SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

CALOOSA PATRIOT

Volume XX Issue VIII | *Caloosa Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution Newsletter* | October 2025

John L. Maier, Jr., Editor

The Continental Marines
Amphibious Infantry of the American Colonies
(Formed November 10, 1775)



Continental Marines' First Amphibious Landing
Battle of Nassau, Bahamas March 3-4, 1776

The United States Marine Corps Birthday is celebrated every year on November 10 in a cake-cutting ceremony where the first slice of cake is given to the oldest marine present, who in turn hands it off to the youngest marine present. Two hundred and thirty-seven days before the Declaration of Independence was signed in Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on July 4, 1776, what would prove to be a defining moment in our country's history took place a mere two miles away. That night, November 10, 1775, at the Tun Tavern, a committee from the Continental Congress drafted a resolution calling for the creation of two battalions of Marines able to fight on land or at sea as landing forces for the Continental Navy. Thus, the Continental Marine Corps was born.

The first (and only) Commandant of the Continental Marines was Captain Samuel Nicholas, having been nominated to lead the Marines by John Adams and commissioned "Captain of Marines" by the Second Continental Congress on November 28, 1775. By December, 1775, Nicholas had raised one battalion of 300 men by recruitment in his home city of Philadelphia. The mission of the Continental Marines was multi-purpose, but their most important duty was to serve as onboard security forces, protecting the captain of the ship and his officers. During naval engagements, in addition to manning the cannons along with the crew of the ship, Marine sharpshooters were stationed in the fighting tops of a ship's masts specifically to shoot the opponent's officers, naval gunners, and helmsmen.

During the Revolutionary War, patriot forces constantly suffered from a shortage of gunpowder. In response to such shortages, the Second Continental Congress ordered a fleet under the command of Esek Hopkins to patrol the Virginia and Carolina coastlines, and it is thought that Hopkins was given secret orders to raid Nassau in the Bahamas where stocks of gunpowder removed from Virginia had been sent. In the meantime, five companies of about 300 Marines commanded by Nicholas joined Commodore Hopkins of the Continental Navy's first squadron on its first cruise. Although they were not equipped with uniforms, the Marines were well armed. The fleet departed from Delaware on February 17, 1776. On March 3, 1776, Captain Nicholas led a force of approximately 250 Marines and sailors who landed in New Providence and marched to Nassau Town. There, they wrought havoc and seized naval stores of shells, shot, and cannon, mortars, and gunpowder. After thirteen days, the Marines had captured two forts, the Government House, occupied Nassau, and captured large stores of supplies.

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The Battle of Nassau marked the first amphibious invasion by American troops. It also saw the first Marine combat death, that of Lt. John Fitzpatrick. A month later, in April of 1776, John Martin enlisted to serve aboard the USS Reprisal, making him the first of at least twelve African American Marines to serve during the Revolutionary War. And then, two months later, on June 25, 1776, Congress placed Nicholas "at the head of the Marines with the rank of Major."



In January of 1777, Continental Marines joined with George Washington's Continental Army to defeat the British at the Battle of Princeton in New Jersey, making the third defeat in ten days for the British, raising morale among American troops and inspiring more young men to join the fight against the British.

A year later, in January of 1778, Captains John Rathburn and John Trevett led a second raid on Nassau, once again capturing it. Their victory marked the first time the "Stars and Stripes" was raised over foreign soil. In April of that same year, Marines under the command of John Paul Jones made two daring raids on British soil, once at the port of Whitehaven, in northwest England, and the second, later that same day at St. Mary's Isle in southwest Scotland.

In 1779, a Marine detachment secured New Orleans, preventing British traders from entering the city. While in New Orleans, Marines also led a series of raids on British Loyalists living on the shores of Lake Pontchartrain, outside the city.

In 1781, the Continental Marines escorted a supply of silver from Boston to Philadelphia. The silver was a loan from King Louis XVI of France and allowed the Bank of North America, the nation's first central bank, to open. While the last *official* action was the escort of the silver, the last *actual* action they saw was in March of 1783 during the final naval battle of the War – a duel between the USS Alliance and the HMS Sybil off the coast of Florida, five weeks after the War had ended. This is the naval action that is commemorated every year in Florida, in which SAR Color Guards participate.

All in all, over the course of seven years of battle, the Continental Marines had only 49 men killed and just 70 more wounded, out of a force of roughly one hundred thirty Marine Officers and two thousand enlisted men.

In the aftermath of the War, both the Continental Marines and the Continental Navy they served under were disbanded. This lasted barely a decade until 1794 when (in preparation for war with France), Congress authorized the re-formation of both the Navy and Marine Corps, which were then formally re-instituted in 1798. Despite the gap between the disbanding of the Continental Marines and the current USMC, the Continental Marines' successor, United States Marine Corps, marks November 10, 1775 as its inception.

From its earliest days, the Marine Corps has played a vital role in securing and defending the freedom of our nation. While the role played by the Marines in the Revolutionary War is sometimes overlooked, it should never be underestimated. As the great American author James Fennimore Cooper once wrote: ***"At no period of the naval history of the world, is it probable that Marines were more important than during the War of the Revolution . . . the history of the Navy, even at that early day, as well as in these later times, abounds with instances of the gallantry and self-devotion of this body of soldiers."***

The Marine Corps values and embraces its proud history. Beginning in boot camp, every Marine is educated on the Corps' storied past, and they learn what it means to be a part of such a prestigious organization. The Revolutionary War not only led to the founding of the Continental Marines, but also highlighted for the first time the versatility that Marines have come to be known for. They fought on land, they fought at sea on ships, and they performed numerous amphibious assaults (which, over time, would become one of the Marine's most dangerous and defining capabilities, as would be seen in the Pacific Theater of World War II and at Inchon in Korea). *[Editor's note: See related stories on Pages 18, 19, 20 & 23]*



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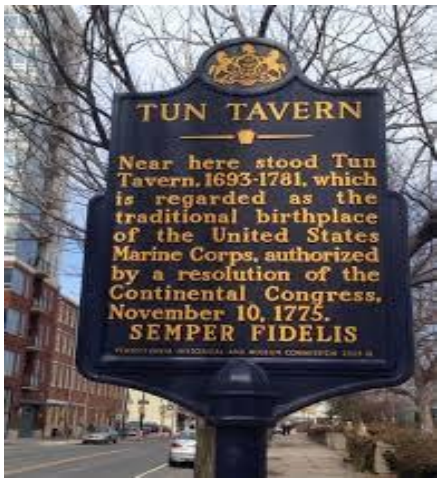
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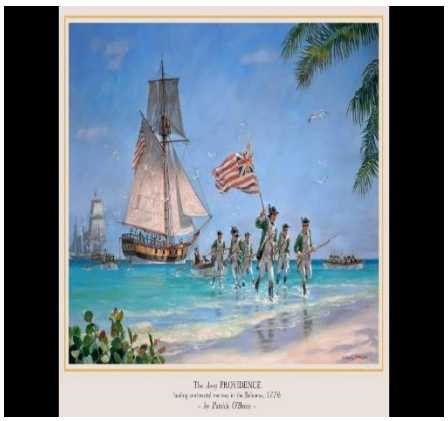
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Chapter Officers for 2025



Immediate Past President
and Treasurer
Edward “Mike” Buff



President
Jeffrey F. Brunelle



Vice-President
Richard “Rick” Parfitt



Genealogist
Dr. Ronald L. Peck



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



Registrar
Chris Jenner



Member-at-Large
Jonathan Hunt



Chaplain
Rev. Dr. Randy Moody

A Message From Our President



Greetings everyone and welcome back to the "snowbirds" that are heading back down here to Florida. It's hard to believe we are heading into November. For me, the year has been a blur.

We had a great meeting in October, despite our scheduled program having to cancel due to a health issue. We had a good turnout with 31 members, spouses, and friends. We inducted three new members, had an America's 250th talk, and a good presentation about the youth awards.

For November, we have rescheduled the presentation by our local Genealogical Society. December will be the year end recognitions and the election of chapter officers and their induction.

Last week I spent some time after the BOM in Pompano Beach walking around the site that was chosen for the First Amphibious Assault monument. The site, at the entrance to the City Pier, is a fantastic spot where tens of thousands of locals and visitors will pass by each year.

The FLSSAR has chosen this to be our America's 250 project. It will be the only monument solely memorializing the Colonial Marines. The assault in 1776 recovered gunpowder and ammunition taken from the colonies to the Bahamas.

