock and ambushed travelers on the Orange Turnpike between Canada and New York from the cave now memorialized as "Claudius Smith's Den" in Orange County's Harriman State Park.



Claudius Smith's Den

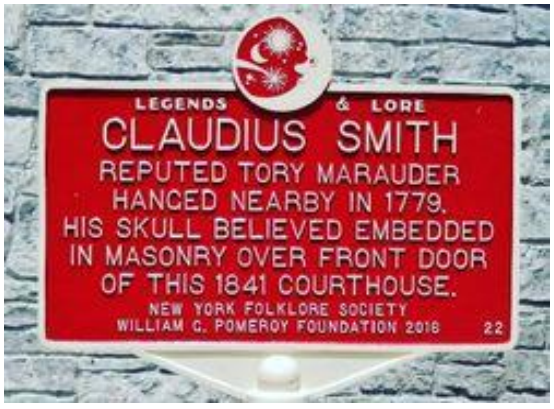
The behavior of Smith and the Cowboys meets our current definition of the word terrorism. The gang acted independently, but in support of the British government, and carried out orders and bounties provided by British officials. While several of Orange County's citizens were targeted for robbery and murder, the goal was always to generate fear in order to paralyze local anti-British activity, not simply to increase their wealth or eliminate enemies. They provoked a regional panic and forced the relocation of many patriot families.

A contemporary account from a terrified area inhabitant says it well: "No one slept safely in his bed. Many families hid themselves in barns, wheat-ricks, corn-cribs, and stacks of hay; and on each returning day, blessed their good fortune that their houses had escaped the flames. The composition of these predatory gangs of Cowboys was loose, including confirmed Tories, British deserters, runaway slaves, and Indians; their number was indeterminate; and their tastes in thievery were undiscriminating. Despite the name by which they were known, they did not confine their attentions to driving off the live stock from the farms of their unfortunate victims. Anything portable and marketable with the British in New York City fell within the scope of their acquisitive proclivity, and their booty comprised not only money and silver plate but also saddles and articles of clothing."

Smith managed to escape justice until his gang murdered patriot Major Nathaniel Strong in the course of a robbery. Patriot Gov. George Clinton then issued a warrant for his arrest, offering a $1,200 reward for the capture of Smith, who was described as "7 feet tall" in his wanted poster. Captured by vigilantes on British-controlled Long Island, and brought to trial in the Court House in Goshen, NY. His trial was a significant event in the area as it symbolized the struggle between the Patriots and Loyalists. Smith and other members of his gang, including one of his sons, were found guilty, and on January 22, 1779 were executed by hanging.



It was reported that Smith conducted himself with "admirable firmness" during the course of the trial. When the verdict of guilty was rendered and the sentence of execution by hanging was read, he was asked if he had anything to say in his defense. "No" he allegedly retorted. "If God Almighty can't change your hearts, I cannot." On the date set for his hanging, dressed in a suit of rich broadcloth adorned with silver buttons, the Cowboy presented a noble appearance as he marched with firm step toward the improvised gallows. Crowds flocked to witness the execution of the man whose name had long terrorized their county and whose mere threat had prevented many from sleeping in their own houses for months.



Legends abound surrounding the events occurring at the time of Smith's death. For example, it is said that Claudius Smith's skull was filled with mortar and embedded in the edifice above the Goshen Court House door. And the "locals" still search for the stolen treasure hidden in the mountains which was never recovered and is said to still be awaiting the lucky person who may come across it while exploring the recesses of the hills in the vicinity of the Cowboys' hideout.

Smith's legacy is complex. To many, he was a villain, a symbol of the brutality of the Loyalist cause. To others, he was a hero, fighting for his loyalty to the Crown against overwhelming odds. His story serves as a testament to the deeply divided loyalties and the extreme measures taken by both sides in the fight for American Independence, and as a reminder of the internal conflicts and divisions that marked the Revolutionary War. [See related story on Page 18]

Table of Contents

Page

Notorious Tory Villian Hanged -
Outlaw Claudius Smith Meets His End on the
Gallows, January 22, 1779 1-2

A Message From Our President, Jeff Brunelle. 4

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Revised Meeting Notice
Location 6

Caloosa Chapter SAR Meeting Program for
February 8, 2025 / Filmmaker Introduces His
Documentary on *The American Constitution*. . . . 7-8

Compatriot's Corner / True Patriots
My Patriot Ancestors: Zachariah and Abigail
Rice, by Compatriot John Rice (with Christine
A. Racine and Compatriot Mark Barie) 9

