SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

CALOOSA PATRIOT

Volume XXI Issue II | *Caloosa Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution Newsletter* | February 2026

John L. Maier, Jr, Editor

"King George and Broadswords"

The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, February 27, 1776)



While we all know much more about the famous, large-scale battles of the Revolutionary War, the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge will celebrate its 250th anniversary this year, all but forgotten and ignored by current textbooks used in history class at our children and grandchildren's schools. In terms of the number of combatants, it was a relatively small battle, but even so, as we learn through study and reflection, it had a significant impact on the course of the War for Independence.

By the summer of 1775, British strategists had developed a plan for quickly ending the rebellion in the American colonies. British forces would divide the colonies one from the other, and then conquer them piecemeal. One of the first tests of this strategy would be an attack on the Southern Colonies of North and South Carolina and Georgia.

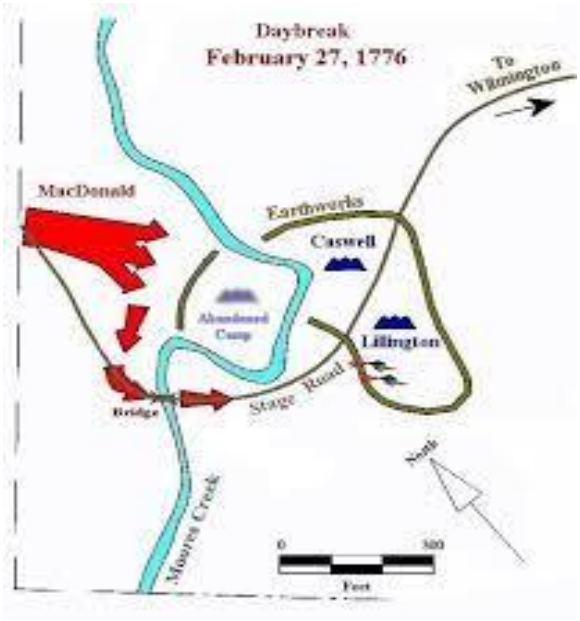
In early 1776, British General William Howe ordered General Sir Henry Clinton and his troops to sail south from Boston and rendezvous with Commodore Sir Peter Parker off the Cape Fear River in North Carolina. Parker would sail from Cork, Ireland, with Brigadier General Charles, Lord Cornwallis, and seven regiments of British army regulars. This combined force would then open a front in the American South. The prime target was Charlestown, N.C. In furtherance of this plan, Royal Governor Josiah Martin of North Carolina convinced the British government that there were a large number of Loyalists in his colony that were clamoring to support the British cause. Martin argued that his Loyalist troops could march to the coast, join the British seaborne forces, and with some help from the British Army regiments, he could wipe out the rebellion in his colony and then move on to capture South Carolina and Georgia.

[Story continued on Page 2]

[Continued from Page 1] The plan was approved, and Parker soon sailed from Cork, Ireland. General Clinton would similarly soon sail from Boston, and in the meantime, Governor Martin began raising a large force of Loyalists made up of a relatively new group of immigrants, the Highland Scots. Martin did this without waiting for the arrival of British troops. By February 15, 1776, he had recruited a force of 700 Highlanders and 800 other Loyalists under the command of Brig. Gen. Donald MacDonald, an experienced soldier and militia leader. Five days later, on February 20th, MacDonald began his march to the coast, planning to join the combined British forces, and open the Southern front.

The American Patriots took notice of MacDonald's troop movements and took swift action. Continental units under the command of Col. James Moore of the 1st North Carolina Regiment, and Colonial militia units from Wilmington under Col. Alexander Lillington, and New Bern led by Col. Richard Caswell, combined forces. Their mission was to prevent the joinder of the Loyalists led by MacDonald with the British arriving by sea, and the next few days saw the Patriots anticipating McDonald's troop movements and taking turns in blocking them. Patriot Col. Moore, with about 1000 well-armed men, set about blocking the British from using key river crossings, causing MacDonald to seek out alternate routes to the coast. One of those crossings was at Moore's Creek, a waterway about 50 feet wide and 5 feet deep that flowed into the Black River at a bridge located about 20 miles north of Wilmington. Moore sent Caswell and Lillington ahead on a forced march to stop McDonald, and this set the scene for the eventual bloody confrontation at Moore's Creek.

British and American forces raced toward the crucial crossing, the last chance for the Patriots to halt the Loyalist's march to the coast – where the Patriots were not likely to be able to stop a combined Loyalist army and the British naval force. Fortunately, Col. Lillington arrived first, on February 25, 1776, and immediately grasped the position's defensive advantages. The creek wound through swampy terrain, and the bridge was the only nearby place to cross it. To control the crossing, Lillington's men built a low earthwork overlooking the bridge at its east end. Caswell and his 850 men arrived the next day (February 26th) and built an earthwork on the other (western) side of the bridge. MacDonald's Loyalist force approached from the west, also arriving on Feb. 26, and set up camp approximately six miles to the west of the bridge crossing. He had 1,500 Loyalist troops, but with firearms for fewer than 800 of them!



Losing the race to the bridge forced MacDonald to choose – avoid a battle, or fight? After finding Caswell and Lillington waiting for him, he sent a letter offering the Patriots a last chance to lay down their arms and swear allegiance to the Crown, but the Patriots declined. British scouts reported that Caswell's' position on the west end of the bridge was vulnerable with his back to creek, and his only line of retreat was across the narrow bridge. MacDonald recognized this as a distinct disadvantage for the upstart colonials. By this time, Brig. Gen. MacDonald had become too ill to continue his active command and held a council of war with his officers. MacDonald urged caution, but the younger officers wanted to attack, and relied upon the scouting report that the Patriots were vulnerable to attack. They were also worried that further delay would enable Moore's Patriot forces to arrive and add to the number of troops arrayed against them. MacDonald turned active command over to Lt. Col. Donald McLeod and upon the conclusion of the council, it was decided to attack at dawn.