The dedication on March 14, 2026 will include a SAR Color Guard, a group from the US Marines, and several national, state, and local dignitaries, among others. I will keep you updated as the plans are firmed up.

I encourage you to support the construction of the monument. About 85% of the $130,000 cost has been raised. Your contribution will help bring it to completion. Please give your cash or check to myself or Jonathan Hunt and we will ensure it gets to the FLSSAR monument fund. If you have any questions, please let us know.

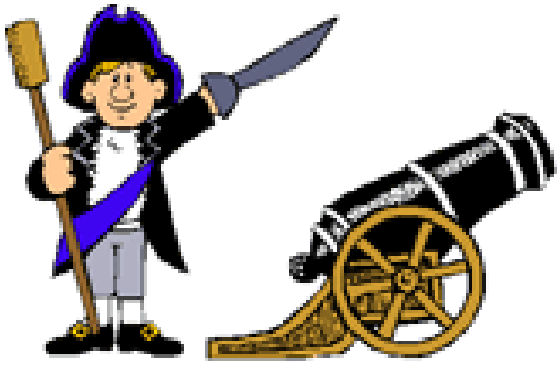
At Your Service,

Jeff

Jeffrey Brunelle, President
Caloosa Chapter FLSSAR

Caloosa Chapter SAR

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



Chapter Meetings Are Held At Famous Daves

Looking Ahead
Caloosa Chapter SAR
2025 Revised Meeting Schedule

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

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

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

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

THE NEXT CALOOSA CHAPTER MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2025 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 Be Presented By Pamela Fernandez And
Our Own Compatriot, Chapter Registrar Chris Jenner
Who Will Discuss How The Lee County
Genealogical Society Can Help You!

Lunch Buffet Menu:
St. Louis Style Spareribs, Roast Chicken, Garlic Red-Skin Mashed Potatoes,
Sweet Corn, Corn Muffins, and Beverage (Soft Drink or Iced Tea)
Anyone needing a special meal (i. e., Vegetarian, other) let us know
The gathering will begin at 11:30 a.m.

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

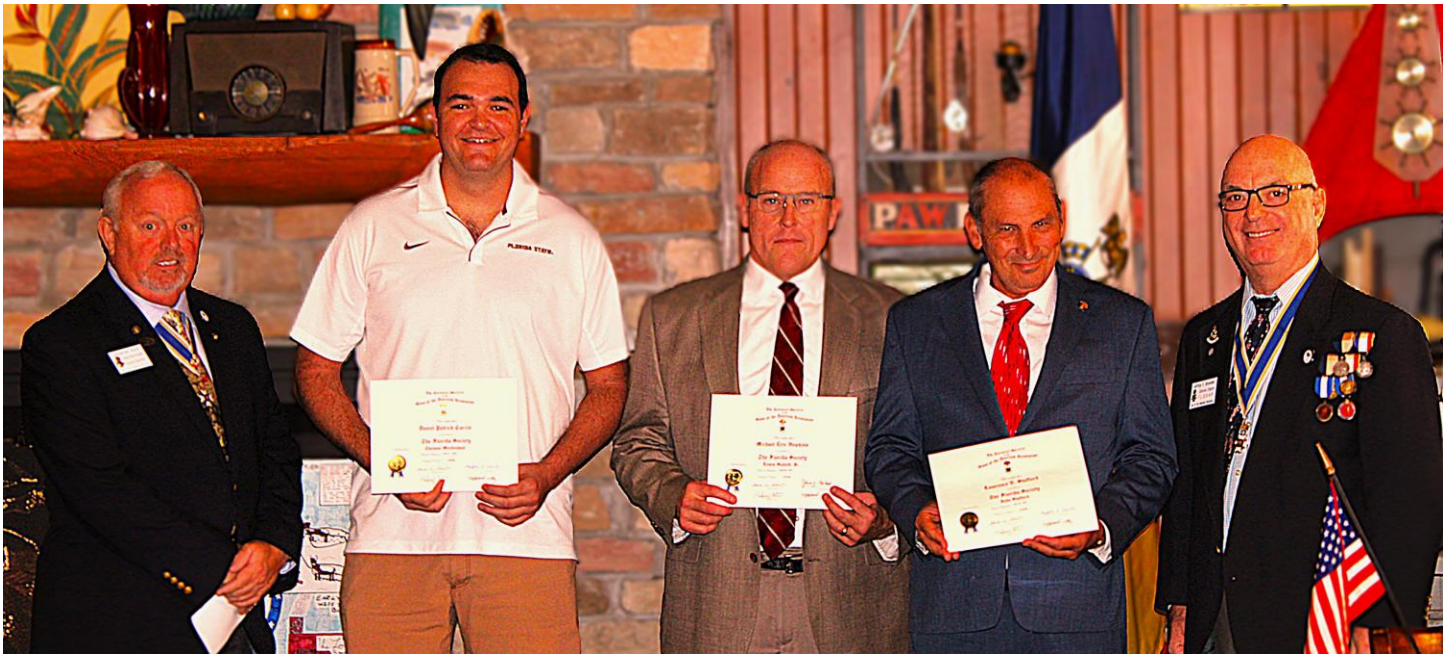
Please RSVP to: https://caloosasar.org/our-chapter/meetings/

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

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

The Boys Are Back In Town!
October 11th Chapter Meeting Is First Since Summer Break

Our 2025 "summer break" ended with the first meeting of the Fall season. On October 11th, the Compatriots of the Caloosa SAR Chapter gathered at Famous Dave's, and were treated to a great meal, an outstanding SAR America 250 talk given by Rev. Dr. Randy Moody, the induction of three new Compatriots, a report on the FLSSAR First Amphibious Marine Landing Memorial project by our Compatriot and FLSSAR Senior Vice-President Jonathan Hunt, as well as an update on the SAR Youth Contests and two hours of just plain enjoyment in the comradery that we all enjoy having a chance to share stories with each other.



Left to right: FLSSAR Senior VP Jonathan Hunt, New Inductees: Daniel P. Curio, Michael P. Hopkins, Lawrence N, Stafford, and Caloosa SAR Chapter President, Jeff Brunelle

Certainly, the look on each of their faces confirms that a prouder, bunch of guys could not have been found at that moment. And if there had been a camera trained on the audience, you would have been able to tell in an instant that we were all just as happy as they were at being able to welcome them into our "family" as new Compatriots. The pathway to induction is sometimes long, and often a bit "bumpy" but they had all finally made it. Compatriot Hunt took pleasure in administering the oath, and he and President Brunelle provided each of the inductees with their official Certificates, SAR pin, and sealed the deal with a hearty handshake.

Dan Curio grew up in our 'neck of the woods' and is a Florida State alumnus. Emergency management is his avocation. After working for a time for state government in Tallahassee, he was anxious to get back home and relocated. Like many of us, Dan is passionate about American history, especially the Revolutionary War Era, and wants to get more involved in the community. Dan's sister is a DAR Member, and they both became familiar with the respective missions of the SAR and DAR, and now that Dan has been "sworn in" he is anxious and excited to get to know everyone in our Caloosa Chapter, and to get involved with our activities.

Mike Hopkins' Patriot ancestor was Lewis Sublett, Jr., Mike's 4th great-grandfather, and the topic of a very recent article in the Caloosa Patriot Newsletter. Patriot Sublett moved to Kentucky following the Revolutionary War, and four generations later, the family was still there. Mike grew up in Cayce, Kentucky, a farming community about two hours northwest of Nashville. He reports that his great-aunt was the genealogist of the family and encouraged Mike to join the SAR and even accumulated information for future supplemental applications. Mike obtained his law degree from Indiana University – Bloomington Law, and became a prosecuting attorney in Southwest Florida, but is now in private practice. Mike, his wife (a Lee County Schools teacher) and daughter (now a Freshman at the University of Alabama – Birmingham) live in Bonita Springs, As his practice has grown, Mike finds himself dealing with the US Constitution, and Bill of Rights, on a daily basis. [Continued on Page 9].

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The last of our three inductees of the day, ***Larry Stafford,*** couldn't find the words to describe how honored he was to have been sworn in to join the SAR, and had invited both his sister, and his neighbor, to attend the meeting with him. As with both Dan and Mike, I responded that we were all just as proud to have him as one of our new Compatriots. Larry is an RN, and a USAF veteran, as well as a former paramedic and firefighter. Larry took delight in describing how his grandfather, Leroy, spent years doing the Stafford family history and discovered that their family's American roots dated back to the 1600s. The Stafford men have served our country over the years, he said, and described it to be "a real honor to be a part of the Sons of the American Revolution and I really look forward to the fellowship and history being a SAR member will bring to my life."

