SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

CALOOSA PATRIOT

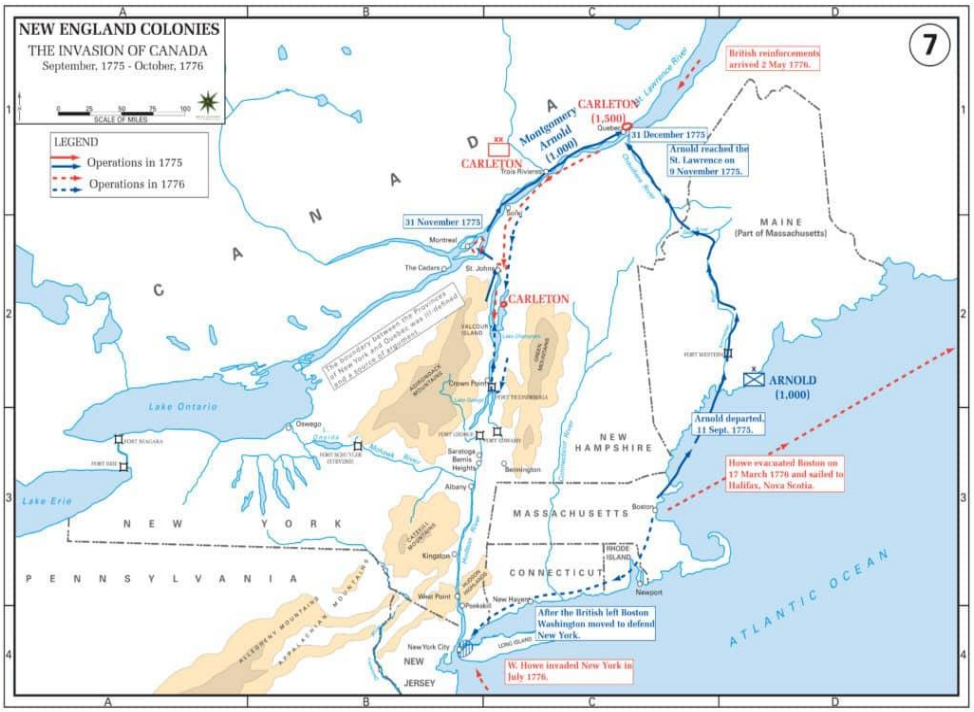
Volume XXI Issue V *Caloosa Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution Newsletter* May 2026

John L. Maier, Jr, Editor

"Highs and Lows of a Revolution on the Edge"

(250 Years Ago – June 1776)

June 1776 was one of the most emotionally volatile months of the entire American Revolution. The young rebellion experienced its greatest strategic failure to date in the north, even as it achieved one of its most stunning battlefield victories in the south. The collapse of the Quebec campaign and the triumph at Sullivan's Island unfolded almost simultaneously, creating a month defined by extremes — despair and exhilaration, humiliation and pride, warning and promise. These contrasting fortunes shaped the mood of the colonies at the very moment Congress was preparing to declare independence.



The Low: The Collapse of the Quebec Campaign. By the beginning of June, the American invasion of Canada — once imagined as a bold stroke that would add a fourteenth colony to the rebellion — had become a catastrophe. What had begun with the daring marches of Richard Montgomery and Benedict Arnold in 1775 ended in a retreat marked by disease, hunger, and disintegration.

The breaking point came in early May when British reinforcements under General Guy Carleton arrived at Quebec. The American forces, already ravaged by smallpox and weakened by expiring enlistments, could not hold their lines. The retreat that followed was not orderly; it was a collapse. General John Thomas, sent north to salvage the situation, died of smallpox on June 2, leaving command to General John Sullivan. What Sullivan found horrified him. He described the army as being in "a most shocking condition." Hundreds of men were sick. Many were too weak to march. Others deserted outright. Supplies were nonexistent. Clothing was in tatters. The army was starving.

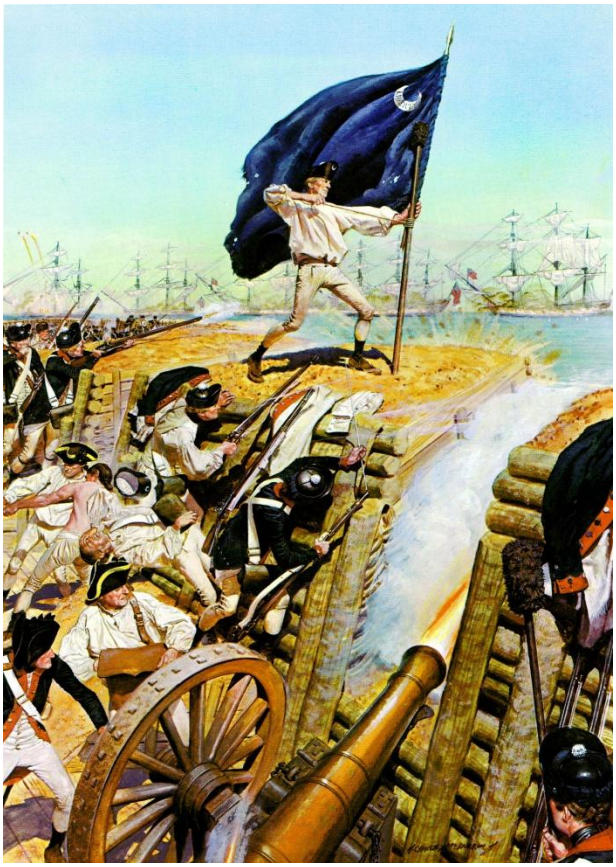
By June 14, the Americans abandoned their last position in Canada — Fort Saint-Jean — and crossed the border into New York. The invasion was over. The dream of bringing Canada into the Revolution died on that day. The consequences were immediate and severe:

- **The northern army was shattered**, its morale broken and its numbers drastically reduced.
- **British forces were now free to move south**, threatening Lake Champlain and the Hudson Valley.
- **Washington's strategic position worsened**, just as he struggled to defend New York against the largest British invasion force ever assembled.

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Washington, watching the disaster unfold from Manhattan, was deeply troubled. “Our affairs in Canada are in a very bad situation,” he wrote, with characteristic understatement. He knew the retreat meant the British could now concentrate their full strength on New York — and that his own army was not ready for what was coming. The psychological blow was just as damaging. The Quebec campaign had been the Revolution’s first major strategic gamble. Its failure reminded Americans that enthusiasm and patriotism could not overcome disease, poor logistics, and the professional armies of the British Empire.