What MacDonald and McLeod did not know until it was too late was that during the night, Col. Caswell decided to abandon his position on the far, western, end of the bridge, and move instead across the bridge to join up with Lillington's forces deployed on the east end of the bridge. And, when he and his men crossed the bridge, they took up the wood planking forming the bridge deck, and also greased the stringers (support rails). This meant that to successfully cross the Creek, the British would have to use the greased stringers as a sort of "tightrope"!


Highland Scot with broadsword

At 1:00 a.m. on February 27, 1776, the Loyalists set out on their march toward the bridge. They were led by a party of 75 Scottish Highlanders wielding broadswords and pikes. Col McLeod and Captain John Campbell, expecting only a small force of Patriots, ordered their men to adopt a defensive line behind the trees on the west side of the bridge, but a Patriot sentry spotted them, and fired a musket to warn his fellow Patriots of the Loyalist arrival. Hearing the shot, Col. MacLeod immediately ordered his men to attack.

Col. MacLeod and Captain John Campbell personally led the hand-picked company of swordsmen on a Highland charge across the bridge, shouting in Gaelic: "King George and Broadswords!" The Highland Scots, some dressed in kilts, rushed the bridge, yelling their battle cry. Many slipped on the greasy supports and tumbled into the murky water. While their commanders had expected only a modest force to oppose them, what they in fact faced were 1,000 Patriots, heavily armed with muskets and two swivel cannons. [Story continued on Page 14]

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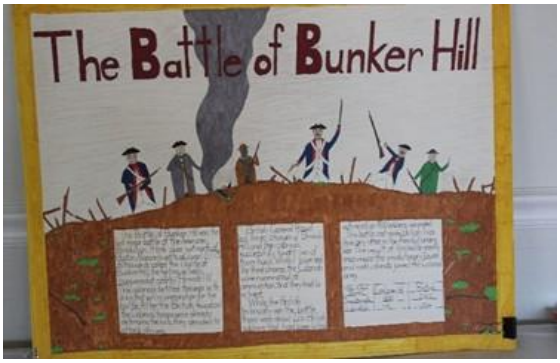
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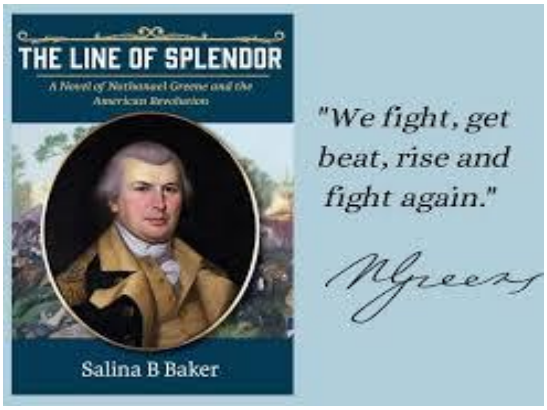
Sons of the American Revolution



Monument to Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge
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Deadlines Approach For Annual Youth Poster and Brochure Contests – Get Those Entries In!
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" Savior of the South"
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Chapter Officers for 2026



Immediate Past President
and Treasurer
Jeffrey F. Brunelle



President
Richard "Rick" Parfitt



Vice-President
John L. Maier, Jr.



Dr. Ron Peck
Genealogist



Tom Gillaspie
Sergeant-At-Arms



Bill Jenks
Secretary



Jonathan Hunt
Member-At-Large

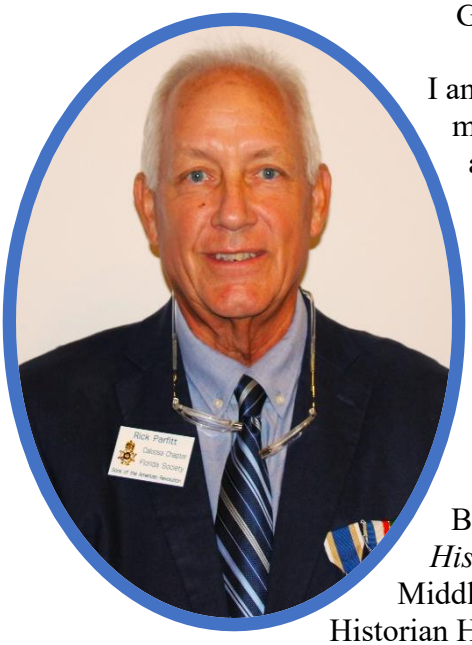


Rev. Dr.. Randy Moody
Chaplain



Chris Jenner
Registrar

A Message From Our President



Greetings Compatriots!

I am pleased to report that the Caloosa Chapter is continuing to fulfill our mission, by promoting patriotism, serving our community and by educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.

At our March 11 meeting we will honor two Lee County school teachers, middle school teacher Rachel Michel and high school teacher Anne Hester, both recipients of our chapter's *Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher of the Year Award.* The American History Teacher Award recognizes educators who distinguish themselves in teaching the history of the American Revolution.

Both were submitted to the State SAR *Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher of the Year Award* and Rachel Michel was the 1st Place Middle School winner. A special thank you to Compatriots, VP John Maier and Historian Hugh Myer for their work on this.

A long-standing award recognition to the Lee County JROTC program continues. Lee County has the largest JROTC program in the nation, which says something about the youth of our community and this illustrious program. We award the top graduating Cadet from each high school and additionally will present a scholarship to the top two graduating cadets.