It is a real pleasure welcoming these men into our Chapter. We continue to be very proud of the quality of men who have joined our group. Working together with them, we can be confident that the mission of the SAR will be furthered.



Of course, it wouldn't be a proper meeting without the SAR America 250 moment, given by our Chaplain, Randy Moody, and he never disappoints. For this meeting, Rev. Dr. Moody chose the "Burning of Falmouth" which occurred on October 18, 1775 as the topic du jour. As we learned, the event was a British naval attack on the Town of Falmouth Massachusetts, which is present-day Portland, Maine. According to our speaker, a small fleet of British ships, under the command of Lt. Henry Mowat, was sent to attack towns along the coast which supported the Patriot Cause, including Falmouth. When Mowat's fleet arrived near Falmouth on October 16, he warned the townspeople of his intentions, giving them time to evacuate. The next day he moved his fleet into the harbor, and on the 18th, began his bombardment. It is estimated that nearly 140 homes and 280 other buildings were burned to the ground in the devastating attack. Following the attack, Mowat returned to Boston.

Did it serve its intended purpose? While the town burned, Moody observed the prime purpose of the attack had been to dimmish support for the Patriot Cause in the coastal towns – but in fact, it had the exact opposite effect. William Whipple, a member of the New Hampshire Provincial Congress and a Founding Father, wrote a letter to Compatriot Captain John Langdon and said: ". . . it seems to me to be the determination of everyone to risk his all in support of his liberties & privileges, the unheard of cruelties of the enemy have been so effectually united us that I believe there are not four persons now in Portsmouth who do not justify the measures pursuing in opposition to the Tyranny of Great Britain."

"The Burning of Falmouth was important to the history of the US," Moody concluded, "because of the role it played in actually boosting resistance to British authority in Massachusetts and New England. This contributed to the end of the Siege of Boston in 1776 when the British were forced to evacuate the City. And it all happened 250 years ago."

Our meeting was rounded out with a discussion of two other events which are currently ongoing. Our Compatriot Jonathan Hunt provided a report on progress of the FLSSAR project to erect a monument which memorializes the First Amphibious Landing of the Continental Marines, including a projected completion date and dedication next March, 2076 – which is approximately 250 years from the date of the actual landing in March, 1776. This "Battle of Nassau" and the FLSSAR Project is the subject of several articles in this issue of the Patriot. Hunt was proud to report that with everyone's continued help with fundraising, the total cost of the project is well within being collected, and plans are underway for the dedication. Hunt stressed that we, as Florida SAR members should be very proud of this one-in-a-kind memorial to the Marine assault, and first raising of the flag on foreign soil, and encouraged us to continue to be generous with our donations.



FLSSAR Sr. VP. Jonathan Hunt speaking on progress on the Marines' First Amphibious Assault Landing Memorial in Pompano Beach, FL

And, last but certainly not least, was the report on status of the current academic year Americanism Youth Contests that are sponsored by the SAR at the Chapter, State, and National levels. Complete information is now set up on the Caloosa SAR website, where interested young people can obtain copies of all the rules, deadlines, and prizes for each of the five contests that are oriented to grade level. That was then it for the meeting – so much fun the time got away from us (and we got kicked out)!

More Photos from our October 11th Chapter Meeting



Our Inductees Taking The Oath



Immediate Past President and Treasurer Mike Buff Checking Us In



Randy Moody's SAR America 250 Moment: The Burning of Falmouth



John Maier's Report on the SAR's Americanism Youth Contests



The Boys Are Back In Town!



FLSSAR Sr. VP Hunt Encouraging Support for the First Marine Amphibious Assault Memorial

If You Are Interested . . .

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

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



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

In addition to the monthly meetings, there are Society-sponsored events including Special Interest Group Meetings, workshops, seminars and meetings of other societies and genealogy-related organizations in Southwest Florida.

The Special Interest Groups provide a forum for LCGS members to share research, ask questions and participate in problem-solving. There is also member-only access to local and exclusive resources as well as a bi-monthly newsletter ("The Scribe") which contains articles of interest to researchers on a variety of current topics, announces future programs, and provides helpful hints on computer-assisted research.

Chris commented: "Time and again, I've benefitted from local experts and fellow researchers, who have guided me past seemingly impossible obstacles to find answers to my questions, and then join with you in the delight of your progress. And I can't stop there. I've gotten a lot of advice from other members on using the most current genealogy software, researching international family lines, as well as utilizing DNR research in my investigations. Joining is easy. The Society maintains a website: https://lcgsfl.org/ which has all the information necessary to apply for membership online, or, in the alternative, you can print the application and send it in with your dues."

And if all this isn't enough, you can get the 'straight poop' from LSGS Officers Pamela Fernandez and Chris Jenner themselves at the next meeting of our Chapter, to be held on Saturday, November 8, 2025 at Famous Daves (rescheduled from October, 2025):

Lunch Program Will Be Presented By Pamela Fernandez And
Our Own Compatriot, Chapter Registrar Chris Jenner
Who Will Discuss How The Lee County
Genealogical Society Can Help You!

Register at: https://caloosasar.org/our-chapter/meetings/
Cost for the dinner is $25.00 per person paid at the link above by PayPal or Credit Card

Meetings are open to all interested persons, and we particularly welcome Compatriots from other parts of the country who are visiting our area.

Compatriots Corner

The purpose of the "Compatriots Corner" page is to follow the mission and goals of the SAR by recounting our patriot ancestor's participation in the War for Independence. I would like everyone to consider writing that story and share it with me. *But fear not - if you need assistance, genealogist Christine Racine, and her husband, award winning author Mark Barie, can help you get your story down on paper. Just let me know. We can help – see page 18 of this issue for more information.* Then, with your permission, the personal account of your own ancestor's participation in the Revolutionary War will be published. Each of our patriot ancestors' contributions combined so that the end result was the birth of the United States of America. So, when you are finished, email them to me (John Maier) at: jmaier@wisclaw.com. What follows is a recounting of the Revolutionary War exploits of the patriot ancestor of our Compatriot John Scanlon.

My Patriot Ancestor: Captain Aaron Biddle, Jr.

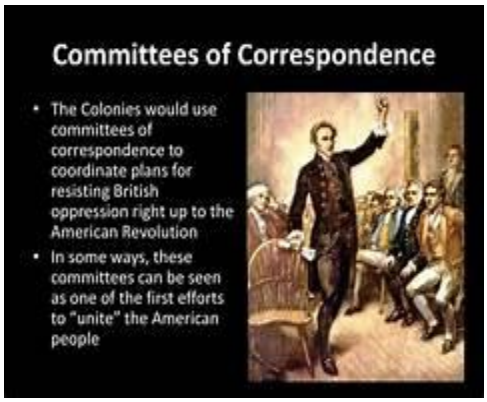
By Compatriot John Scanlon (with Christine Racine and Compatriot Mark Barie)

A Tea Party (But not in Boston!)

My patriot is Captain Aaron Biddle, Jr.

He served under Colonel Samuel Dick in the Salem County, New Jersey, Militia. Biddle demonstrated his strong support of the Patriot cause shortly after the "Shot Heard Round the World" at Lexington and Concord, in 1775. Captain Biddle mortgaged and then leased both his home and his 1200-acre farm. He used the money to recruit, clothe, and feed an entire company of militia. Until the federal government bailed him out, Biddle and his family were forced to sleep in a nearby field, keeping a close eye on the barn. It was full of grain that Biddle grew and donated to the Revolutionary Army.

My patriot's commanding officer, Col. Dick, was famous for having received a very generous offer from the British, in the form of both money and position. Of course, this was on the condition that he would serve in the British Army. The Colonel, a surgeon of some repute, politely declined the offer. He was rewarded for his freedom-loving ways with a large bounty on his head. Fifty British pounds, dead or alive.



Perhaps because of their strong loyalties to the American cause or maybe because they lived in the same area, Biddle and Colonel Dick **would** become close friends. The colonel also appeared to have served in the Cohancey District Committee of Correspondence. This patriot group included settlements along the Cohancey River, a winding tributary that started in Biddle's hometown, flowing through the area's inland port of Greenwich, and emptying into the Delaware Bay.