The High: The Triumph at Sullivan’s Island. Yet even as the northern front collapsed, the southern colonies witnessed one of the most remarkable American victories of the entire war. As explained by our Compatriot Randy Moody at the last Chapter Meeting, in early June, 1776, a British expedition under General Henry Clinton and Admiral Sir Peter Parker arrived off the coast of South Carolina. Their objective was clear: seize Charleston, the most important port in the South, and ignite Loyalist support.



Sgt. Jasper saves the flag shouting: "God save liberty and my country forever" painting by Charles McBarron, US Army Center for Military History

Guarding the harbor entrance was a half-finished fort on Sullivan’s Island, commanded by Colonel William Moultrie. The fort’s walls were made of palmetto logs — soft, fibrous, and, as it turned out, almost perfect for absorbing cannon fire. On June 28, 1776, the British launched their assault. Parker’s warships opened a furious bombardment, expecting the American fort to splinter within minutes. Instead, the cannonballs simply sank into the palmetto logs. Inside the fort, Moultrie’s men — mostly militia — fired with calm precision. Their shots tore into the British ships, damaging rigging, smashing gun carriages, and killing sailors. One British vessel, the *Actaeon*, ran aground and had to be burned. Meanwhile, Clinton attempted to land troops on the island’s northern end, only to discover that the channel was far deeper than his guides had claimed. His soldiers waded helplessly in chest-deep water under American fire. By evening, the British attack had failed completely. Parker’s flagship was nearly wrecked. Clinton’s troops never reached the fort. The battered fleet withdrew. The victory electrified the colonies:

- **Charleston was saved.**
- **The South remained in Patriot hands for more than two years.**
- **American morale soared**, and Congress debated independence.

The defenders became instant heroes. When the fort’s flag was shot down, Sergeant William Jasper famously leapt onto the parapet under fire to raise it again — an act that became legend. South Carolina would later adopt the palmetto tree as its symbol in honor of the fort that had withstood the Brits.

A Month of Contradictions. June 1776 was a study in contrasts — military despair in the north, unexpected triumph in the south. But the deeper significance lies in how these events shaped the Revolution’s trajectory.

The Quebec disaster forced strategic realism. The Americans learned that enthusiasm could not replace supply lines, discipline, or medical preparedness. The retreat exposed the fragility of the Continental Army and the limits of offensive operations.

Sullivan’s Island proved the Americans could win. The victory showed that British naval power was not invincible and that well-positioned American forces could defeat professional troops. It boosted confidence at a moment when Congress needed it most. The contrast sharpened the stakes of independence.

As Congress debated Richard Henry Lee’s resolution — “that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States” — the military situation offered both warning and encouragement. The Revolution could fail, as it had in Canada. But it could also triumph spectacularly, as it had in Charleston. At the same time, the British learned the war would not be easy. The failure at Sullivan’s Island embarrassed the British command and delayed their southern strategy for years. It also convinced them that the main effort must focus on New York, setting the stage for the massive campaign of July–August 1776.

Conclusion: A Nation on the Edge. June 1776 captured the Revolution at its most volatile. The northern army limped home in defeat, ravaged by disease and chased by British regulars. The southern defenders stood triumphant over a shattered British fleet. The fortunes of war swung wildly, reminding Americans that independence would be won not by steady progress but by surviving disasters and seizing moments of opportunity. As Congress prepared to vote on independence, the nation’s military fortunes mirrored its political gamble — uncertain, precarious, but filled with flashes of extraordinary resilience. The Revolution was still fragile, but June 1776 proved that even in its darkest moments, it could produce victories that reshaped the war and strengthened the resolve of a people about to declare themselves free.

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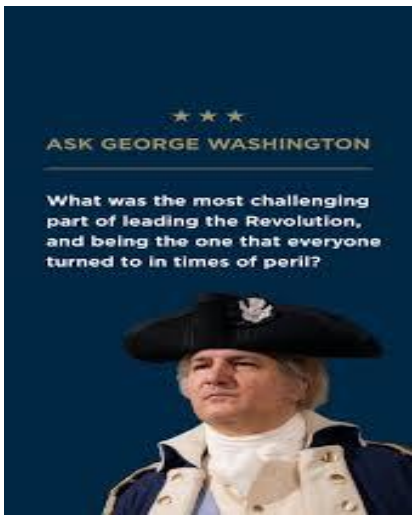
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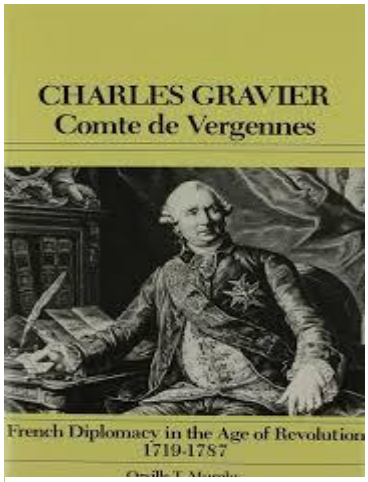
Sons of the American Revolution



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Officers for 2026



Immediate Past President
and Treasurer
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President
Richard "Rick" Parfitt



Vice-President
John L. Maier, Jr.



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Jonathan Hunt
Member-At-Large



Rev. Dr.. Randy Moody
Chaplain



Chris Jenner
Registrar

A Message From Our President



Greetings, Compatriots:

I attended my first Board of Management Meeting (BOM) in Orlando, May 15-16, 2026.

You will see some of the highlights in this newsletter, and I'll have the Proceedings booklet when we meet again. It sounds like we will have electronic versions in the future, so sharing those after the meeting will be easier.

I believe our state Society is in good hands, and our Executive Committee Member-at-Large, Jonathan Hunt, is now the state Society SAR President, and we have some regional folks as state officers as well.

The Florida Society has reclaimed its place as the second-largest society in the country, and the prospect of growing was a theme at the BOM. Our Registrar, Chris Jenner, has been instrumental in our growth.

A major theme of the BOM was to make SAR fun and to retain members, especially younger members. We had some discussion among some at our executive committee meeting about retention of young members and possibly recommending a change in young members' dues for those who turn 18 and continue into college or post-high-school education. We could extend that to young members making their first enlistment in the U.S. Armed Services. This may be the time to make that recommendation to the State Society.