Compatriot, Treasurer Jeff Brunelle is working with the Lee County JROTC command so that they may take part next year in the Florida Society SAR *Enhanced JROTC Medal* to promote the principle of the "citizen-soldier," exemplified by the Minutemen of the Revolutionary War.

We have a lot of behind-the-scenes work happening here and I want to thank all our members for their hard work and support. Let us continue to inspire future generations.

Rick Parfitt

Rick Parfitt

President, Caloosa Chapter FLSSAR

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Caloosa Chapter SAR

2026 Partial Meeting Schedule



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

Chapter Meetings		ExCom Meetings	
Wednesday Jan. 14, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday Jan. 6, 2026	11:30 a.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday Feb. 3, 2026	11:30a.m.
Wednesday, Mar. 11, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday Mar. 3, 2026	11:30 a.m.
Saturday, April 11, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday Mar. 31, 2026	11:30 a.m.
Saturday, May 9, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday Apr. 29, 2026	11:30a.m.

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

THE NEXT CALOOSA CHAPTER MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026 AT: FAMOUS DAVE'S BBQ RESTAURANT

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



Lunch Program Will Include Presentation Of Awards To Our Chapter's Winners Of The Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Grants:

Rachel Michel, M.S.Ed., Social Science Teacher, Lehigh Acres Middle School
and
Anne Hester, M.A., Social Studies Teacher, East Lee County High School

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

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

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

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

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

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

February 11th Chapter Meeting
Saluting Our FLSSAR Ladies Auxiliary - And - Spotlighting Our Caloosa SAR Youth Video Contest Winner

On February 11th, the Compatriots of the Caloosa SAR Chapter again gathered at Famous Dave's for a Chapter meeting in which all eyes and ears were focused on **Jan Myles-Brunelle**, FLSSAR State Ladies Auxiliary Treasurer, as she outlined the role played by the Ladies Auxiliary in assisting us to fulfill the mission of the Sons of the American Revolution. We were also treated to a great meal, listened to our Treasurer, **Jeff Brunelle**, present the monthly SAR America 250 Moment, and premiered the showing of a video, complete with soundtrack, showcasing the life of Maj. Gen. Henry Knox that was created by **Miss Ezrah Hogsed**, Caloosa Chapter winner of the Americanism Youth Video Contest.

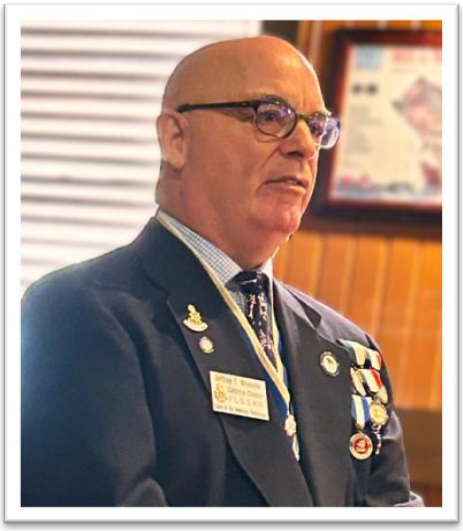
First up was Jan Myles-Brunelle, who currently serves as State Treasurer for the FLSSAR Ladies Auxiliary. Jan explained that the Ladies Auxiliary is a nonprofit association of women organized to assist, support and further the objectives of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (FLSSAR) - promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations. At the state level, she said that the group proudly supports our FLSSAR Compatriots by encouraging SAR membership and by raising funds to further the Society's objectives.



Jan Myles-Brunelle is thanked by President Parfitt with a Spring bouquet of flowers [Photo courtesy of Forrest Myers]

Jan added: "Members are invited to attend the National SAR Spring and Fall Leadership meetings in Louisville, KY and the annual National Congress held each summer in various locations. Special events are also planned at each Congress for the Auxiliary members. We encourage our members to do whatever they can to help with their local SAR Chapter activities. The auxiliary members can help with the youth programs, service projects, grave markings, chapter banquets, fund-raisers, school programs, etc."

Our President, Rick Parfitt, thanked Jan for the talk, as well as for her service, and presented her with a beautiful bouquet of Spring flowers to brighten her day. Jan's complete remarks, and additional information on the Ladies Auxiliary can be found on Page 10 of this issue of The Caloosa Patriot, together with a link to obtain a membership application.



Jeff Brunelle presents his SAR America250 Moment

The 'tag-team' approach was then used to turn the floor over to Jan's husband, Jeff Brunelle, who presented the February SAR America250 moment. Jeff recounted a plethora of events that occurred during February, 1776. At that time, the Continental Congress was actively considering measures for independence, including drafting a "Model Treaty" for potential foreign alliances with France and Spain.

Next, as described in the January issue of The Caloosa Patriot, Thomas Paine's pamphlet "Common Sense" was rapidly spreading throughout the Colonies, shifting public opinion from reconciliation with the King to outright revolution!

Jeff went on to describe that General George Washington was spending a lot of time 250 years ago taking stock of the army he had been put in charge of. And, according to Washington himself, it wasn't a pretty picture. For one to describe the army as being "in shambles" was putting it mildly Although Washington reported that he was working hard to turn the army into a true organized force, he wrote candidly to Lt. Col. Joseph Reed, a trusted confidante, that he had been given too few men, too few arms, too little clothing, and wa concealing these facts even from his own officers.