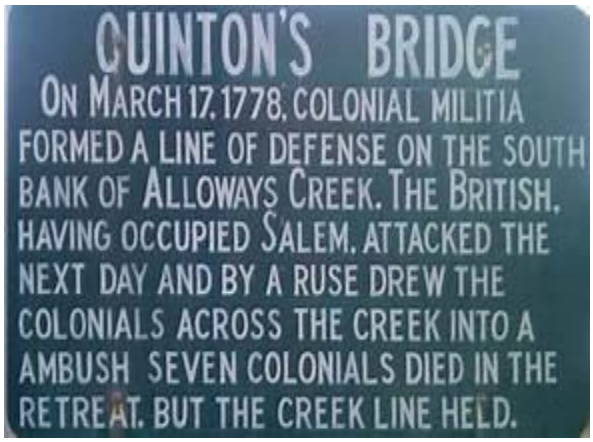
The New Jersey Patriots dressed as Indians and burned the chests filled with English tea on December 22, 1774

In December of 1774, the small port of Greenwich would make headlines. An English brig, the *Greyhound*, although destined for Philadelphia, chose Greenwich for its safe harbor. The anxious captain was responsible for the ship's cargo: a boat load of tea from the East India Tea Company. When the tea was unloaded for safekeeping, at a local loyalist's home, the Committee of Correspondence intervened. A formal listing of the 35 or so Patriots involved in the incident was never assembled. It seems likely, however, that Colonel Dick, who served on the committee, and Aaron Biddle, were involved. The patriots of that region, after all, were a very tight-knit group of mostly Quakers. To a man, they bristled under British rule. With memories of the Boston Tea party still fresh in their minds, the men disguised themselves as Indians and forcibly removed the tea to a nearby field.

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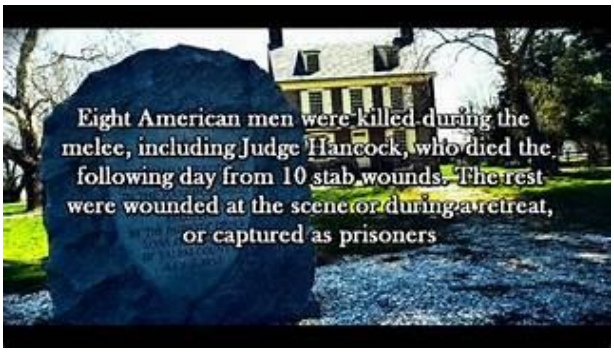
[Continued from Page 12]

In moments, the flames from dozens of burning chests filled with English tea could be seen for miles. Several of the "arsonists" were indicted for their protest and that roster reads like a Who's Who in the Cohancey River region. The incestuous relationship between Colonel Dick, my Patriot, and their many friends, was obvious. For example, one of the arsonists, Louis Howell, was himself a doctor. Two other conspirators, Ebeneezer Elmer, and Robert Patterson, were surgeons' mates. And Biddle almost certainly knew several of the farmers on the Committee. Two separate judges, both Tories, struggled to seat a jury and bring the rebels to trial. But no one was willing to try, much less convict, their freedom loving friends for burning a boatload of English tea. There would be no trial. After all, the Revolution was now underway.



Biddle would go on to defend his county from the British Army at the Battle of Quinton Bridge, (March 17, 1778), and again, three days later, at the Hancock House Massacre. These engagements occurred when George Washington and the Continental Army were encamped at Valley Forge during the winter of '77-'78. Brigadier General Anthony Wayne and a large force were sent on a foraging mission through southern New Jersey. In response, General William Howe sent Lt. Col. Charles Mawhood after Wayne in an effort to provoke a fight. On the 17th of March, Mawhood crossed into Salem County, and when Salem County Militia (including my Patriot) learned of Mawhood's movements, quickly moved to block his advance by establishing positions at Quinton's Bridge and Hancock's Bridge on Alloway Creek.

On the morning of the 18th, Mawhood attempted to trick the Colonial Militia, and lure them into a trap. Fortunately, however, a slaughter was avoided when Col. Elijah Hand arrived in the nick of time with Militia reinforcements and forced the British to retreat. Mawhood tried to get Col. Hand to surrender, threatening to kill all his men, destroy their properties, and force their families into destitution. But Hand refused, and responded that he considered the request "a cruel order by a barbarous Atilla and not of a gentleman, brave, generous, and polished with a genteel European jurisdiction, " saying that if his men were killed, it would only inspire more to join the militia.



Two days later, Mawhood sent a force to take Hancock's Bridge instead with orders to spare no one. On the 21st, the British surprised 20-30 militia at the home of Judge William Hancock, bayoneting everyone in the home, including Judge Hancock. The Battle of Quinton's Bridge was technically an American victory because the British finally retreated, but it came at a heavy cost of 30-40 dead, plus another 30 casualties at Hancock's home three days later.



Quinton's Bridge Memorial

But even so, its importance lies in the fact that humiliated by being beaten by what the British said were a bunch of farmers, and unable to cross Alloway Creek, Mawhood returned to Philadelphia. And, significantly, the British never again returned to Salem County, New Jersey.

It was the burning of the tea at Greenwich, however, that historians would remember most. Today, Greenwich is one of five locations in the United States, designated by the government, as being towns which rid their communities of "that obnoxious herb" during the American Revolution. Greenwich joins the ranks of Charleston, Annapolis, Princeton, and, of course, Boston.

And it would appear from the evidence that my patriot, Captain Aaron Biddle Jr., was there when it all happened.

Thank And Honor Our Veterans On "Their" Day
Monday, November 11, 2024

The origin of Veterans Day begins with the end of World War I. Fighting ceased in World War I when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour or the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918 ("Armistice Day"). The "Great War" officially ended 7 months later when the Treaty of Versailles was signed, but on November 11, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11th as the first commemoration of Armistice Day (now Veterans Day) with the following words:

"To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations . . . . . ."

Armistice Day officially became Veterans Day via legislation signed in 1975 by President Ford, and continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week it falls on. This date preserves the historical significance of the date and helps us focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to thank and honor American's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve both in wartime and peacetime, and a platform for America to continue its commitment to its veterans to see to their needs and care.



The following Is Our Caloosa Chapter SAR Secretary Bill Jenks' Notice
That It Is Time To Renew Your SAR Membership

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

Dear Compatriot,

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

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

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

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

Name:

Address:
City, State, Zip:

Telephone:

Email:

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

If you are interested in joining the Color Guard, or have questions about it, contact our Caloosa Chapter SAR President Jeff Brunelle at: jfbrunelle55@comcast.net. We need you to help us to carry our mission forward.



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



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

Light Horse Harry Lee Camp #15



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



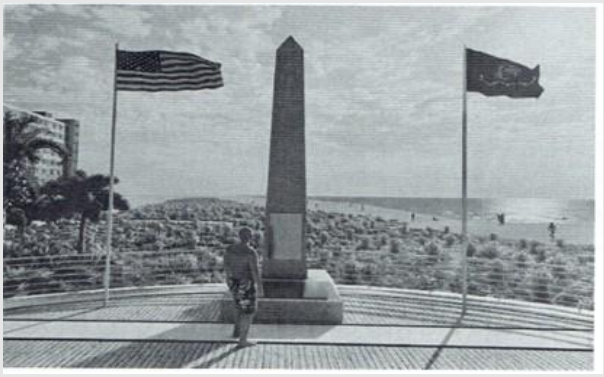
This unit became one of the best-known in the Continental Army's history, and in 1780 Lee was given authorization to form a formal Legionary Corps. Many of the best soldiers from other units either volunteered or were specially invited to join its ranks. In 1780, Lee was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel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



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

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

FLSSAR First Amphibious Assault Landing Memorial (1776 – Battle of Nassau, Bahamas) "250 for the 250th" ANSWER THE CALL !!!



The Florida Society has taken the initiative to establish a memorial commemorating the **First Amphibious Assault Landing** of the American Revolution. The memorial will honor the Continental Marines and Sailors that risked their lives to attach and capture two forts from the British and local militia in Nassau.

FLSSAR is working in partnership with the City of Pompano Beach to construct a permanent memorial which will consist of an approximate 20' tall obelisk to honor the marines and sailors that took part in the landing.

In addition to capturing the forts and occupying Nassau, the Continental Marines seized badly needed military supplies that had been evacuated from Virginia by order of the English governor. This successful raid represents the first time the Continental Marines had successfully made a marine landing and the first time an American flag was raised over foreign soil. The monument is planned to be completed by March, 2026, to mark the 250th anniversary of the raid. Charitable contributions are being sought by FLSSAR to fund the project.