I wish you all a safe summer and hope you have the opportunity to enjoy some of the events celebrating our country's 250th anniversary.

Rick Parfitt

Rick Parfitt

President, Caloosa Chapter FLSSAR

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye!
Caloosa Chapter SAR 2026 Meeting Schedule



[Unless Otherwise Indicated]

Chapter Meetings Are Held At Famous Dave's
12148 South Cleveland Ave. Fort Myers, FL 33903

ExCom Meetings Are Now Being Held Virtually Via "Zoom" Connection
[Notify President Parfitt at Florida4rick@gmail.com or Vice-President John Maier at jmaier@wisclaw.com and request Zoom link if you'd like to attend]

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. 28, 2026	11:30a.m.

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

Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2026	[TBD]
Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026	[TBD]
Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2026	[TBD]

THE NEXT CALOOSA CHAPTER MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 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 The Induction Of Compatriots Whose Applications Have Been Approved Over The Summer Break

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.

All other details of the meeting will be posted in the summer issues of the Caloosa Patriot Newsletter

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.

May 9th Chapter Meeting
Inducting Another New Compatriot: Arthur ("Art") Brostrom and Honoring Caloosa Chapter Member Brian Mangan with the



(L to R) David Wagley and wife, Sandy, and Jack Bovee holding the 200 year old top hat

Our May Chapter meeting was noisy from start to finish. We again had a great group of Compatriots and their guests, and had a lot to talk over with old and new friends before the "official" meeting began. .

During the "gathering period" again some of our members brought articles of significance to their families, and sought out our Chapter historians to see what they thought. **David Wagley** was there with wife, **Sandy**, and David had a black top hat with him. This Wagley family heirloom had been given to him by his cousin.

The hat immediately drew a curious crowd that included **Jack Bovee**. After taking a look, Jack said it looked to be from the early 1800's because it was not as tall as the one famously worn by President Lincoln, which dated to the mid-1800's.

We all had fun examining the artifact which led to a discussion about what was going on in the United States following the War of 1812, but prior to the Civil War.



Debbie Bovee's History Quiz Book



Inside The Quiz Book



(L to R) Jonathan Hunt, Rick Parfitt, Art Brostrom, Chris Jenner

We finally were all forced to get down to business when our President gaveled the meeting to order. Following the prayer of Invocation, the Pledge of Allegiance, and usual order of events and welcoming comments and introductions, President **Rick Parfitt** and Chapter Member-at-Large **Jonathan Hunt** both stepped to the front, and called **Art Brostrom** to join them for his formal induction into the SAR. Art's Patriot ancestor is Daniel Pettit who served in the Bucks County, Pennsylvania militia.

Art lives in Cape Coral, and is proud of his designation as a Professional Engineer. He is a Navy Veteran, having served on the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower aircraft carrier which, during his period of service, had been stationed off Iran during the prior crisis which had occurred a couple of decades ago. Art looks forward to meeting all of his Compatriots, and I look forward to doing a story on his Patriot ancestor in a future issue of the Caloosa Patriot.

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Compatriot Mangan holding the War Service Medal with Bronze Service Bar and the accompanying Certificate presented in grateful recognition for his service during the Global War on Terrorism

Following the induction of Compatriot Brostrom, another recent inductee, **Brian Mangan**, was asked to come forward for the purpose of recognizing him for his service in the United States Army during the Global War on Terrorism. Presenting him with the SAR War Service Medal were President Parfitt and our Member at Large (and now FLSSAR President) Jonathan Hunt.

The SAR War Service Medal was first authorized in 1899 for members who served in the Spanish-American War. It was subsequently authorized for members who served in World War I and World War II. Following WWII, the NSSAR authorized a generic War Service Medal with specific service periods indicated by bronze bars. Available bronze bars include WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Southwest Asia, Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Global War on Terrorism (which is the one Compatriot Mangan was recognized for).

Incidentally, SAR recognition for service in the military is not limited to those who served in time of war. The companion Military Service Medal may be presented to a Compatriot in recognition of military service which does not otherwise qualify for the War Service Medal. The SAR greatly appreciates those who have served during war or during a period of peace. The War Service Medal and Military Service Medal have equivalent precedence in the ranking of awards, which are two of the NSSAR's highest awards. Compatriots who have served, and are interested in how to apply for the award and provide proof of service are encouraged to discuss the matter with any Chapter Officer. Each of your Compatriots would like to thank and recognize you for your service to us and our country.



At this point in the meeting, President Parfitt pointed out that our Chapter meeting would not be complete without an America250 Moment presented by Chaplain **Randy Moody**, whose vivid depictions of those moments dating back 250 years which he selects for each meeting are not to be missed. Truly, they end up more like one-act plays and our presenter really gets into it. This month it was the recounting of the Battle of Sullivan's Island that took place on June 28th, resulted in Charleston being saved from a British onslaught, and boosted Patriot morale just when it was needed. I've included a full historical narrative of the "before, during, and after" events of the battle elsewhere in this issue of The Patriot, the details of which were all taken from our Compatriot Moody's presentation. However, phrase "You should 'a been there" certainly applies to the job Randy did in explaining what happened. This is especially true when our Chaplain reenacted the scene during the battle in which our Flag was shot down by British fire, and Sgt. William Jasper leapt onto the parapet and raised it again, all while under fire, shouting "God save liberty and my country forever!" Truly, for a brief moment, as our speaker jumped to the floor and raised up his arm in acting out the scene, we were all able to relive the moment that happened. You "just had to be there" as they say (so don't miss the next Chapter meeting as there's no telling what Rev. Moody will come up with next).



Our Compatriot **Jonathan Hunt** then wrapped things up with updates on what was going on at the FLSSAR level, which included the unveiling of a brand new website – something sorely needed, and which now has come to fruition after lots of hard work. Our Florida Society Officers are quite proud of it, and you are encouraged to "sign on and try it out as soon as you can." In addition to the report on the website, he let us know what will be going on at the Spring BOM (May 15-16), and reminded us that there will be a special America250 "Fourth of July" event to be held on July 1, 2026 on the steps of the Federal Courthouse in downtown Fort Myers, during which uniformed SAR members will conduct the program, including a firing of muskets! Not to be missed so plan on it, and bring the family. Sadly, our meeting then drew to a close, and we will not gather again until the October Chapter Meeting, due to the "summer break."