On February 16, 1776, Washington called a council of war. Knox had delivered the artillery captured from the British when Ft. Ticonderoga was taken, and Washington decided to place these armaments on Dorchester Heights, overlooking the City of Boston

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(then in British hands). This maneuver will soon render British General Howe's position untenable, and the Brits will be forced to evacuate Boston the following month.

Finally, on February 27, 1776 , the Battle of Moore's Creek took place in North Carolina, and is the cover story in this issue of The Patriot. The Battle of Moore's Creek involved American Patriots achieving a decisive victory over Loyalist troops, thus ending British authority in the Colony and leading to North Carolina becoming the first American Colony to vote for independence.

Following lunch, our Vice-President, **John Maier**, who is also serving this year as Chair of the Americanism Youth Contests, presented the First Place Winning Entry in our Chapter's Youth Video Contest – a documentary on the life of Maj. Gen. Henry Knox.

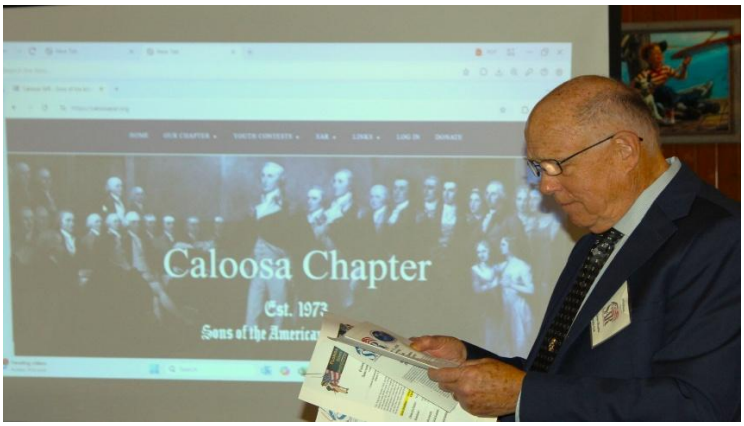
Our Chapter now has audio-visual equipment, the premier of ***"The Life of Henry Knox: Visionary General of the American Revolution***" went off without a hitch. And in a word, the work was spectacular in both picture, soundtrack, and historical content.

The writer, director, producer, and editor of the project is 8th Grade Middle School student Ezrah Hogsed, who happens to be the granddaughter of our Sgt. At Arms, Tom Gillaspie. Details on her project are on Page 20 of this issue of The Caloosa Patriot.

Henry Knox was a close friend of George Washington, and one of the most remarkable officers in the American Army during the Revolutionary War.

Ezrah's video has now been sent to the FLSSAR and entered in the State competition where we are sure it will do very well. This is the first year of competition in this new SAR contest, and we look forward to future entries like Ezrah's. Complete information on the Youth Video and all the other SAR-sponsored contests are posted on our Caloosa Chapter Website.





Caloosa Chapter SAR Vice-President and
SAR Americanism Youth Contest Chair John Maier

Remarks Given By Jan Myles-Brunelle Regarding The Florida Society SAR Ladies Auxiliary February 11, 2026

Good Afternoon. For those of you who don't know me, I am Jan Myles-Brunelle, wife for 40+ years to Jeff and I am currently the Treasurer for FL Ladies Auxiliary. Today, I want to talk about the FL Ladies Auxiliary.

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (LAFLSSAR) is a nonprofit association of women organized to assist, support and further the objectives of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (FLSSAR).

To be a member, a woman only has to want to support the SAR. This is not a lineage society, and members do not need relations of any kind to the SAR or other lineage society. The membership with the FL Ladies Auxiliary also allows membership to the National Ladies Auxiliary. Members are encouraged to attend both Leadership and the National Congress each year.

The Ladies Auxiliary consists of members from all over the state. We host a luncheon meeting twice yearly (Spring and Fall) during the Florida SAR Board of Managers (BOM) meetings. During the weekend, we usually do a small service project such as cards for veterans. We also hold fundraising activities during BOM weekends such as drawings for baskets, 50/50, and silent auction items donated by SAR chapters or members. Some of the money raised goes to giving additional money and certificates to the Youth during the Youth Awards dinner at Spring BOM. In addition, last year our society also donated $5,000.00 to the 1st Amphibious Memorial.

During these conferences, in between meetings, the ladies enjoy just getting together and socializing. Some of our members wear Revolutionary Era clothing to SAR events, and in support of SAR color guard activities. I personally have been a member of LAFLSSAR since 2019, starting out as the FL State Secretary, then I became the Treasurer in 2023. In July 2023, FL SAR hosted the National Congress in Orlando, and the FL Ladies Auxiliary manned the Hospitality Room, decorated the banquet tables, and helped with many other parts of the conference.

If you have any interest in joining our FL Ladies, please come see me. Thank you so much for the opportunity for talking about the Ladies Auxiliary. For more information: https://www.flssar.org/Tabs.asp



Jan Myles-Brunelle addressing the Caloosa SAR
February 11, 2026 [Photo by Forrest Myers]

Compatriots Corner

The purpose of the "Compatriots Corner" page is to promote the mission and goals of the SAR by recounting our respective patriot ancestor's participation in the War for Independence. Award winning author Mark Barie, and his wife, Christine Racine, have been writing these vignettes now for some time, and we thank both of them for continuing to help getting our patriots' stories down on paper. Just see Page 17 of this issue for more information. Each of our Patriot ancestors' contributions combined to bring about the birth of the United States of America. Recently, Mark has had some surgery, but even as the period of his recovery continues, Mark and Christine enjoy writing about the Revolutionary War exploits of our own Patriot ancestors! And what great stories they are indeed.