Mail your "250 for the 250th" checks (Payable to FLSSAR) to Committee Secretary Robbie Robinson 20210 Moss Hill Way, Tampa, FL 33747. For information, email Robinson at: Robbierobinson56@yahoo.com

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

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



Caloosa Chapter SAR Announcements

President Brunelle has announced that: (a) meetings for the balance of the calendar year will be held at Famous Dave's; and (b) nominations for members to serve as Officers for 2026 are being sought, and that any questions about officer positions and duties should be directed to President Brunelle or Vice-President Parfitt; and (c) volunteers to serve on the Chapter's Color Guard are sorely needed; and (d) the SAR 2025-2026 school year contests are under way for the Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest, the SAR Middle School Brochure Contest, the Knight High School Essay Contest, and the Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest, and all of the information on rules, guidelines and deadlines for each of the Contests is available on the Chapter Website: https://caloosasar.org/.

From Florida SAR State President Chris Washler

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

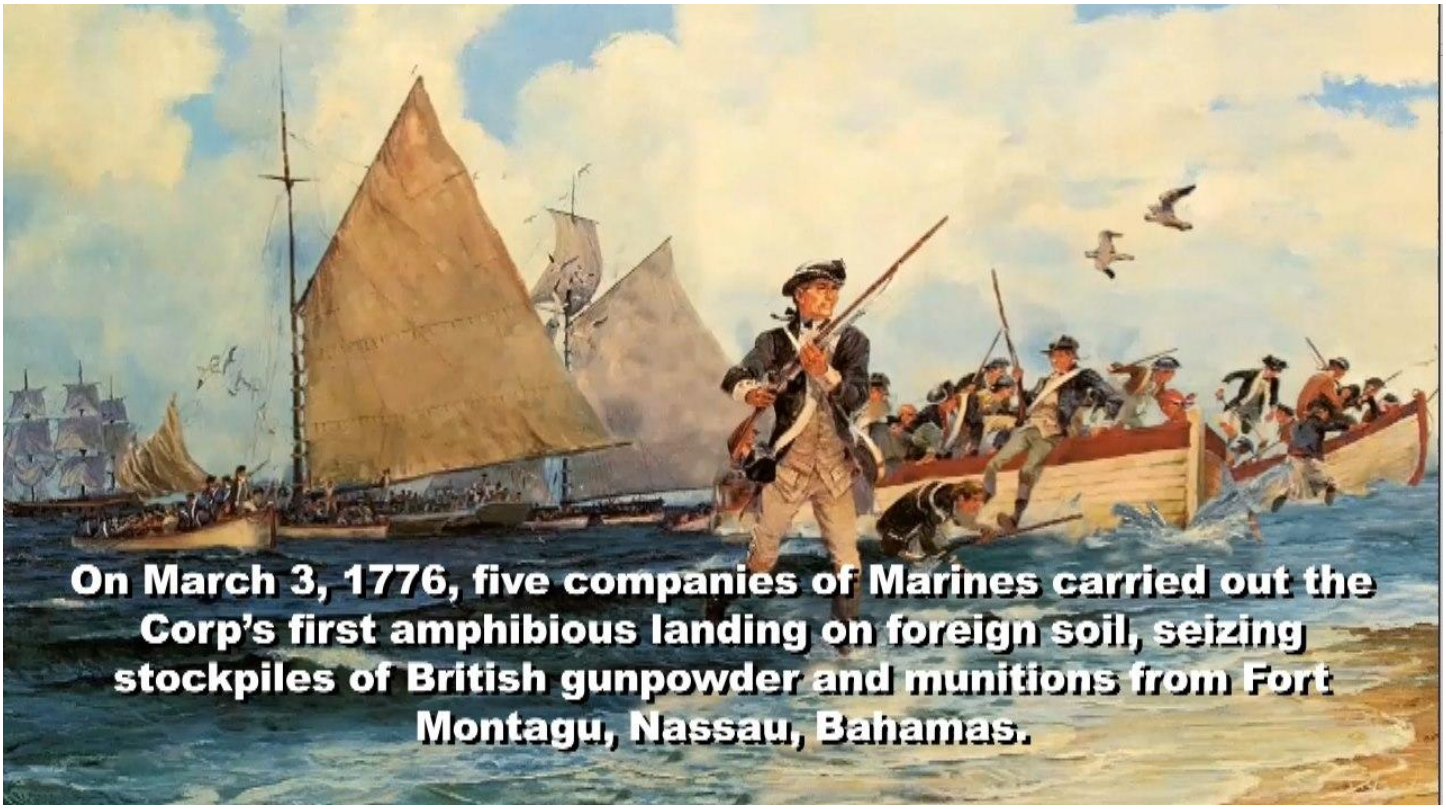
If you choose to donate to this effort, and I sincerely hope that you will, there are three different ways to donate: 1) via Club Express, 2) via Zelle, and 3) by personal check, made to "FLSSAR" and mailed to: FAAM Committee, 20210 Moss Hill Way, Tampa, FL, 33647. Please add "FLSSAR Leadership Challenge"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

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

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

The Battle of Nassau: March 3 – 4, 1776
First Amphibious Landing of the Continental Marines

The sea was restless that March morning of 1776, its long swells rolling beneath the hulls of the Continental Navy's small fleet as it approached the turquoise shallows of the Bahamas. The salty wind whipped across the decks, carrying with it the scent of adventure, danger, and destiny. For the men aboard the Alfred, Providence, Andrew Doria and Cabot, it was more than a military mission—it was the birth of a legend. Among them stood Captain Samuel Nicholas, commander of the newly formed Continental Marines, the first of their kind. Barely four months had passed since Congress had resolved to create a naval force, and Nicholas' handful of green-coated Marines were untested. Their orders, however, were clear: seize military stores from the British at Nassau, capital of New Providence Island. Gunpowder, shot, and cannon—everything General Washington's army in Boston desperately needed.



Setting the Stage. By early 1776, the rebellion in the American colonies was growing desperate. Washington's Continental Army, encamped outside Boston, lacked gunpowder so severely that at times the troops were rationed to a few rounds per man. Reports suggested that the British maintained large stores of powder and munitions in the Caribbean, particularly at Nassau. Commodore Esek Hopkins, commander-in-chief of the Continental Navy, received his first set of orders from Congress in January. He was to "annoy the enemy's ships" and, if possible, "take or destroy such of the enemy's vessels as may be found." Hopkins interpreted this broadly, and turned his gaze south—to Nassau—where victory and supplies seemed possible.

The Fleet Sets Sail. On February 17, 1776, Hopkins' small squadron set out from Cape Henlopen, Delaware. It was a rag-tag fleet by any naval standard: eight vessels, hastily outfitted merchantmen and small warships, with about 200 Marines and sailors trained for landing operations. The Marines themselves were a new experiment—men recruited from taverns and ports of Philadelphia, wearing green coats faced with white, armed with muskets and bayonets. Nicholas, a former Quaker turned patriot officer, commanded them with an air of quiet determination. To his men he spoke plainly: *"We are bound for glory or for the sea's grave. Remember, lads, that wherever a Marine plants his foot, he stands for the liberty of all."* His words, though unrecorded in exact archive, reflect the esprit de corps he instilled.

After weathering a rough passage and losing two ships that strayed off course, the fleet arrived in Bahamian waters in early March. Through his spyglass, Hopkins studied the low, green line of New Providence Island, crowned with white-sand beaches and the British flag fluttering over Fort Montagu. The element of surprise would be their greatest weapon.
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The Approach to Nassau. At dawn on March 1, the American ships anchored just beyond sight of the harbor. Hopkins convened a council of war aboard the Alfred. The plan was simple: the Marines, supported by sailors armed with cutlasses, would make an amphibious landing on the beach near Fort Montagu, then march on Nassau and capture its gunpowder stores. The chosen landing-site was at the eastern end of the island, a quiet stretch of sand known as "Cabbage Beach." Nicholas' Marines were to go ashore in small boats, wading through the surf under the cover of dawn. It would be, unknowingly, the first amphibious assault in the history of the United States Marines.