Timeline: The Revolutionary Road To Independence

What Was Going On In Late May and June Of 1776?

By late May, 1776, the American colonies were suspended in a moment of profound extreme uncertainty – caught between the remnants of the old world and the unsteady beginnings of the new. The war had been raging now for more than a year, yet the question of independence remained unresolved. The smoke of Lexington and Concord had long since drifted away, but the meaning of that smoke – rebellion or revolution – was still being debated in the halls of Philadelphia. And as the delegates argued, armies maneuvered, fleets gathered, and the fate of a continent hung in the balance.

Military Situation: Late May–June 1776

The American war effort stood at a crossroads. The initial enthusiasm of 1775 had given way to the grinding reality of a long conflict, and nowhere was this felt more sharply than in New York. General George Washington, commanding the Continental Army, watched the approaches to the city with a sense of foreboding. New York was both strategically vital and dangerously exposed. Its deep harbor made it the ideal target for a British invasion, and Washington knew the enemy would come soon—and in overwhelming strength.



Throughout late May and into June, his soldiers labored to fortify Manhattan and Long Island. They dug trenches, raised redoubts, and hauled cannon into position.

The work was exhausting, and the army—still more a collection of state militias than a unified fighting force—struggled with shortages of powder, tools, and even basic discipline. Yet Washington pressed them on. He understood that the coming battle for New York would be unlike anything the colonies had yet faced.

The first signs of the British onslaught appeared in early June. A few ships arrived, then more, and soon the horizon was thick with sails. This was the vanguard of the largest expeditionary force Britain had ever sent abroad—thousands of British regulars, Hessian auxiliaries, and a powerful fleet under the command of General William Howe.

Their mission was simple: to crush the rebellion in a single decisive campaign. New York, with its harbor and central position, was the perfect place to begin.

Washington's letters from this period reveal his anxiety. He feared his army was not ready, that the defenses were incomplete, that the British might land anywhere along the hundreds of miles of coastline. But he also knew that abandoning New York without a fight would be a devastating blow to American morale. So he held his ground, preparing for the storm he knew was coming.

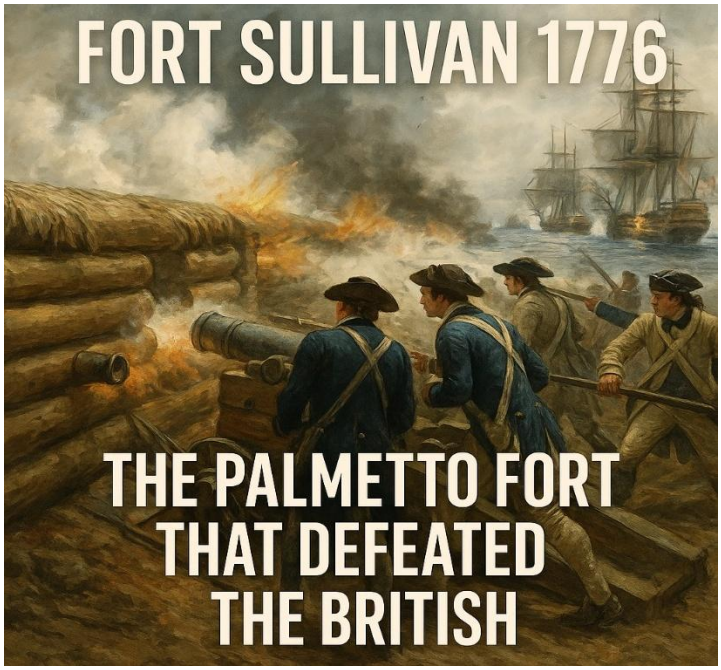
Far to the north, the remnants of the failed American invasion of Canada were retreating in misery. Disease, hunger, and exhaustion ravaged the troops as they fell back toward Lake Champlain. The dream of bringing Canada into the rebellion had collapsed, and the northern frontier was suddenly exposed. British forces, emboldened by their success, prepared to push southward, threatening the vital Hudson River corridor. [Editor's note: see story Page 1 of this issue.]

In the South, however, Rev. Moody America250 Moment vividly recounted the American forces' triumph in Charleston, South Carolina at our last Chapter meeting. Braced for a British attack in June, he explained that the city's defenses were centered on a small, unfinished fort on Sullivan's Island, constructed of palmetto logs and sand. Colonel William Moultrie commanded the garrison there, aware that his position was vulnerable but nevertheless he was determined to hold.

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On June 28, the British launched their assault. Warships opened fire, expecting to splinter the fort's walls in minutes. But the palmetto logs—soft, fibrous, and surprisingly resilient—absorbed the cannonballs like sponges. American gunners returned fire with deadly accuracy. After hours of fierce combat, the British withdrew, battered and humiliated. The victory at Sullivan's Island electrified the colonies. At a moment when the future seemed uncertain, the defenders of Charleston had shown that British naval power was not invincible.

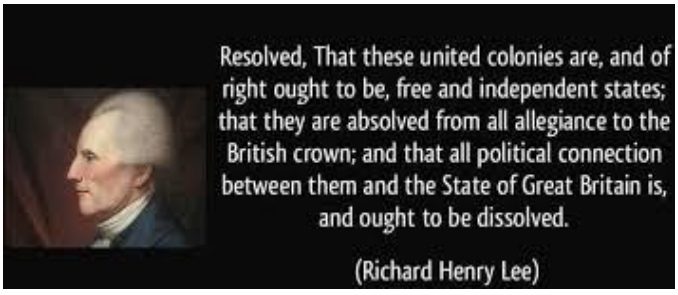


Yet even this victory could not overshadow the looming crisis in New York. By the end of June, the British fleet there had grown into a floating city of warships, transports, and supply vessels. Washington's army, though determined, was outnumbered and inexperienced. The general knew the coming battle would test the very survival of the Revolution.

Political Situation: Late May–June 1776

While armies maneuvered and fleets gathered, the Continental Congress in Philadelphia wrestled with a question that had haunted the colonies for months: Should they declare independence?

By late May, the political landscape had shifted dramatically. Royal authority had collapsed in colony after colony. Local committees and provincial congresses had taken control. Newspapers printed arguments for independence, and town meetings passed resolutions supporting it. The war had already begun; the question now was whether the colonies would openly acknowledge what was happening in blood and smoke.