"Feeding an Army"
John Rawlinson and His Support of the Patriot Cause

by Compatriot Ryan Danis (with Christine Racine and Compatriot Mark Barie)



Foraging for food

My patriot is John Rawlinson. He served in the Cheraws Militia of South Carolina in 1782 under Colonel Lemuel Benton. At that time, the American victory at Yorktown had all but decided the outcome of the war. As a result, my Patriot was not involved in any major battles. Nevertheless, his support of the Patriot cause was critical. The Cheraws District Regiment was placed under the command of General Nathaniel Green. General Greene designated the unit as one of several foraging companies. Their task was to feed the American Army. The army's constant search for food is often downplayed and even ignored by history buffs, but it was a critical factor in the ultimate success of George Washington troops.

Private Rawlinson was most likely assigned to one of a dozen "squads" of 5 to 7 men, each. They would leave the encampment early each morning. It would be a difficult, tense, and often dangerous assignment. Private Rawlinson had to be half soldier and half hunter. He would always be one step ahead of his "hangry" colleagues, hostile locals, or British troops.

The foraging party carried muskets, of course, but they also brought dozens of empty sacks and traveled with at least one horse drawn wagon. A clerk or quartermaster would handle payments and receipts for goods purchased or seized. Each squad was assigned a different "target". Some of the men would be looking for barns, others searched for smokehouses, and still others searched for fields which contained cattle or crops. They looked for corn, wheat, cattle, hogs, salt, and hay.

The reception they received when approaching a landowner could vary widely. A Patriot homestead, forced to surrender their only cow or a handful of chickens made the forager's task especially difficult. No Patriot soldier wanted to "steal" from one of his own. A loyalist family might resist and an oftentimes, a violent confrontation would ensue. An IOU from Congress was not enough to encourage a landowner, loyalist, or patriot, to surrender his foodstuffs, without an argument or worse.

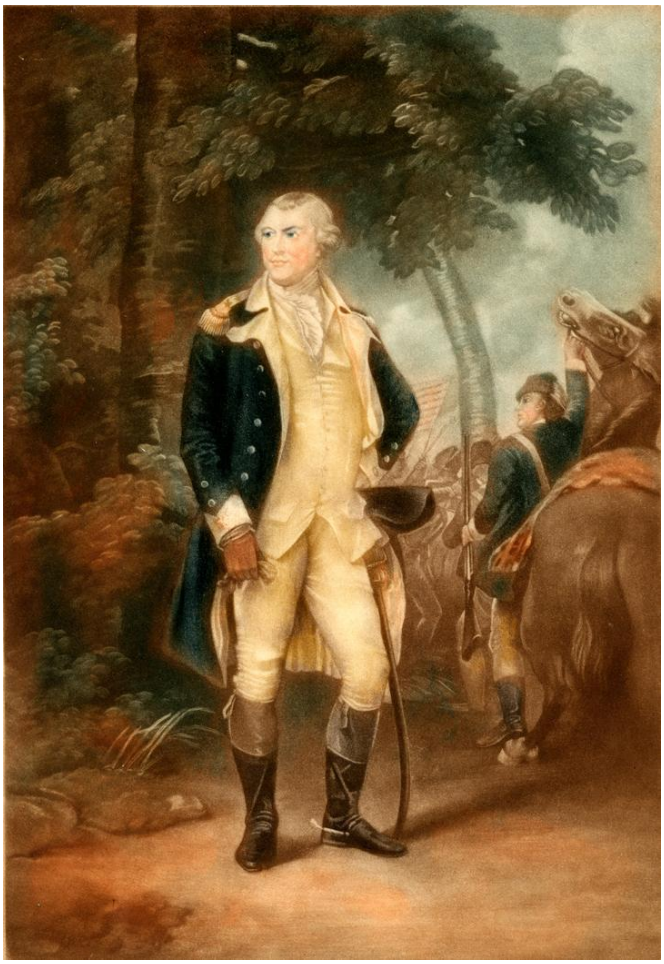
General Greene, however, insisted that his foraging squads refrain from plundering and looting. Soldiers who violated these hard and fast rules would be whipped or even executed. Nor were the foragers allowed to leave their "victims" empty handed. In the end, most foraging details, by either side in the Revolutionary War, were viewed as not much more than organized theft with a side order of paperwork. Even when the interaction between civilians and soldiers was peaceful, the foraging squad still faced the threat of British troops, angry settlers, and loyalist militias. A major skirmish could occur over a single chicken cow or a wagon load of hay.

If Private Rawlinson was typical, he made it back to camp by nightfall. If he arrived emptyhanded, he would be drowning in guilt, The smell of shoe leather in boiling water served as a gruesome reminder that his fellow soldiers were starving. But, once in a while, my Patriot would be hero of the day, celebrating with his colleagues that he was able to "bring home the bacon". His fellow soldiers would enjoy some real food and, at least for a day or two, fall asleep on a full stomach.

Soldiers like my Patriot worked with burlap sacks and kettles more than they did bayonets. But their mission in the war was no less critical to the survival and success of the American Revolutionary Army.

Unsung Heroes of the American Revolution
Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Greene (1742 – 1786)

"I am determined to defend my rights, and maintain my freedom, or sell my life in the attempt."



Portrait of Gen. Nathaniel Greene by Valentine Green, executed by J. Brown after Charles Wilson Peale, 1785. National Archives

Few figures of the American Revolutionary War embody the phrase "unlikely hero" more than Nathanael Greene. Born in 1742 in Potowomut, Rhode Island, Greene did not fit the mold of a professional soldier. He was a Quaker by upbringing, self-educated, slightly lame from a childhood injury, and initially trained for a life in business rather than battle. Yet by the war's end, he would be considered one of George Washington's most trusted commanders and the architect of the brilliant Southern campaign that helped secure American independence.