Calling for Volunteers for the Caloosa Chapter
Light Horse Harry Lee Camp #15 Color Guard 10

My 2024-2025 Florida State C.A.R. Project 11

The All-Veterans Memorial Monument:
Fundraising Has Begun. 11

Plans for 250th Commemoration of Lexington
and Concord 12

What's The Buzz? Tell Me What It's All About: Last
Naval Battle of the American Revolution 15-17

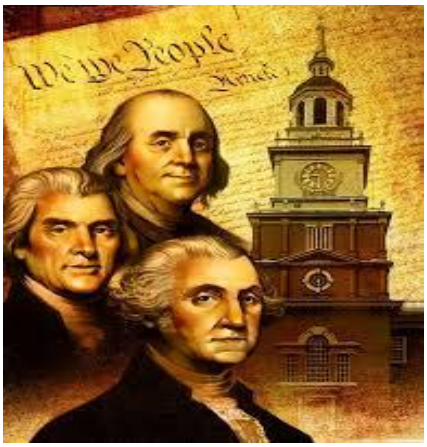
Patriots, Loyalists and Neutrals 18

Hey Florida Compatriots! Take care of our wildlife:

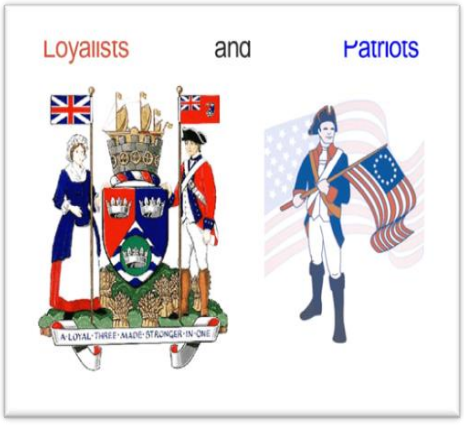




Notorious Tory Villian Hanged
Outlaw Claudius Smith Meets His End
(Pages 1-2)



The American Constitution,
a Documentary by David Garrigus
(Pages 7-8)



Patriots, Loyalists and Neutrals
(Page 18)

A Message From Our President



Greetings Compatriots!

Welcome to 2025 and another year on our path in celebration of the events that happened 250 years ago.

First a little business. Just in case you have not seen the notices, we are again meeting at Famous Dave's BBQ in Fort Myers. The previous location decided not to continue catering to smaller groups like ours. If you plan to attend our meetings, please make sure you go to the Chapter Website, https://caloosasar.org and register for the meeting. It's important we have an accurate count one week before the meeting for the restaurant, so please register right away.

I would also like to start rebuilding our Chapter's Color Guard. Most of the current members of the Color Guard have gotten or are getting to the age that it is difficult to participate. So, I'm asking each of you to help me succeed in this effort. There are two immediate things that we can all consider as a starting point.

First, I would like to reach out to anyone that has uniforms or clothing that they may want to donate or sell to new members to let me know. I'd like to have a uniform exchange at some of our upcoming meetings.

Second, I would like to ask that if anyone is interested in participating, or would like to know more about what is involved in participating, let me know. There are no requirements other than a willingness to honor our Patriot Ancestors. I would like to help you get started. You will hear more about this throughout the year. And please see the additional information on our Chapter's Color Guard on Page 10 of this issue of the Patriot Newsletter.

As Part of our goal to celebrate America's 250th Anniversary, we have a special speaker for this month's meeting, David Garrigus. Mr. Garrigus has a new documentary that describes the struggle our Founding Fathers had with writing the Constitution. His documentary goes into the conflict and compromise that took place, culminating in one of the greatest documents in human history. I urge all of you to come and hear Mr. Garrigus' comments.

I wish all of you a happy and healthy New Year. I look forward to working with all of you.

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

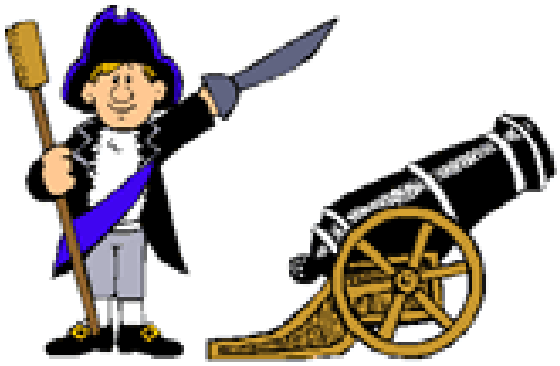


Member-at-Large
Jonathan Hunt



Chaplain
Rev. Dr. Randy Moody

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Revised Meeting Location Notice



Chapter Meetings Are Now Back At Famous Daves

Looking Ahead
Caloosa Chapter SAR
2024-2025 Revised Meeting Schedule

Chapter Meetings		ExCom Meetings	
Saturday Oct. 26, 2024	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday Sept. 24, 2024	11:30 a.m.
Saturday Nov. 9, 2024	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday Oct. 29, 2024	11:30 a.m.
Wednesday Dec. 11, 2024	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday Dec. 3, 2024	11:30 a.m.
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.