On June 7, the debate reached its climax. Richard Henry Lee of Virginia rose and introduced a resolution that echoed like a thunderclap through the chamber: "That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States." The words were simple, but their implications were revolutionary. To adopt such a resolution meant severing all ties with Britain—political, economic, and emotional. It meant stepping into the unknown.

The Congress hesitated. Some delegates feared that declaring independence would provoke harsher British retaliation. Others worried that the colonies were not yet united enough to stand alone. But the tide of events was pushing them forward. The British fleet off New York, the fighting in Canada, the collapse of royal government—all pointed toward the same conclusion.

As debate continued, Congress took another momentous step. On June 11, it appointed a committee to draft a declaration explaining the reasons for independence. Thomas Jefferson, the youngest member, was chosen to write the first draft. He worked in a rented room, quill scratching late into the night, shaping the grievances of a people into a statement of universal rights. His draft, completed on June 28, would soon become the Declaration of Independence.



Meanwhile, Congress also began planning for the future. On June 12, it appointed a committee to draft the Articles of Confederation—the first attempt to create a national government. Even before independence was declared, the delegates were laying the foundations of a new political order.

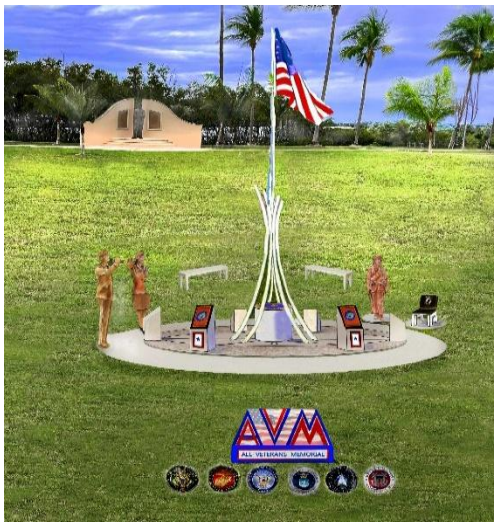
By the final days of June, the colonies stood on the edge of transformation. The British were preparing to strike at New York with overwhelming force. The southern colonies had tasted victory at Sullivan's Island. The northern frontier was in retreat. And in Philadelphia, the delegates were preparing to vote on the question that would change everything.

The world of late May and June 1776 was a world in motion—armies marching, governments collapsing, new ones rising. It was a moment of fear and hope, of uncertainty and resolve. The Revolution, once a struggle for rights within the empire, had become a struggle to create a new nation.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE!
SUFFOLK, THE ALL VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE, AND THE CITY OF FORT MYERS MARK THE START OF CONSTRUCTION ON All VETERANS MEMORIAL

FORT MYERS, Fla. – May 15, 2026 - Following the issuance of permits from the City of Fort Myers, Suffolk, one of the most innovative and successful builders in the country, has begun construction of the All Veterans Memorial in Fort Myers. The memorial will serve as a tribute honoring the service and sacrifice of veterans across Southwest Florida ahead of the nation's 250th anniversary. Located downtown in Centennial Park, the memorial will serve as a place of reflection, remembrance and community gathering.

The All Veterans Memorial is intended to address a longstanding community desire for a dedicated space recognizing the service of local veterans while creating a meaningful public destination in Fort Myers. Suffolk is contributing its construction management services, design coordination and permitting services in kind. Trade partners have also donated their services to support the effort.



Prior articles published in the Caloosa Patriot have reported on the efforts of our Caloosa Chapter SAR Compatriot, Earl Kennedy, and the Combat Infantrymen's Association, Inc., of which he is a member, to bring a monument dedicated to all veterans, and those presently serving the nation, to Fort Myers. The group named their proposed sculpture the ***All Veterans Memorial Monument*** (the "AVMM"). The Mission of the All Veterans Memorial, Inc. is ***"To design, fund, install and support a commemorative memorial honoring all veterans and families of veterans from every branch of military service in the United States of America."***

Construction has now been commenced, but fundraising is still ongoing. Our Compatriot, Earl Kennedy explains: "We are trying to create a nest egg for anything that might be needed as we design and place some plaques of honor for some groups, companies , individuals etc. Fundraising is important, and all donations are 100% deductible under current tax laws. Any and all donations are gratefully accepted."

For more information, and to donate, click here to follow link: Home | AVM, Inc.

Or, alternately, click here to follow link: https://www.avmemorial.org

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Nation Set To Celebrate Birthday Of The 'STAR SPANGLED BANNER' On Flag Day June 14, 2026



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

In the United States, Flag Day is celebrated on June 14, and commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777 by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. The United States Army also celebrates the US Army Birthday (June 14, 1775) on this date.

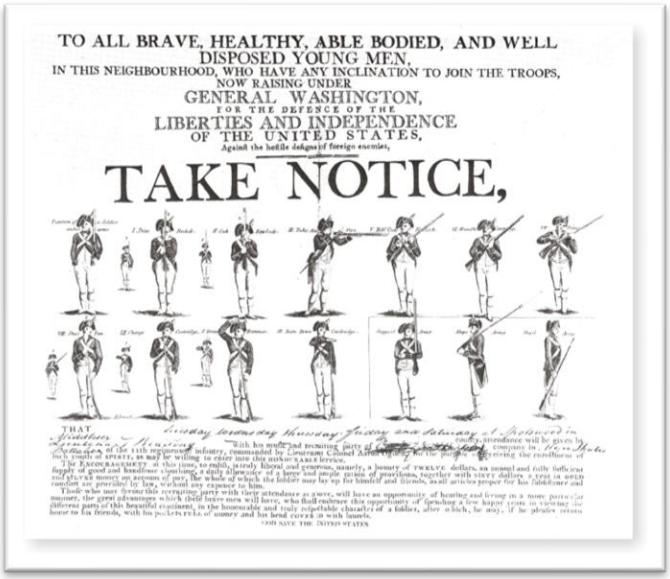
In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day; and in August 1946, National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress.



140th US Flag Day Poster (1777 - 1917) The birthday of the Stars and Stripes, June 14, 1917.
'Tis the Star-Spangled Banner, oh, long may it wave, o'er the land of the free and home of the brave!'

Library of Congress description: "Poster showing a man raising the American flag,
With a Minuteman cheering and an eagle flying above."