Greene's early life gave little hint of future military glory. Raised in a devout Quaker family, he was expected to follow pacifist principles. However, Greene possessed a restless intellect and a passion for reading. Largely self-taught, he devoured books on history, philosophy, and—most importantly—military science. Though he had no formal education and no battlefield experience, he studied the great captains of Europe and developed a deep understanding of strategy and logistics.

When tensions with Britain escalated in the 1770s, Greene's conscience overruled his Quaker upbringing. He joined a local militia unit in Rhode Island and quickly demonstrated both intelligence and organizational skill. In 1775, after the battles of Lexington and Concord ignited open war, Greene was appointed a brigadier general in the Continental Army. He had never commanded troops in combat, yet he suddenly found himself among the senior officers fighting the most powerful army in the world.

Greene first distinguished himself during the Siege of Boston. His energy and competence impressed Washington, who soon came to rely on him. Greene's rise was rapid; by 1776, he was a major general. He fought in the New York campaign and later at the pivotal Battle of Trenton and Battle of Princeton, helping to restore American morale after a series of defeats.

Despite these successes, Greene's career was not without setbacks. In 1778, he accepted the difficult role of Quartermaster General, responsible for supplying the Continental Army. It was an unglamorous but essential position. Greene reorganized the chaotic supply system, demonstrating administrative brilliance as impressive as his battlefield command. Yet political criticism and chronic shortages frustrated him. He resigned the post in 1780, ready to return fully to combat duty.

That same year marked the lowest point of the American cause in the South. After the disastrous defeat at the Battle of Camden, the Southern Army lay in ruins. Washington made a bold choice: he appointed Greene to command in the South. Many were surprised. Greene had never led an independent army in a major campaign. Yet Washington saw in him a rare combination of prudence, courage, and strategic imagination.

Facing the formidable British commander Charles Cornwallis, Greene adopted an unconventional strategy. Rather than seek a decisive battle he was likely to lose, he divided his forces and waged a war of maneuver. He coordinated with partisan leaders like Francis Marion, harassing British supply lines and stretching enemy resources thin across the Carolinas.
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Greene's strategy reached a dramatic moment at the Battle of Guilford Court House. Though technically a British victory, Cornwallis suffered heavy casualties. Greene famously remarked, "We fight, get beat, rise, and fight again." His resilience and refusal to be crushed slowly wore down British strength. Cornwallis, frustrated and weakened, eventually marched into Virginia—setting the stage for the decisive siege at Siege of Yorktown.



Painting of the Battle of Guilford Court House (March 15, 1781) from *Soldiers of the American Revolution* by H. Charles McBarron. (*Public Domain*)

While Washington and French forces trapped Cornwallis at Yorktown, Greene continued reclaiming the South. Through battles at Hobkirk's Hill, Ninety-Six, and Eutaw Springs, he steadily eroded British control. By the end of 1781, British forces were confined largely to Charleston and Savannah. Greene had achieved what seemed impossible after Camden: he restored American dominance in the Southern colonies.

Greene's greatness lay not in dramatic battlefield triumphs but in strategic endurance. He understood that survival and persistence could be more powerful than outright victory. His ability to balance aggression with caution, and to maintain the loyalty of his troops despite privation and defeat, revealed extraordinary leadership.

After the war, Greene settled in Georgia, where he was granted land in gratitude for his service. Sadly, his life was cut short in 1786 at the age of forty-three. He did not live to see the full fruits of the nation he helped secure.

Nathanael Greene's story is one of improbable transformation. A self-taught Quaker merchant became one of the Revolution's most brilliant generals. Without formal military training, without the natural bearing of a career soldier, and often without adequate supplies, Greene proved indispensable to the American cause. In many ways, he was the embodiment of the Revolution itself: unlikely, imperfect, and yet ultimately triumphant.

[Continued From Page 2]



Highlanders Charge Across Partially Dismantled Bridge [Note: Scots Are Seen Attempting to Traverse Stringers Heavily Greased by the Patriots]

The Patriots waited until the Highlanders had crossed the bridge and were within 30 paces of the earthworks. At that point, the Patriot militia opened up with a whistling storm of musket and artillery fire. No one was left standing on the bridge. Col. McLeod and Captain Campbell were killed immediately. Many of the Highlanders, wounded, fell into the creek, and drowned. Others, thrown into the water by the artillery volley, were pulled under the surface by the weight of their heavy clothing. All of the Loyalists who managed to cross the bridge were shot. It was later said that a determination of the exact number of Loyalist casualties proved to be impossible. There were at least 30 killed, and 40 wounded, but many more drowned or died of their wounds in the surrounding swamp, and their bodies were never recovered. The Patriots had only two casualties, one of whom later died of his wounds – John Grady of Duplin County.

Within weeks of the battle, most of the Loyalists who had survived the battle had been captured. One of the 850 Loyalist prisoners was the sick Brig. Gen. Donald MacDonald. Spoils taken from the Loyalist force included 1,500 rifles, 350 "guns and shot-bags," 150 swords and dirks, wagons, and British sterling worth more than $1 Million by today's value, were seized in the days following the battle. Loyalist leaders were banished from the colony or imprisoned. Some went to Nova Scotia, and some returned to Scotland. Most Loyalist soldiers were paroled to their homes.