Beginning in February, Chapter Meetings will no longer be held at The Landings.

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

THE NEXT CALOOSA CHAPTER MEETING WILL BE HELD:
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2025
AT OUR NEW MEETING PLACE

Famous Dave's BBQ Restaurant

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



Program presented by Award Winning Filmmaker:

David Garrigus

who will be sharing an exclusive preview of his upcoming PBS documentary "The American Constitution" in which leading authors and historians reveal the story of The U.S. Constitution's 1787 creation while dramatic actors bring the words of the Framers to life – in the room where it happened.

Lunch Buffet Menu:

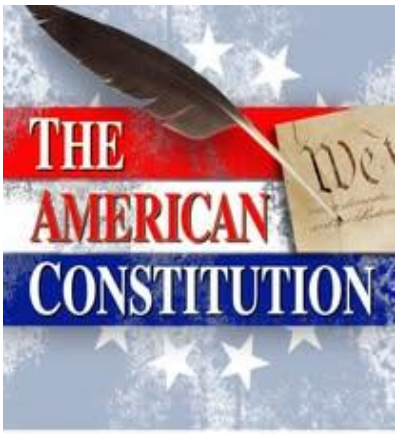
St. Louis style Spareribs, Roast Chicken, Cornbread Muffins, Wilbur Baked Beans, Potato Salad, and Beverage
[Anyone needing a special meal (i.e., Vegetarian, other) let us know]

The gathering will begin at 11:30 a.m.
Cost for the dinner is $20.00 per person paid at the link below by PayPal or Credit Card

Please RSVP by Jan. 30th (as we need final count by Feb. 1st) for meetings 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.

Filmmaker David Garrigus To Introduce His Documentary On *The American Constitution* At Upcoming Chapter Meeting



The Speaker for our February 8th Chapter Meeting is David Garrigus, a producer and director of documentary and educational programs including his new feature film, *The American Constitution*, in which he strives to reveal the story of the U.S. Constitution's 1787 creation through dramatic actors bring the words of the Frames to life – in the room where it happened.