Washington's Rising Anxiety: The Army at the Edge of Collapse, Early Summer 1776


TO ALL BRAVE, HEALTHY, ABLE BODIED, AND WELL DISPOSED YOUNG MEN,
IN THIS NEIGHBOURHOOD, WHO HAVE ANY INCLINATION TO JOIN THE TROOPS, NOW RAISING UNDER
GENERAL WASHINGTON,
FOR THE DEFENCE OF THE
LIBERTIES AND INDEPENDENCE
OF THE UNITED STATES,
Against the hostile designs of foreign enemies,
TAKE NOTICE,

When the British evacuated Boston in March 1776, many Americans celebrated the moment as a decisive victory. But **General George Washington** felt no triumph. Even as church bells rang and crowds cheered, he was already looking southward, toward New York — the next and far more dangerous battleground. And as spring turned toward summer, Washington's private letters reveal a commander who feared that his army, fragile even during the Boston siege, was now on the brink of falling apart entirely.

The crisis had begun months earlier, when enlistments expired at the start of the year. In January, Washington warned **Joseph Reed** that the army was evaporating beneath him: "*Few people know the predicament we are in.*" He explained that he was attempting something nearly impossible: "*Search the volumes of history through, and I much question whether a case similar to ours is to be found… to have one army disbanded, and another to raise, within the same distance of a reinforced enemy; it is too much to attempt.*"

Washington managed to hold the siege lines long enough to force the British out of Boston, but the victory masked a deeper truth: the Continental Army was not ready for a real war. It was a collection of short-term enlistees, militiamen who came and went unpredictably, and officers who had never commanded more than a handful of men before 1775.

As the army marched to New York in April and May, Washington's anxiety sharpened. The British were preparing the largest expeditionary force in their history — tens of thousands of soldiers and sailors — and Washington knew he would soon face them with an army that was, in his own words, "*deficient in every thing*."

The Army's Condition Worsens



By early summer, the problems that had plagued the army in Boston had grown worse. Supplies were scarce. Pay was months in arrears. Discipline was weak. Desertion increased. And the militia, whose enthusiasm had briefly surged after the British retreat, began drifting home again.

Washington's letters from May and June show a commander who felt the ground shifting beneath him. Writing to **John Hancock** and the Continental Congress, he warned repeatedly that the army was not prepared for the coming storm. In one letter, he confessed that he had been forced to hide the truth: "*I have been obliged to conceal the true state of the army from my friends, and indeed from my own army.*" The situation was so precarious that Washington feared even his officers might lose confidence if they knew how weak the army truly was.

The Militia Problem Explodes

The militia — always Washington's greatest frustration — became an even greater burden in New York. They arrived without proper arms, stayed only briefly, and often refused to perform basic duties. Washington vented his anger privately to **Joseph Reed**, writing that when the militia "*come you cannot tell how, go you cannot tell when, and act you cannot tell where.*" This was not exaggeration. Militia units appeared in camp with no officers, no training, and no intention of staying beyond a few weeks. Some refused to serve under Continental officers. Others demanded to return home for planting season. Washington knew that such men could not be relied upon to defend New York against a professional army.

Washington's Most Revealing Admission

The most striking window into Washington's state of mind comes from a letter he wrote on March 31, 1776, to his brother **John Augustine Washington** — a letter whose significance becomes even clearer when read in the context of the early summer crisis. "*I*

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believe I may with great truth affirm that no man perhaps since the first institution of armies ever commanded one under more difficult circumstances than I have done." Then, he added that the difficulties were so numerous that "*to enumerate the particulars would fill a volume.*"



By June, those difficulties had multiplied. The army was now spread across a vast defensive perimeter in New York, attempting to fortify Brooklyn, Manhattan, Governors Island, Paulus Hook, and the Hudson Highlands — all with troops who were sick, unpaid, poorly trained, and increasingly demoralized.

Disease and Desertion

As summer heat settled over the city, disease swept through the camps. Smallpox, dysentery, and fevers thinned the ranks. Washington had already written to Congress earlier in the year about the danger of smallpox, warning that it could "*ruin the army*" if not contained. In New York, his fears were realized. Entire companies were rendered unfit for duty. Desertion also increased. Men who had enlisted for short terms saw no reason to remain in a city they believed would soon be attacked by the full might of the British Empire. Washington wrote to **Hancock** that the army was "*melting away daily*."

The British Threat Grows



Meanwhile, British ships began appearing off the coast. By late June, more than a hundred vessels crowded the waters around Staten Island, with more arriving every day. Washington climbed vantage points to watch the fleet assemble, knowing that each new mast represented another regiment he would soon have to face. He wrote to **Congress** that the enemy's force was "*beyond any thing we have ever seen*," and that the Continental Army was "*not equal to the task before us*" unless drastic measures were taken.

A Commander Alone With His Fears

Washington rarely revealed his deepest anxieties to anyone but his closest confidants. To the public, he projected calm determination. To Congress, he offered sober assessments. But in private letters — especially those to **Joseph Reed** and **John Augustine** — he allowed glimpses of the burden he carried.

He feared that the Revolution might fail not because of British strength, but because of American weakness. The army was not yet a real army. It was a fragile, temporary force held together by his own will and the hope that Congress would eventually create a permanent establishment.

The Summer Crisis



By the beginning of summer 1776, Washington commanded an army that was:

- **understrength**, with thousands sick or absent
- **poorly trained**, especially the militia
- **unpaid**, breeding resentment and desertion
- **undersupplied**, lacking tents, clothing, and ammunition
- **spread too thin**, defending too many positions
- **facing the largest British force ever sent overseas**

Washington knew the truth: if the British attacked swiftly and decisively, the Continental Army might not survive the first blow. And yet, despite the fear he confided to his brother — that "*no man… ever commanded one under more difficult circumstances*" — he refused to yield. He drilled the troops, strengthened the fortifications, and prepared for the inevitable assault. The anxiety never left him. But neither did his resolve.

[Editor's note: This article will be continued in the next issue of The Caloosa Patriot.]

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. Each of our Patriot ancestors' contributions combined to bring about the birth of the United States of America. Mark and Christine enjoy writing about the Revolutionary War exploits of our own Patriot ancestors! And what great stories they are indeed. What follows is the story they wrote regarding the service of Captain Thomas Goorley, the Patriot ancestor of our Compatriot Kevin Gourley.