Most importantly, the Patriots had blocked the Loyalist march to the coast. General Sir Henry Clinton arrived at the Cape Fear River on March 12, 1776, to find no Loyalists waiting for him. He remained there until May 31st, while Commodore Peter Parker's fleet struggled in after having been dispersed during its crossing from Ireland because of storms. After abandoning its wait for the Loyalists, the British seaborne force finally moved on to Sullivan's Island off Charleston, S.C. In late June, 1776, Patriot militia there repulsed a British land and naval attack, ending for two years any British hopes of crushing American rebellion in the South.

The battle at Moore's Creek was small in numbers, but its implications loomed large. The victory showed the surprising Patriot strength in the South, discouraged growth of Loyalist sentiment in the Carolinas, and spurred revolutionary feeling in the colonies. Had Britain conquered the South in early 1776, historian Edward Channing concluded: "It is entirely conceivable that rebellion would never have turned into revolution." At Moore's Creek, and then again at Sullivan's Island, "Carolinians turned aside the one combination of circumstances that might have made British conquest possible."



Patriot Musket and Cannon Fire Seen Repulsing Highland Scot Charge at Moore's Creek February 27, 1776

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

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



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

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

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

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

If you are interested in joining the Color Guard, or have questions about it, contact our Caloosa Chapter SAR President Rick Parfitt at: **Florida4rick@gmail.com** to help us to carry our mission forward.



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



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

Light Horse Harry Lee Camp #15



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



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



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

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

Winners Of Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Awards To Attend Caloosa Chapter SAR Meeting On March 11, 2026

The National Society of the SAR annually invites all American History teachers at the middle and high school levels whose approved curriculum teaches students about the American Revolution Era from 1750 to 1800 to apply for this grant award.

The Grant Award recognizes educators who distinguish themselves in teaching the history of the American Revolution. A teacher who is selected as a winner at a chapter level will then be submitted to compete for the state contest, and the winner of the state contest will then be a finalist for the national grant. Our Caloosa Chapter SAR is proud to welcome the American History teachers who have won the award at our Chapter level to our Chapter Meeting on March 11, 2026.

Rachel Michel is our winner for the Middle School level teaching award. Rachel is the Social Studies Teacher and Teacher of the Gifted at Lehigh Acres Middle School (6th and 7th Grades), and also serves as the Chair of the Social Studies Department. She has been teaching history for 7 years, and expects to teach for another 20!

Anne Hester is our winner for the High School level teaching award. Anne teaches history at East Lee County High School where she is also serves as the Chair for the Social Studies Department. Anne has been teaching for 20 years and has no plans to quit anytime soon.

They will be accompanied by their Principals. Please RSVP for the meeting (see Page 7 of this issue) and join us in recognizing these excellent teachers.

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

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



Caloosa Chapter SAR Announcements

President Parfitt has announced that: (a) volunteers to serve on the Chapter's Color Guard are needed; and (b) the SAR 2025-2026 school year contests are still under way for the Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest, and the SAR Middle School Brochure Contest, with deadlines for those contests extended to the end of March. Chapter volunteers are needed to assist with future SAR Americanism Youth Contests which all begin at the Chapter level, with winners then advanced to the FLSSAR and National SAR levels. Help is needed to process the mailings to public, private and homeschool teachers and administrators is planned for the Spring, 2026 so that all teachers, parents and students are informed about next year's opportunities are presented for these Contests.

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.

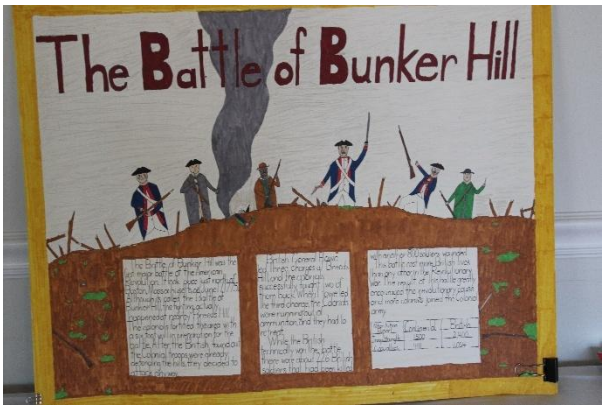
The SAR 1776 Campaign, started in 2015, is also available and recognizes donations in the amount of $1,776 and fractions and multiples thereof. The SAR has a story to tell, and your continued support will allow the SAR to champion our rich heritage for all to appreciate by building The SAR Education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

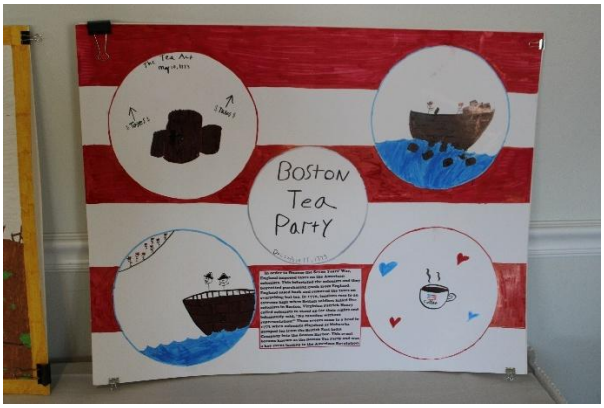
Deadline To Enter The SAR Elementary And Middle School Poster And Brochure Contests Will Be Reached March 31!