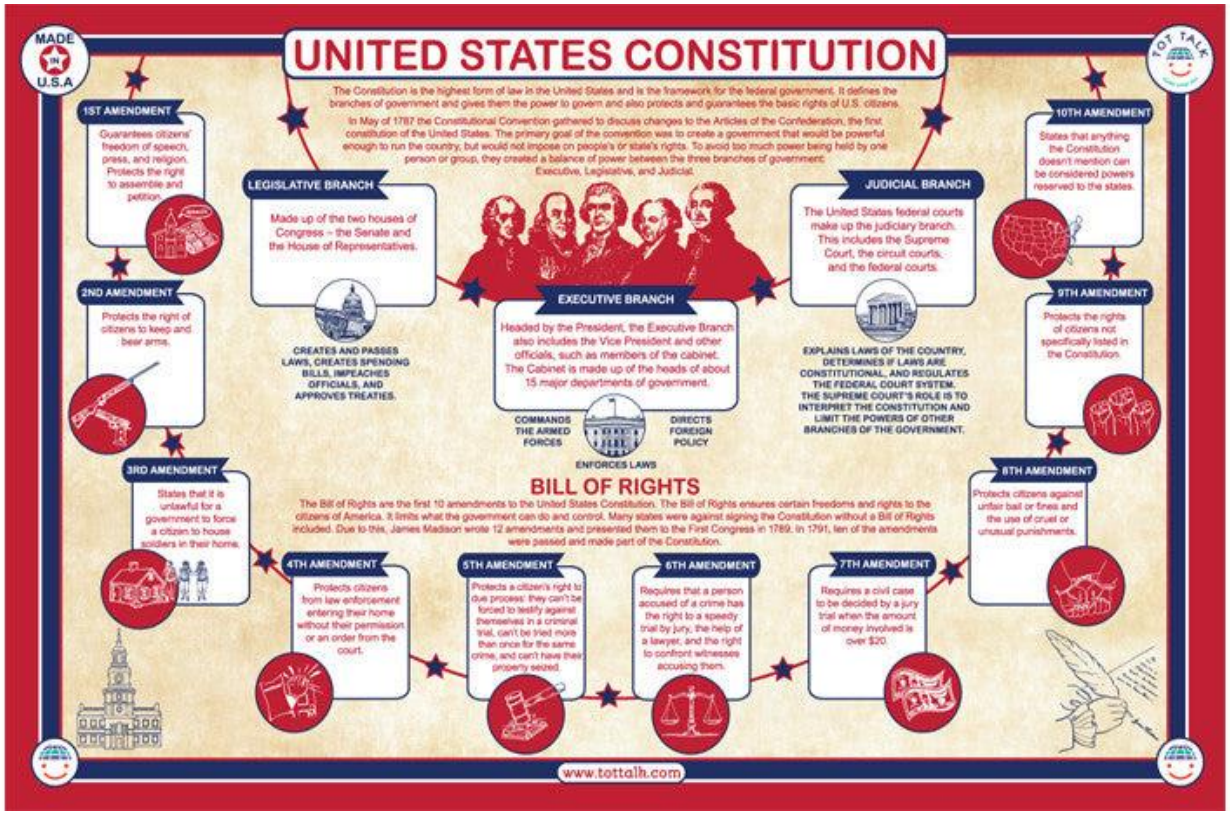
The project is Mr. Garrigus' second major historical documentary, after his award-winning PBS two-hour Kitty Hawk: The Wright Brothers' Journey of Invention which featured Neil Armstrong and John Glenn as the voices of Orville and Wilbur Wright. Six years in the making, Kitty Hawk has been called the best documentary to tell the story of how the airplane was invented.

Mr. Garrigus promises that *The American Constitution* will entertain audiences while providing a deeper understanding of America's essential history.



The adoption of the Constitution acted like a colossal merger, uniting a group of states with different interests, laws and cultures. Under America's first national government, the Articles of Confederation, the states acted together only for specific purposes. The Constitution united its citizens as members of a whole, vesting the power of the union in the people. Without it, the American Experiment might have ended as quickly as it had begun.

Mr. Garrigus' presentation will include a talk, a 15-minute preview of his film, and he will be happy to answer questions about the making of his film. See Page 7 of this issue for more information, including directions on how to make reservations.



Compatriots Corner

The purpose of the "Compatriots Corner" 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. ***If you need assistance, we have willing Compatriots who can help you get your story down on paper. Just let me know .*** 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 John Rice.

True Patriots

My Patriot Ancestors: Zachariah and Abigail Rice

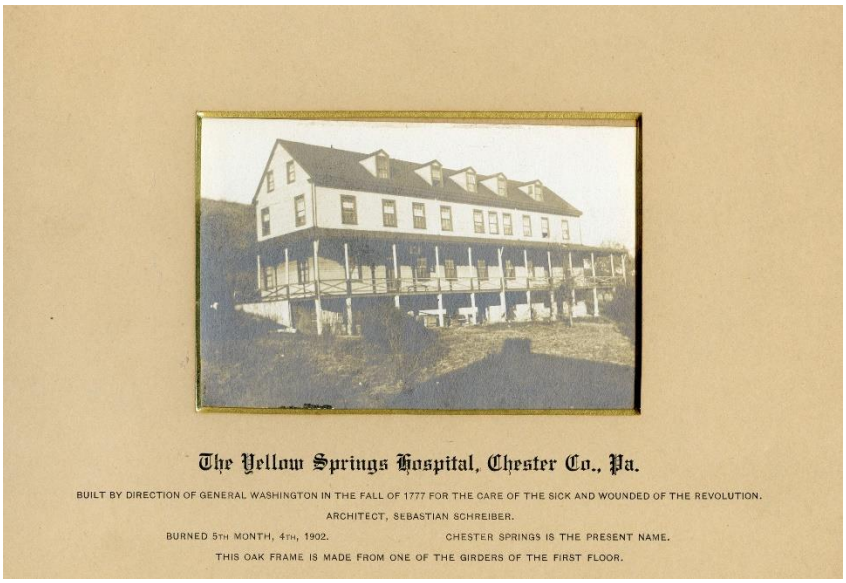
By Compatriot John Rice (with Christine Racine and Compatriot Mark Barie)

Zachariah Rice, immigrated to American colonies from Germany in 1751. After settling in Yellow Springs, (Chester County, Pennsylvania), he married Abigail Hartman. His bride was just 15 years old at the time. Rice was 11 years her senior.