Some Land Grants Came At A Cost

By Compatriot Kevin Gourley (With Christine A. Racine and Compatriot Mark Barie)

My patriot was Thomas Goorley [family name later 'morphed' to Gourley], a Captain in the Pennsylvania Militia. He fought at the Battle of Kings Mountain, in South Carolina. It was an unusual battle, fought among and between Americans. Loyalists on one side and Patriot supporters in the fight for independence, on the other side.



Major Patrick Ferguson commanded approximately 1000 Loyalist militiamen. The Patriots, with a force of 900 mounted riflemen, fought smart and hard. When the loyalist leader, Ferguson, was shot and killed on the battlefield, his army gave up the fight. The patriots would suffer 28 killed in action and 60 wounded. The Loyalists would lose 255 killed in action, 160 wounded, and more than 600 captured.

Incidentally, there was no mountain at Kings Mountain, it was simply a long, narrow, wooden bridge. The Patriot victory at Kings Mountain would be critical to America's eventual victories at Cowpens and Yorktown. Captain Gourley, however, would not make history until *after* he mustered out of the army.



It is well known that tens of thousands of patriots, who served in the Revolutionary War, received land grants. Free land from the government. A typical federal grant for a captain was at least 300 acres. Gourley's land grant, located in what was then Washington County, North Carolina, was part of the Watauga Settlement.

Tom had neighbors, John Sevier and John Tipton, who would become two of the most influential members of their community. Independent-minded settlers, like Sevier and Tipton, felt ignored by distant North Carolina and began to discuss forming a government of their own. In August of 1784, they organized a convention, and the Convention of 1784 became a significant political event where settlers in the western lands of North Carolina gathered to discuss their future governance. Sevier served as President of the Convention, and delegates debated the challenges of distant state control, land claims, and the desire for self-rule.

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Ultimately, it was decided to take advantage of the law in North Carolina which, at the time, allowed for secession. They declared the Watauga region an independent state. The new state would be named the Franklin, in honor of Benjamin Franklin. Sevier, Revolutionary War frontier hero of the Battle of Kings Mountain, and a natural leader, became the face of the movement, promising stability and self-rule, and was elected Governor of the State of Franklin. Meanwhile, John Tipton, equally influential but fiercely loyal to North Carolina, saw Franklin as a reckless breakaway that threatened lawful order.



There followed a two-year period of absolute confusion. Both the new State of Franklin and the State of North Carolina levied taxes on the residents of the Watauga region. The locals, uncertain as to what they should do, decided to pay no taxes at all.

When North Carolina invalidated their secession laws, the real fighting began. The tax records were stolen and then hidden. There was bloodshed, jail time, arrests on both sides of the battle, and charges of "rebellion". The rivalry between Sevier and Tipton—part political, part personal—culminated in the tense Tipton-Sevier Affair of 1788, when armed men faced off at Tipton's farm and the dream of Franklin began to collapse.

When Franklin finally dissolved in 1789, settlers like Thomas Goorley did not abandon the idea of self-government. Instead, they shifted toward a more patient, legally grounded path. North Carolina ceded its western lands to the federal government, and Congress organized the region as the Southwest Territory in 1790. To the surprise of many, President George Washington appointed none other than John Sevier—the former "governor" of Franklin, and Tipton's old rival—as brigadier general of the territorial militia, signaling that past controversies would not bar capable men from national service.

Under territorial governor William Blount, the region grew rapidly. Settlers poured in, towns expanded, and the population soon surpassed the threshold required for statehood. By 1795, the people voted overwhelmingly to form a new state, and a convention drafted a constitution.

The final step rested with George Washington, whose approval was essential. Washington reviewed the territory's petition, population returns, and constitutional framework, and in 1796 he formally transmitted the request to Congress with his support. Congress agreed, and on June 1, 1796, Tennessee entered the Union as the 16th state. Sevier, still the most popular figure on the frontier, was chosen as the first governor-elect.

Thus the frontier that once fractured into the rival camps of Sevier and Tipton became part of the expanding American republic. Sevier rose to lead the new state he had long envisioned, while Tipton—though he had opposed Franklin—lived to see a lawful, federally recognized Tennessee take its place in the Union. Their conflict had marked the uncertainty of the early republic. However, the creation of Tennessee, with Washington's steady hand guiding the process, marked its maturation.



The Watauga region became a part of Carter County in the brand-new state of Tennessee.

And when the first tax rolls of Carter County were issued, my Patriot, who served in the Pennsylvania Militia, fought in the State of South Carolina, settled in the State of North Carolina, and was discharged from the army in the State of Virginia, was listed as a homeowner in the State of Tennessee.

Five states and 250 years later, I am *still* the proud descendent of Thomas Gourley.

Honor Our Fallen Soldiers This Memorial Day And Every Day Thereafter



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



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

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

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



In Flanders fields

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

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

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

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



Unsung Heroes of the American Revolution
Charles Gravier, Compte de Vergennes (1719 – 1787)
French Diplomat Who Was The Quiet Architect Of American Independence



Charles Gravier, Comete de Vergennes (Foreign Minister) Oil on Canvass Portrait by Antoine-Francois Callet, 1780, Palace of Versailles, Versailles, France

Charles Gravier, Comte de Vergennes, is probably the least known of any of the "unsung heroes" that I have written about in this series. However, his importance to the success of the American Revolution can never be overstated. In fact, Gravier was not merely France's foreign minister during the American Revolution—he was, in many ways, the quiet architect of American independence. Without his strategic patience, diplomatic finesse, and unwavering commitment to weakening Britain, the Revolution might well have collapsed under the weight of its own shortages and diplomatic isolation. His importance is so fundamental that one can argue the United States owes its existence as much to Vergennes' decisions in Versailles as to Washington's victories in the field. And you probably never heard of him!

A Diplomat Who Saw the Future Before Anyone Else. When the American rebellion erupted in 1775, most European statesmen dismissed it as a passing colonial disturbance. Vergennes saw something different. He recognized that the revolt offered France a rare opportunity to reverse the humiliation of the Seven Years' War, restore French prestige, and shatter Britain's global dominance. But he also understood the risks: open support for the Americans could trigger a premature war with Britain, one France was not yet ready to fight.

Thus, from the very beginning, Vergennes pursued a careful, calculated strategy—one that balanced covert aid, diplomatic ambiguity, and long-term preparation. His vision was not ideological; it was geopolitical. Yet his realism ultimately served the American cause better than any idealistic enthusiasm could have.