RULES AND GUIDELINES – ELEMENTARY SCHOOL POSTER CONTEST

The National Society SAR developed the Elementary School Poster Contest to help stimulate interest in and aid the study of American History in the 3rd, 4th or 5th Grade Curriculum (depending on the grade the subject is taught). This Contest also includes; Cub Scouts, Brownies, Children of the American Revolution and other youth organizations recognized by the NSSAR Council of Youth Programs Committee in addition to public, private, parochial, or home schools. Participants from organizations other than schools must be of equivalent age for 3rd, 4th or 5th grade, whichever year that they teach American History in the specific school district. If they teach American History in lower grades at selected schools, an entry may be accepted for the competition at the discretion of the NSSAR Council of Youth Programs. Judging of ALL entries will be on an equal basis regardless of point of origin. [**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL: March 31, 2026]**

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

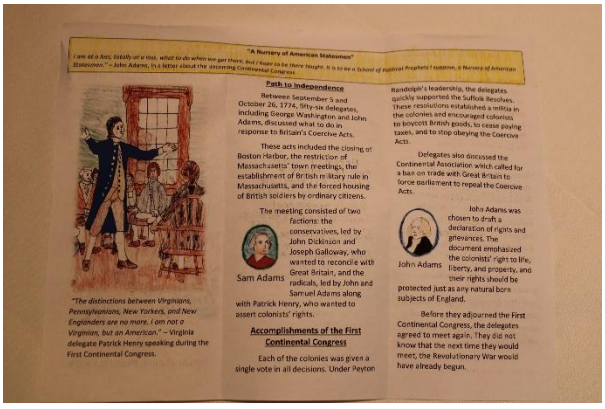


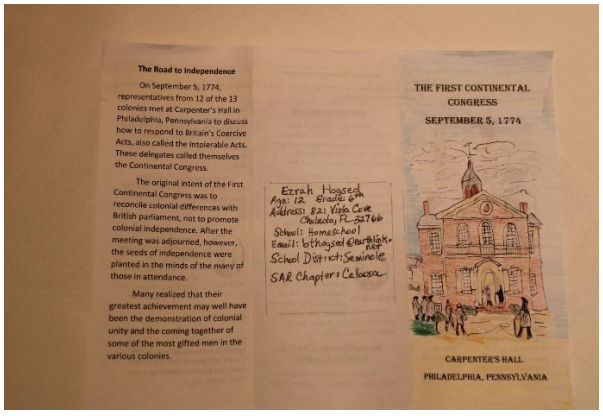


RULES AND GUIDELINES – SGT. MOSES ADAMS MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL BROCHURE CONTEST

The SAR Middle School Contest is to create a tri-fold brochure out of a typical 8 ½ x 11" piece of paper. The brochure must conform to the contest theme which is one of the nine foundational documents of the United States which the student selects. The brochure will be judged on Content, Creativity and Correctness. The judging criteria rates highest personally drawn artwork and text authored by the student as opposed to 'cut and paste' from books, magazines and the internet. The use of software tools by the student for creating the brochure, and even the artwork, is permissible. [**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL: March 31, 2026]**

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





2025-2026 SAR Youth Video Contest
And The Caloosa SAR Chapter Winner Is . . . Ezrah Hogsed



Ezrah Hogsed, Chapter Winner Youth Video Contest
Caloosa Chapter Florida Society Sons of the American Revolution

The SAR Youth Video Contest is an exciting new format where you can share what you know about the American Revolution. The entrant's goal is to tell the viewer about a person, battle, document, or event during the American struggle for independence and do it in video form. Eligible contestants are students attending 6th through 12th grade in public, parochial, or private schools; or home-school students studying at the same grade levels. Their 3 to 5 minute video entry can be filmed or animated. The key is to be creative! It could look like a cable news broadcast, or a pretend movie trailer. Perhaps you would create a music video or even a rap battle. Entrants are encouraged to show the judges you can think outside of the box.

Entries must contain original content and must be based on scholarly research of the presented topic. Content may not violate copyright laws. Emphasis on the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution is recommended. The style, approach, and perspective are not limited.

The contest is conducted in three phases: the local chapter, state-level society and national phases. The contest is entered through an SAR chapter near the student's residence. Only one entry per student is permitted per contest year.

The student's video is submitted with a title, but no name, so the judges do not know who the entrant is. Ezrah is a Florida 8th Grade Middle School student, and loved the whole process – beginning with the research, and then making her video.

Ezrah's winning video: *The Life of Henry Knox: Visionary General of the American Revolution* was presented to the gathered Compatriots of our Caloosa Chapter at its February 11th Meeting and received rave reviews. The video is a summary of General Knox' role in the American Revolution, and highlights his daring winter expedition to transport captured British artillery from Fort Ticonderoga in upstate New York 300 miles south to Boston. No one at the time thought it could be done except for the intrepid General Knox, and once positioned on the Dorchester Heights above British-occupied Boston, the cannons and mortars provided the firepower necessary to force a British retreat – a victory that changed the course of the Revolutionary War.

Ezrah's winning video has now been sent on for competition at the state level, to be decided at the upcoming meeting of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution to be held this coming May.

The 1st Place winner of the FLSSAR contest then enters the National competition which will be concluded this coming summer. We all wish Ezrah good luck, and congratulate her on such a terrific video.

Chapter Web Site



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

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

Chapter Facebook Page

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

https://www.facebook.com/CaloosaChapteroftheSAR

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

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

DATE FOR MISSION 29 (SPRING 2026): APRIL 25, 2026



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

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

Next Flight: Mission 29
Was Rescheduled From October 18, 2025 to April 25, 2026
If You Or Your Vet Are Interested In Being Part Of This Next (Or Future) Missions
As An Honored Participant, Or As A Guardian Or Volunteer
See Our Website And Sign Up Now!



The Florida Society SAR has been working non-stop to make this monument a reality. There is a website for the memorial:

https://link.edgepilot.com/s/2c9a38aa/kOeCRgcwnEizwpRIacG6Ow?u=https://1776landing.org/

where you can see pictures and obtain full information on the monument.

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.