The Marines' First Amphibious Assault Landing. The night before the assault, Nicholas gathered his men on deck. The sea shimmered under a crescent moon. He looked upon their faces—farmers, sailors, blacksmiths, drifters—all united under a new banner. *"Gentlemen,"* he said, *"the honor of our corps will be written by your hands tomorrow. Let us make the first stroke of it a bold one."*

Just before sunrise on March 3, 1776, the Marines began their landing. The longboats creaked as they were lowered into the surf. Oars splashed quietly. Salt spray hit the men's faces as they pulled toward shore, muskets clutched to their chests, powder horns tied high to keep them dry.

As the first boats scraped onto the sand, Nicholas leapt out into knee-deep water and turned to signal the others forward. "Form line!" he called. The men spread out, forming ranks as the tropical sun began to rise over the palm trees. From Fort Montagu, a British sentry spied the movement and fired a musket shot in alarm. The crack echoed across the bay. Within moments smoke puffed from the fort's small cannon, and a ball splashed into the water well short of the boats. The Marines pressed forward, their boots sinking into the warm sand, advancing steadily toward the fort.

The defenders, commanded by Governor Montfort Browne, were taken by surprise. With only a handful of militia and a few dozen regulars, Browne realized he could not hold the eastern fort against the American landing. He spiked the guns at Fort Montagu, destroyed some powder, and withdrew toward Fort Nassau in the town itself, several miles west. By mid-morning, Nicholas' Marines had secured Fort Montagu without serious resistance. They hoisted the Continental colors over its stone ramparts—the first time the new American flag had flown in victory on foreign soil.

The March on Nassau. That afternoon the Marines advanced toward Nassau. The tropical heat was fierce, the march slow, their green coats clinging to their backs. Islanders peered nervously from behind shutters as the strange force—half navy, half army—moved through the sandy streets. Ahead lay Fort Nassau, an aging bastion on a hill overlooking the harbor. Browne had retreated there with what remained of his troops and much of the gunpowder. However, he had already sent messengers to remove the bulk of the powder—some 150 barrels—to nearby islands for safekeeping.

Hopkins brought the fleet around to Nassau's harbor entrance the next day, intending to force Browne's surrender. But the channel was narrow and guarded by shallow reefs. Rather than risk grounding his ships under fire, he sent Nicholas forward under a white flag to demand the town's capitulation.

Nicholas delivered the message: *"In the name of the United Colonies we come to require the surrender of this town and the stores belonging to his Majesty's arms. Resist not and your persons and property shall be safe."*

Governor Browne, realizing resistance was futile, agreed to surrender under terms that would spare the inhabitants and private property. On March 4, 1776, the Marines entered Nassau without firing a shot, raising the American colors over the fort while the fleet anchored triumphantly in the harbor.

Occupation and Aftermath. For the next two weeks the Marines and sailors worked feverishly to load captured cannon, ammunition, and supplies onto the ships. Although much of the precious gunpowder had been removed before their arrival, they seized 88 cannon, 15 mortars, and other valuable stores. The discipline of the Marines impressed even skeptical Bahamians. Nicholas enforced strict orders forbidding looting or mistreatment of civilians—a remarkable contrast to the behavior of many armies of the era. When an American sailor was caught stealing from a warehouse, Nicholas personally ordered his punishment and returned the goods. As one local wrote in a letter later, *"They were gentlemen soldiers, not pirates. Their commander bore himself with dignity and restraint."*

On March 17, the Americans were ready to sail for home. With their prizes loaded, Hopkins' fleet weighed anchor and departed Nassau—the first successful expedition of the Continental Navy and the first amphibious operation by the United States Marines.
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A Legacy Forged in the Surf. The return voyage was not without peril. Near the Virginia coast the fleet encountered the British war-ship HMS Glasgow and engaged in a sharp, running battle. Although the Glasgow escaped, the Americans acquitted themselves honorably and returned to New London, Connecticut, in April 1776, to cheers from the public.

In Philadelphia, news of the Nassau raid spread quickly. The Pennsylvania Evening Post hailed it as a "glorious commencement" to the nation's naval endeavors. For the fledgling Marines, it marked the baptism of their corps—a moment that would be remembered in their creed and their song. Captain Nicholas returned home as a quiet hero. He received the thanks of Congress and continued to serve with distinction until his death in 1790. His Marines had proven that a small, disciplined force could strike swiftly from the sea, seize fortified positions and hold them with honor.

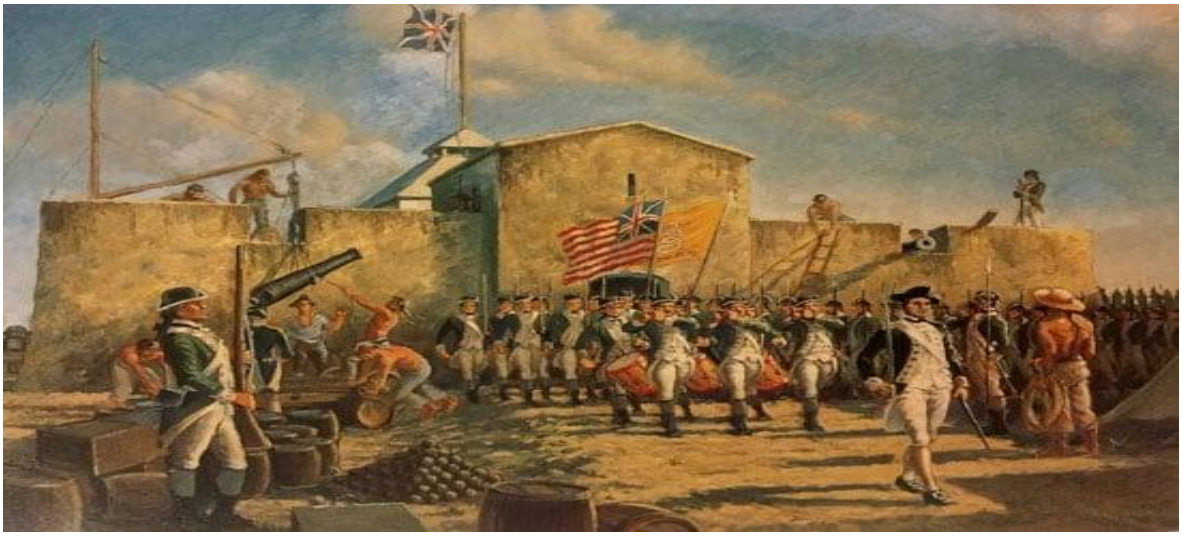


"For Those Who Fought"
National SAR President General Lindsey Brock at Fort Montagu, March 2015

From that day forward, wherever the Marines landed—in Tripoli, Veracruz, Belleau Wood, Iwo Jima, or beyond—they carried with them the legacy of Nassau. The image of Nicholas stepping into the surf at dawn became a symbol of courage and initiative.

Epilogue: The Dawn of the Marines. Historians would later call the Battle of Nassau a minor engagement in the grand sweep of the Revolution, but its importance was far greater than the few shots fired, or the cannons seized. It proved that the American cause could project power beyond its shores. It established the Marines as a unique fighting force—soldiers from the sea, disciplined and daring. The amphibious landing at Cabbage Beach was the first step in a tradition that would span centuries. Every Marine who has since stormed a beach—from Guadalcanal to Inchon—has followed in the footsteps of those first men who waded ashore in the Bahamas, muskets held high, hearts steady, beneath the rising sun of liberty.

And so the story endures: in March 1776, before the Declaration of Independence was even signed, the United States Marines made their first stand—not on the soil of America, but on the sands of Nassau—carving their name into history and proving that freedom's cause would never stop at the water's edge.



Continental Marines carrying Grand Union and Gadsen Flags at Fort Montagu, March 1776

HEROES OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD
MAJOR SAMUEL NICHOLAS, "FATHER OF THE MARINE CORPS"



On November 10, 1775, in the smoky confines of Philadelphia's Tun Tavern, a new branch of service was born. The Continental Congress had just authorized "two battalions of Marines" for the fledgling navy of the American colonies, and a tall, composed Philadelphian named Samuel Nicholas was chosen to lead them. Though his commission called him simply a captain, his role as the organizer and commander of this small corps would forever earn him the title of the first Commandant of the United States Marine Corps. His name is less well-known than those of Washington, Franklin, or Adams, but without Nicholas, the Marines might never have been formed—or survived—the chaotic birth of the American Republic. His life and service capture the spirit of a young nation learning to fight for both independence and identity.