Zachariah's father-in-law gave the newlyweds a 200-acre parcel of farmland. It was a dream come true for Rice, who was a carpenter and engineer by training. He built a sprawling homestead for his bride. Together, my Patriot Ancestors' 33-year marriage would ultimately produce 21 children, 17 of whom survived to adulthood.

For his entire life, Zachariah Rice used his talents as an engineer and a carpenter, for the public good. He assisted in the construction of the Yellow Springs Hospital, soon to be a Field Hospital for casualties of the war. Abigail donated her talents, also. She regularly worked as a volunteer at the hospital nursing sick and wounded Veterans back to health. In fact, she would ultimately contract typhus as a direct result of her labors.

Public service was seen by Zachariah and Abigail Rice as a solemn duty. After a move to the Port Royal region of Pennsylvania, Rice, a life-long Lutheran, donated one and a half acres plus a newly built church building to the first Lutheran Church of Juniata County, PA. For his troubles, Zachariah accepted a fee of $16. Just a few years later, he would build another church in nearby Perry County, Pennsylvania.



During his lifetime of service, Zachariah also constructed a grist mill, donated land for a cemetery, and regularly contributed his talents to the Chester County Militia.

His regiment saw action at the Battle of Brandywine, just a few miles from the Rice homestead. Some of the American troops would camp at the Rice farm on the evening of their retreat from the battlefield.

And before it was over, the Commander in Chief himself would pay a house call on the missus of the house. George Washington and his officers requested a drink of water. Abigail dispatched one of her daughters, who filled the pitcher at the family well. Abigail, ever the servant to people in need, added sugar, spices, and a touch of rum, creating a popular concoction known locally as "flip". She handed it to the general, saying "Here, my Lord." The man who would soon become the nation's first President corrected the woman.

"We have no titles, here. We are all brothers."

A dozen years later, Abigail would die from the typhus she contracted while working at the hospital her husband built. Zachariah would live for another 22 years. He continued his public service, but, sadly, with Abigail no longer at his side. For service to their country Zachariah and Abigail Rice are considered Patriots.

In my humble opinion, they are the very definition of Patriots.

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 Peterson and Jeff Brunelle at the Vietnam War 50th Commemoration (March 29, 2024)



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

The All Veterans Memorial Monument: Fundraising Has Begun!!!

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, and construction will be commenced once the funds necessary have been raised. The target completion date is mid-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]

My 2024-2025 Florida State C.A.R. Project

By Caleb D. Golden, President F.S.C.A.R.

I am honored to be the presiding President of the 2024–2025 Florida State Society Children of the American Revolution (F.S.C.A.R.) and am proud to say that I have set a goal to raise $5,000 in support of Wolfhound Legacy and would greatly appreciate your help in meeting this goal. Let me explain why. Co-founded in 2016 by Fay Maliszewski and Melanie Jacob, Wolfhound Legacy is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating, and training dogs from high-risk shelters to become certified service dogs for veterans and first responders with P.T.S.D.

WOLFHOUNDS LEGACY
NO HERO WALKS ALONE

Wolfhound Legacy is run entirely by volunteers, driven to save otherwise unadoptable dogs from high-risk shelters, then train them to provide vital emotional and other support to our veterans and first responders. Each rescued dog begins training in a foster home environment, learning to adapt to everyday life, including interactions with children, other pets, and various outdoor settings. The organization's rigorous training program ensures that every dog passes the Canine Good Citizen Test. After this, the dogs are paired with a veteran or first responder, and a nine-month service dog training program begins.

But they need our help! Despite their successes, Wolfhound Legacy currently faces a challenge. The organization needs a permanent building and often meets wherever space is available, such as in front of Tractor Supply. To address this, they are actively raising funds for a new facility. The Florida Society Children of the American Revolution is working diligently to assist in this goal by contributing $5,000 to the overall effort. The organization remains dedicated to its mission, hoping a permanent home will allow them to expand their life-saving work.

You can help! Any amount helps. My local C.A.R. Chapter (Billy Bowlegs Society) Senior President, Teri Peterson, is assisting. Checks made out to the "Billy Bowlegs Society" can be mailed to Teri Peterson, 17181 Waters Edge Circle, North Fort Myers, 33917. You can print "Wolfhound Legacy donation" on the memo line of your check. Thank you very much for your consideration.









250th Commemoration of Lexington and Concord

We are just 93 days away from the start of the 250th Commemoration of "the shot heard 'round the world". Please join the Massachusetts Society and New England District for the Commemoration of the Battle of Lexington and Concord, NSSAR's 2025 250th signature event. We have been working extremely hard on putting a multi-day program together and it is firming up.

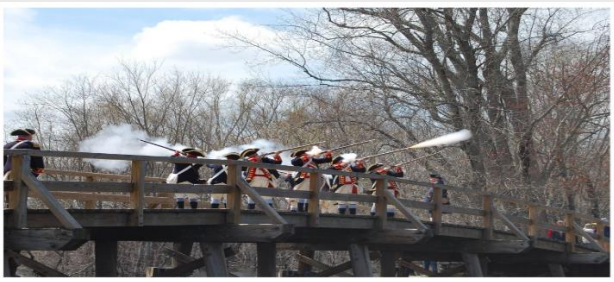
The program promises to be something you will want to participate in and be glad you did. Events begin on Friday, April 18th and go through Monday, April 21st. Many of our National General Officers, National Color Guard, and members throughout the country will be joining us. Your definitive source for SAR information on the Battle of Lexington and Concord 250th can be found by clicking the button below.

Learn More

There you will find information on each day's program, participating/supporting/sponsoring organizations, where to stay (we have a room block with a preferred rate at the Burlington Marriott - rooms are filling up quick so don't delay!), where to eat (a list of 70 area restaurants), etc. You can also order our special Lexington and Concord Challenge Coin or donate to help defray costs. Registration for the event opens on March 1st. You will want to register to get the most out of the programs being offered including transportation to the events (you will not want to try and navigate area traffic yourself). If you have any issues, questions or concerns please reach out to Ed Hoak by clicking the button below.

Email Ed Hoak





CONTINENTAL CONGRESS HENRY RIFLE NOW AVAILABLE!



We are excited to announce the second rifle in our series of 250th Anniversary Commemorative Henry Rifles is now available at Bass Pro Shop® and Cabela's®. One side of the receiver features an artist rendering of Carpenter's Hall while the other is emblazoned with our SAR Eagle Logo. It is produced in the popular .357mag/.38 special caliber.

Bass Pro requests you order through their on-line catalogue, or you may order in your local store. These are not stocked in the individual stores, so you need to order, but they have some in stock now at the central warehouse. Be sure and see if you are eligible for special veterans, first responder and club member discounts. Here is a link to the current web catalogue page:

[Control + click to follow link}:

Current Web Catalogue Page

If the current stock is sold, the web page may indicate it is not available. Check back periodically to see when restocked, print the webpage, or stop into your local Bass Pro Shop® and Cabela's® to order, ***SKU 4038561****.*

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.

If You Are Interested . . .



Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution Anniversary Celebration

BREVARD COUNTY'S SONS, DAUGHTERS AND CHILDREN OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INVITE YOUR GROUP TO MARCH WITH US AT OUR ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE LAST NAVAL BATTLE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION THAT WAS FOUGHT OFF THE COAST OF CAPE CANAVERAL

March 15, 2025 at 10:00 AM at the Veteran's Memorial Center 400 South Sykes Creek Parkway, Merritt Island

Event will be held inside if it rains

We once again expect a Color Guard of 200+ marchers along a very short parade route - ALL Color Guard units will receive a FREE 18" LAST NAVAL BATTLE FLAG STREAMER. There will a "Wreath laying Ceremony" for any group that wishes to honor our American Heroes. Water and chairs will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own. Speeches will be kept short! *Reservations for Color Guard/group participation and Wreath presentations must be received by February 18, 2025. Parade position is based on completion and receipt of this form.*

Instructions: To make your group's reservation, **Save** this PDF form to your computer, **open** from your computer, **fill out** the fields, then **Save** and **attach** the file to an e-mail message.