Early Life in Philadelphia. Samuel Nicholas was born in Philadelphia in 1744, into a prosperous Quaker family whose roots were deeply planted in Pennsylvania's colonial soil. His father, Andrew Nicholas, was a respected blacksmith and businessman; his mother, Mary Shute Nicholas, came from a family active in the city's civic life. As a youth, Samuel received a classical education, likely at the Friends' Public School—later known as the William Penn Charter School—where he studied mathematics, geography, and moral philosophy of the Society of Friends.

Despite his Quaker upbringing—which emphasized peace and pacifism—Nicholas developed a strong sense of civic duty and adventure. He moved easily among Philadelphia's artisan and merchant classes and became a member of the Schuylkill Fishing Company, also known as the "State in Schuylkill," one of the city's oldest and most exclusive social clubs. The club was a gathering place for men who would later become prominent in the Revolution, including ship-owners, captains and merchants who were growing restless under British trade restrictions. Nicholas' standing in this circle would later prove invaluable when the colonies' struggle for independence turned from talk to war.

Revolutionary Sentiments. By the early 1770s, Philadelphia was a crucible of revolutionary thought. The British occupation of Boston and the imposition of taxes through acts of Parliament stirred debate in every tavern and meetinghouse. Though Nicholas remained outwardly calm and courteous—traits that marked him throughout his life—he was known among friends for his deep commitment to the colonial cause. He was not a fiery speaker like Patrick Henry, but rather a practical patriot: one who understood that liberty must be secured not only by ideals, but by disciplined action.

Birth of the Continental Marines. On November 10, 1775, the Continental Congress authorized "two battalions of Marines" to serve with the new fleet being fitted out under the command of Commodore Esek Hopkins. The task of recruiting and organizing these Marines fell to Captain Samuel Nicholas, who received his commission as the first officer of the corps. His orders were simple but daunting: raise the battalions "for service on land and at sea," train them in discipline and arms, and prepare them to embark with Hopkins' ships as soon as they were ready.

Nicholas set up his recruiting headquarters at Tun Tavern, a popular establishment on Philadelphia's waterfront owned by Robert Mullan, who became his principal recruiter. The Marines would serve both aboard vessels and in landing parties—soldiers of the sea, modeled loosely after the Royal Marines of Britain. The Continental Marines were recognizable by their green coats faced with white—the color chosen to distinguish them from both the Continental Army and the Navy's blue-clad sailors. Their motto, though not yet formalized, was embodied in Nicholas' own direction: discipline, courage and honor.

The Nassau Expedition: The First Marine Landing. By February 1776, Nicholas' Marines were ready to embark with Hopkins' small fleet on its first mission. The objective was the British island of New Providence in the Bahamas, where

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intelligence suggested a large stock of gunpowder and arms was stored—supplies desperately needed by General Washington's forces around Boston.

As the fleet approached the Bahamas in early March, Hopkins called a council of war aboard his flagship, the Alfred. Nicholas, commanding approximately 200 Marines, was ordered to lead the landing operation. It would be the first amphibious assault in American history.

That morning of March 3, 1776, Nicholas' men rowed ashore through the turquoise waters at Cabbage Beach, near Nassau. They waded through the surf in battle order, muskets held high, and quickly advanced on Fort Montagu. The surprised British garrison fired a few rounds before retreating. Within hours, the Marines had seized the fort, hoisted the American flag, and advanced toward the capital. Governor Montfort Browne surrendered the next day. Though much of the powder had been spirited away before the attack, the Americans captured 88 cannon, 15 mortars, and other supplies—a significant moral and strategic victory.

This daring operation became the Marines' first test under fire and established their reputation for discipline and success in combined sea-land operations.

Return and Service with the Fleet. Following the Nassau raid, Nicholas continued to serve as commander of the Marines aboard the fleet during its return voyage to the American coast. On April 6, 1776, Hopkins' squadron encountered the British warship HMS Glasgow near Block Island. In a sharp, running fight, the Americans were unable to capture the enemy vessel but inflicted damage before the Glasgow escaped.

For Nicholas and his Marines, the engagement was another lesson in the realities of naval warfare. Nicholas later mourned the loss of his officer: *"In him I have lost a worthy officer, sincere friend, and companion that was beloved by all the ship's company."* His words reveal the human cost underlying the historic deeds.

When the fleet returned to New London, Connecticut, later that month, Nicholas was placed in charge of Marine detachments at various posts along the coast. His command extended beyond discipline: he acted as mentor, instructor and moral guide to a corps still defining its identity.

The Philadelphia Years. By 1777 the war had shifted to the mid-Atlantic and British forces threatened Philadelphia. Nicholas was recalled to his home city to assist in organizing its defense. He oversaw the training of Marine detachments and coordinated with naval units operating on the Delaware River. When the British occupied Philadelphia later that year, Nicholas' family evacuated, and his personal property was largely destroyed.

Yet he remained steadfast, serving quietly but effectively as senior Marine officer of the Continental service. Though his title was never formally "Commandant," he functioned as such—appointing officers, directing recruitment and maintaining correspondence with naval and Congressional leaders. His leadership kept the fragile corps alive through the most uncertain years of the Revolution.

Personality and Leadership. Contemporary accounts describe Samuel Nicholas as a man of dignity, restraint and fairness. He was tall and broad-shouldered, with calm blue eyes and a reserved manner that inspired confidence rather than fear. Unlike many military men of the era he was neither boastful nor cruel. He expected discipline but tempered it with understanding.

A fellow officer once wrote: *"Captain Nicholas bore himself as a gentleman of virtue. He asked no man to do what he would not do himself."* Though unsigned, the tribute reveals how influential he was in shaping Marine character. His Quaker background—though at odds with his martial profession—gave him a moral grounding rare among soldiers of the age. He discouraged drunkenness and profanity, insisted on respect for civilians, and ensured that his Marines were treated with fairness.

Later Life and Death. After years of service, Nicholas returned to Philadelphia near the end of the war, when the Continental Navy was largely disbanded. He never sought personal fame or fortune. Instead, he resumed civilian life quietly, managing family affairs and maintaining friendships with many veterans of the struggle.

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Tragically his life was cut short by the yellow fever epidemic of 1790 which swept through Philadelphia with deadly force. Nicholas contracted the disease while aiding the sick and died in August of that year at the age of forty-six. He was buried in the Friends' Burial Ground at Fourth and Arch Streets, though the exact location of his grave was later lost. In death, as in life, he left little behind but his example. There were no medals or monuments—only the memory of a man who had built something enduring out of resolve and character.

Legacy. Today, Major Samuel Nicholas is recognized as the first Commandant of the Marine Corps, a title bestowed posthumously when the Corps' lineage was traced back to its 1775 founding. Every Marine officer, from the youngest lieutenant to the serving Commandant, walks in his shadow.

The Marine Corps' official birthday, November 10, commemorates the day Congress authorized the force Nicholas created. At every Marine Corps Ball, toasts are made to "the memory of Samuel Nicholas, our first Commandant," linking modern Marines to the man who led the first amphibious landing at Nassau.

Though he never wore the rank of major in his lifetime—it was an honorary promotion granted later—Nicholas' leadership defined the Marine Corps' character: courage in action, restraint in victory, and loyalty to duty above self.

Conclusion. Major Samuel Nicholas lived at the time when America was more idea than nation, and its military institutions were fragile experiments. Yet through his steady hand, the Continental Marines became a disciplined force whose traditions of honor and service endure nearly two and a half centuries later.

He recruited men from taverns and wharves, trained them into a fighting corps, and led them through the surf at Nassau into history. His reward was not fame or fortune. It was something greater—the lasting respect of generations who followed him.

When Marines today declare themselves "first to fight," they echo Nicholas' quiet courage and conviction that liberty must be defended wherever it is threatened. In life he was a gentleman and a patriot; in memory he became the embodiment of a creed that would outlive him: "Semper Fidelis" — Always Faithful.



Annually, at dawn on November 10th, the date celebrated as the Marine Corps' birthday, a wreath is placed on the grave of Maj Samuel Nicholas, First Commandant of the Marine Corps by a detachment of Marines

Education Center and Museum Liberty Tree Campaign

We will all soon celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Is there a more fitting tribute to those who secured the liberties we enjoy than to share their story? Help ensure that the SAR Education Center and Museum is completed in time for the celebration.

The SAR Foundation, Inc. asks you to support the SAR Education Center and Museum through ***The Liberty Tree Campaign.*** While few of us can make a $1,000 gift without pause, you could, budget monthly support of $25 save American's history? Think of it as a utility bill, but instead of water, gas, or cable TV, you will be helping the SAR.