Reservation for Color Guard unit or group marching in the procession:

Group/Unit name: _____

Contact Name:_____Phone Number ---------- ____

E-mail: _____

Number in group attending**:**_____How does the group want to be announced as? _____

Wreath presentation:

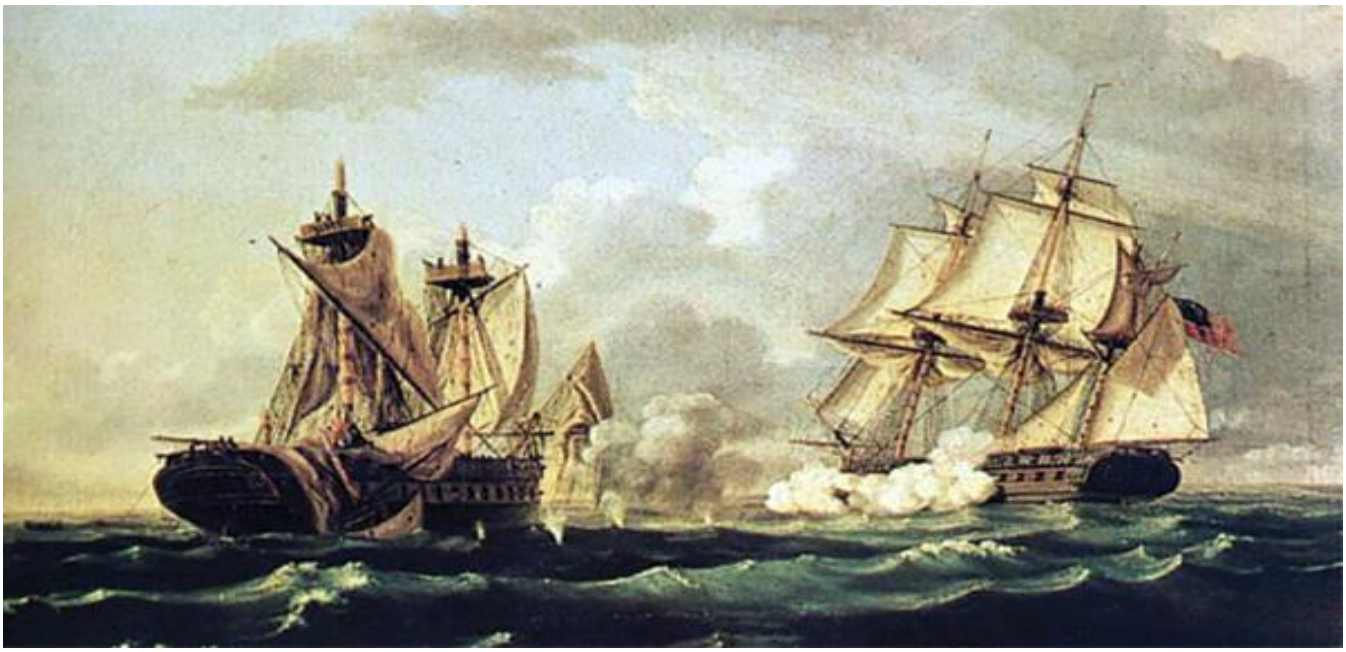
If you will be laying a wreath to honor our AMERICAN HEROES, please list your Group/Individual name presenting the wreath_____

Please send your completed form to: email - swampfoxeditor@yahoo.com

Or Mail to:

Brevard SAR
1535 Skyline Dr., Kissimmee, FL 34744-6687

What's the Buzz? Tell Me What It's All About:
The Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution



The last naval battle of the American Revolution was fought off the Brevard County, Florida coast where the USS Alliance, commanded by Capt. John Barry, defeated the HMS Sybil (Painting by Irwin Bevan)

On March 10, 1783, the last naval battle of the American Revolution is fought off Cape Canaveral, Florida, as Captains John Barry and John Green were in the process of delivering a shipload of Spanish silver to the Continental Congress. John Barry, Captain of the USS Alliance, a 36-gun sailing frigate, had arrived in Martinique from France in January, 1783. There he found orders from Robert Morris of the Continental Congress to sail to Havana, Cuba, to pick up 72,000 Spanish silver dollars that were to be used to finance the Continental Army.

Morris of the Continental Congress was the mastermind of the secret plan to bring Spanish money from Cuba to fund the American Revolution. He was the chief financier for a lot of things to do with the military, and he was also what they called the "Agent of Marine" which is basically what the Secretary of the Navy is referred to now. A self-made shipping mogul of the time, Morris had a lot of connections both in buying and selling ships, which was fortuitous in "networking" with people in many ports of call. It was Morris who was able to arrange, through his connection with a French financier, the deal securing the money which was to be picked up in Havana.

When Barry arrived in Havana, he discovered that another American Captain, John Green, aboard the USS Duc de Lauzun, was already there with the same orders from Morris. The silver had already been loaded on Green's ship, so the captains decided to sail together in case they encountered any enemies along the way. The ships left Havana on March 6, and sailed part way with a Spanish and French fleet that was making its way to Jamaica.