The Liberty Tree Campaign has four levels.

Bronze – A one-time gift of $1,250 (or $25 monthly until total is reached)

Silver- A one-time gift of $2,500 (or $50 monthly until total is reached)

Gold – A one-time gift of $25,000 (or $500 monthly until the total is reached)

Diamond – Please contact the SAR Foundation to arrange for a $250,000 gift

Donors receive a lapel pin like the one pictured above. Donors at the Gold and Diamond Levels will also be recognized with an appropriate naming opportunity in the SAR Education Center and Museum. Call **Phil Bloyd** in the SAR Foundation Office at **(502) 315-1777** to pledge to the Liberty Tree Campaign today! For those who need to hold onto their cash, the Founders Circle allows Compatriots to remember the SAR in their estate. Call Phil Bloyd or email him at pbloyd@sar.org for assistance.

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

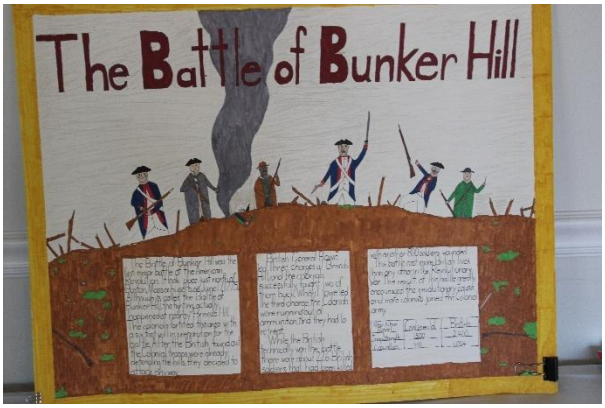
The 2025 – 2026 School Year SAR Elementary, Middle School And High School Americanism Contests Are Off And Running!

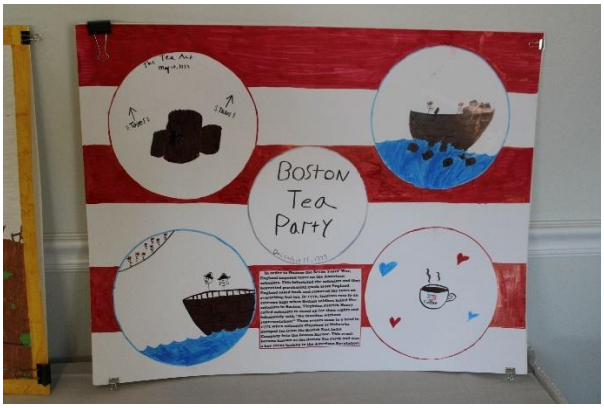
RULES AND GUIDELINES – ELEMENTARY SCHOOL POSTER CONTEST

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

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

Examples of prior submittals:

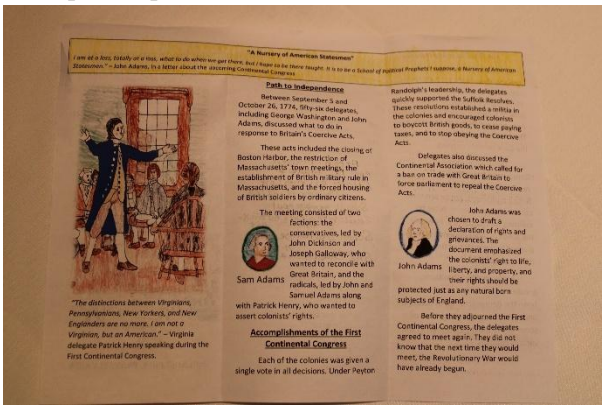


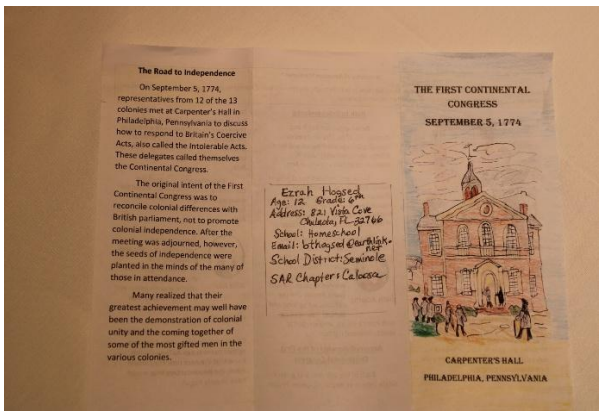


RULES AND GUIDELINES – SGT. MOSES ADAMS MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL BROCHURE CONTEST

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.

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





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RULES AND GUIDELINES – GEORGE S. AND STELLA M. KNIGHT HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST

The SAR Knight High School Essay Contest invites all high school students (9th through 12th grades) interested in the American Revolution to participate by submitting an original 800 – to 1200 – word essay based on an event, person, philosophy or ideal associated with the American Revolution, Declaration of Independence, or the framing of the United States Constitution. The contest is open to all US Citizen and Legal Resident students attending home schools, public, parochial, or private high schools in that same grade range. Each student's essay will be judged based upon its historical accuracy, clarity, organization, grammar and spelling, and documentation. The contest is conducted in three phases: the local chapter, state-level society and national phases. The contest must be entered through an SAR chapter near the student's residence. Only one entry per student is permitted per contest year.

For more information: https://www.sar.org/george-s-stella-m-knight-essay-contest/

RULES AND GUIDELINES – JOSEPH S. RUMBAUGH HISTORICAL ORATION CONTEST

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

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

MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING DEADLINES, PRIZE AMOUNTS, ETC. WILL BE SENT SOON VIA EMAIL!



If You Are Interested . . .

FLSSAR Archives Committee

The Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution, is recruiting experienced technologists and passionate Compatriots to serve on the FLSSAR Archive Committee.

Based on the current charter, the Archives Committee serves the following purposes:

- To gather, sort, collate, and index official and other significant documents and artifacts of the Florida Society, and similar materials from individual chapters, compatriots, and related organizations, of significance to the Society.
- To establish and maintain a secure and accessible repository of these documents and artifacts. To publicize to the members of the Society the existence of the Archives, as necessary.
- To store, catalogue, and preserve these materials; to maintain a master catalogue and index.
- To keep its index, catalogue, and the materials in its custody available for reference and study.

If this is something that interests you or you have ideas on how we would ensure the successful implementation of these goals, consider serving on this Committee by reaching out to Committee Chair Steve Hohman (Withlacoochee Chapter) at shohman@withsar.org or by calling 352-738-7838 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

FLSSAR Technology Committee

The Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution, is sending out a call for experienced technologists who want to serve on the FLSSAR Technology Committee. This committee will meet to discuss and implement an updated website for the state, make recommendations for improved communications through email, and help chapters embrace new technologies.

Some skills that could be helpful to this committee include:

- Recent experience in website development using well-known platforms such as Club Express, WordPress, HTML5, etc.
- Recent experience managing an enterprise email and communications platform such as Microsoft 365 or Google Workspace.
- Graphics design experience in platforms such as Adobe Creative Suite or similar platforms.
- Video editing experience in platforms such as Davinci Resolve, Adobe Premiere Pro, or similar software packages.

For more information, contact Committee Chair Steve Hohman (Withlacoochee Chapter) at shohman@withsar.org or by calling 352-738-7838 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

FLSSAR Youth Video Contest Committee

Would you like to serve on what could easily be the best (and easiest) way to connect with Florida's public schools and youth? **The Sons of the American Revolution's newest youth contest, the Youth Video Contest, is looking for Compatriots to serve on the Youth Video Contest Committee.**

All across Florida, school systems publish the success of their Adobe certification programs (which include Premiere Pro), their in-house video production facilities, and even their internal newscasts. Kids these days will record anything and get millions of "clicks" in the process. All we have to do is get them to do what they are already doing and relate it to the American Revolution. No memorization. No writing essays. No checklist of achievements. Just be creative and make it factual, based on references you submit with your entry.

If you want to be a part of the newest youth contest in the SAR, reach out to Committee Chair Steve Hohman (Withlacoochee Chapter) at shohman@withsar.org or by calling 352-738-7838 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

Chapter Web Site



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

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

Chapter Facebook Page

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

https://www.facebook.com/CaloosaChapteroftheSAR

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Compatriots of the Florida Society,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The SAR Mission Statement

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

The SAR Pledge

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

Recessional

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