On March 7th, the Americans left the fleet and headed north, but ran into two British ships, the HMS Alarm and the HMS Sybil. Barry and Green headed back toward the Spanish and French fleet, and as soon as the British ships saw the fleet they sailed off. The next day, March 8th, Barry and Green resumed their northerly course and reached Florida, with Barry constantly slowing his ship because the Duc de Lauzun was much slower. On the 9th, the two captains agreed to transfer much of the money to the Alliance because the Duc de Lauzun's slow speed made it vulnerable to the British ships patrolling the area.

On the 10th, the Alarm, the Sybil, and a third British ship, the Tobago, found the American ships off the coast of Cape Canaveral. As the British gave chase, as usual, the Duc de Lauzun dragged behind. Captain Barry pulled alongside Green and persuaded Green to throw most of the ship's cannons overboard to lighten the load. Then, a fourth ship of unknown origin appeared on the horizon, which caused the British ships to hold back, making Barry think it must be French or Spanish.

The HMS Sybil was under the command of James Vashon. Vashon had received intelligence that the Duc de Lauzun was carrying money from Cuba. It was also the weaker of the two American ships, having removed most of her cannons and ammunition to lighten the load, to try to be faster. [Continued on Page 17]

[Continued from Page 16]
As the Sybil made its move, and started to go after the Duc de Lauzun, Barry saw an opportunity to position the Alliance between the Sybil and the Duc de Lauzun. That's when the actual fight began.

The Alliance took several direct hits, including one in the Captain's quarters which killed one and wounded several others. Barry commanded his men not to fire, and to sail directly for the Sybil. When they were in extremely close range, he ordered his men to fire and they unleashed a torrent of cannon fire on the Sybil After a firefight of 40 minutes, the Sybil fell silent and began to sail off. Nearly 40 had been killed on the ship and another 40 wounded.

The Alliance, the Duc de Lauzun, and the ship from the horizon (which turned out to be the French ship Triton, chased the British ships, but lost them in the night. The next day, Barry and Green saw to the transfer of the rest of the silver to the faster Alliance, and the ships headed north.

The Duc de Lauzun was able to travel up the Delaware to Philadelphia on the 18th, and the Alliance made it to Newport, Rhode Island, on the 20th.

Only a few days later, word arrived that the Treaty of Paris had been signed on February 3, bringing the Revolution to a close and making this engagement the last naval battle of the Revolution.

Ironically, then, the Treaty of Paris had been signed more than a month before the engagement between the Alliance and the Sybil. No one in America had known that the War was over, because word had not yet arrived from Europe. In any event the secret mission to Cuba had succeeded. America really needed the money.



Captain John Barry, credited by many as "The Father of the American Navy"



The battle of Yorktown had taken place two years earlier, and with the surrender of Cornwallis, for the most part, hostilities had stopped – but the Army had not been disbanded because many did not believe that peace terms were ever going to be agreed to. So, for that two-year period - after Yorktown and up to the actual signing of the Treaty of Paris - the soldiers had not been paid. There was no money to pay them, until Barry arrived with the Spanish silver!

Following the War, Florida would return to Spanish control in 1783, until becoming a United States Territory in 1821, and a State in 1845.

John Barry served with honor, as a Captain in the Continental Navy during the Revolutionary War, and later in the United States Navy. He has been credited as "The Father of the American Navy" inasmuch as he was the first captain placed in command of a U.S. warship commissioned for service under the Continental flag, and after the War became the first commissioned U.S. Naval Officer at the rank of Commodore, receiving his commission from President George Washington in 1797.

Patriots, Loyalists and Neutrals – Differing Allegiances During The Revolutionary War

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 a prelude on whether to vote Republican or Democrat in the just-concluded 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!

Patriots (also known as Whigs, Rebels or Continentals) were colonists in the Thirteen Colonies who opposed Great Britain's control and governance during the colonial era and supported and helped launch the American Revolution. They were inspired by 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 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.

SAR 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.

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 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.

LAST MISSION OF 2024 COMPLETED AND SPRING 2025 MISSION IS NOW SET FOR APRIL 12, 2025



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

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

Next Flight
Has Been Scheduled On: April 12, 2025.
If You Or Your Vet Are Interested In Being Part Of This Next (Or Future) Missions
As An Honored Participant, Or As A Guardian Or Volunteer
See Our Website And Sign Up Now!

The SAR Mission Statement

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

The SAR Pledge

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

Recessional

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