The Lifeline of Covert Aid. Before France dared to openly support the Revolution, Vergennes ensured that the Americans received the supplies they desperately needed. Through the fictitious trading company *Roderigue Hortalez & Co.*, he funneled muskets, gunpowder, uniforms, and money across the Atlantic. This covert pipeline—organized with the help of playwright-turned-spy Pierre Beaumarchais—kept the Continental Army alive during its most fragile early years.

By 1777, French aid accounted for the majority of American gunpowder. Without it, Washington's army could not have fought at Trenton, Princeton, or Saratoga. Vergennes understood that revolutions do not survive on ideals alone; they require matériel, and he ensured the Americans had it.

The Turning Point: Saratoga and the Treaty of Alliance. The American victory at Saratoga in October 1777 was the moment Vergennes had been waiting for. It proved the Americans could win—and that supporting them would not be a futile gesture. But even then, he moved with caution. He needed to be certain that France would not fight Britain alone. Spain, France's Bourbon ally, was reluctant to join the war. Britain, meanwhile, was offering the Americans sweeping concessions to lure them back into the empire.

Vergennes acted decisively. He invited Benjamin Franklin to Versailles and negotiated the **Treaty of Amity and Commerce** and the **Treaty of Alliance** in early 1778. These agreements recognized American independence and committed France to war with Britain until that independence was secured.
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This was the single most important diplomatic victory of the entire Revolution. It transformed the conflict from a colonial rebellion into a global war. Britain now faced not only the Continental Army but the French navy, French money, and French military power.

Managing Allies, Containing Rivals. Vergennes' work did not end with the alliance. He had to manage a volatile coalition of American, French, and later Spanish interests—each with its own goals and suspicions. He navigated these tensions with remarkable skill.

He restrained American ambitions when they threatened to alienate Spain, particularly regarding the Mississippi River. He kept Spain engaged even when its priorities diverged from France's. And, he prevented Britain from driving a wedge between the allies through secret peace overtures. Vergennes' diplomacy ensured that the alliance held together long enough to achieve decisive results.

The French Navy and the Road to Yorktown. Vergennes was not a military commander, but his decisions shaped the strategic environment that made Yorktown possible. He championed a naval strategy that prioritized the Caribbean and American coasts, forcing Britain to stretch its fleet thin. He supported sending the Comte de Rochambeau and thousands of French troops to America. And he backed Admiral de Grasse's bold move to sail north from the Caribbean in 1781. The result was the Battle of the Chesapeake, where de Grasse's fleet defeated the British navy and sealed off Cornwallis' escape route. Without French naval supremacy—made possible by Vergennes' long-term planning—the victory at Yorktown would not have occurred.

Securing Peace on American Terms. Even after Yorktown, the war was not over. Britain hoped to negotiate a separate peace with the Americans. Vergennes insisted that the alliance remain intact and that American independence be non-negotiable. Although the American commissioners briefly negotiated behind his back, Vergennes ultimately accepted the preliminary terms because they achieved the essential goal: recognition of the United States. His restraint prevented a diplomatic rupture and ensured that the final Treaty of Paris in 1783 reflected the new geopolitical reality he had helped create.

Why Vergennes Matters. Charles Gravier de Vergennes was indispensable to the American Revolution for three overarching reasons:

1. **He provided the early lifeline**—supplies, money, and diplomatic cover—that kept the rebellion alive.
2. **He secured the alliance** that transformed the war and made American victory possible.
3. **He managed the international dimensions** of the conflict with extraordinary skill, ensuring that France's support remained steady and effective.

Washington won battles. Franklin charmed courts. But Vergennes built the world in which American independence could become a reality. His legacy is subtle, diplomatic, and often overshadowed by the drama of the battlefield. Yet without him, the Revolution might have been remembered as a noble failure rather than the birth of a nation.



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.

What's the Buzz . . . Tell Me What's Happening!
News From The FLSSAR Spring 2026 BOM



Audrey Golden (bottom left) holds her 1st Place FLSSAR Youth Contest Winning Poster Depicting "The Boston Tea Party" While Her Dad, Josh Golden, Brother, Caleb, and Sister, Abigail, Celebrate With Her

SHE DID IT!!!

Great News! Audrey Golden - our Chapter's entrant in the Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest – has won 1st Place at the 2026 Florida Society SAR Spring Board of Management meeting. Those of us who attended the April Chapter Meeting saw Audrey's poster, as well as that of her sister, Abigail, and were very impressed with each. Audrey's Tea Party depiction won 1st Place at our Chapter level, and now that she has also won 1st Place at the FLSSAR level, her poster will go on to compete nationally at the National Congress this coming

More FLSSAR News Notes From The Spring BOM

·Your successful completion of the *Youth Protection Training Course* will be recorded

·The Americanism and Chapter Challenge committees will now be reduced to one standing committee (instead of two)

·The Younger Member Committee is now a standing committee



Our Caloosa Chapter SAR Compatriot, Jonathan Hunt, was elected the new President of the Florida Society Sons of the American Revolution

New Florida Society SAR Officers:

President, Jonathan Hunt Sr VP Doug Gibbens

NW Regional VP, Graham Fountain NE Regional VP, Robert Amason
NC Regional VP, David Hitchcock EC Regional VP, Robin Preston
WC Regional VP, Walter Young SW Regional VP, Phil Theiler
SE Regional VP, Charles Adams, II

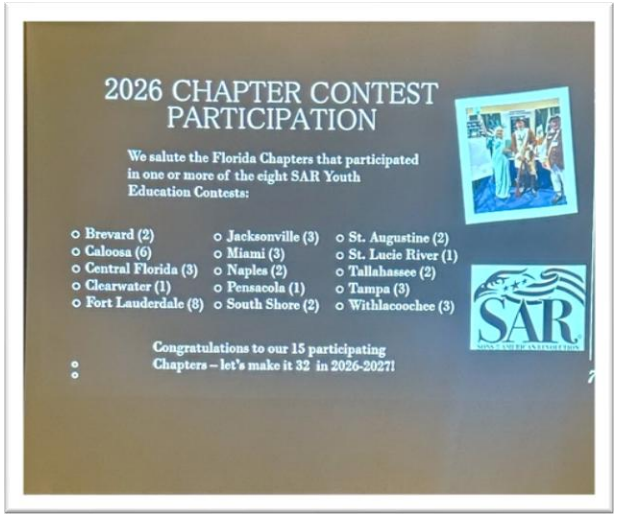
Secretary, Scott Breckenridge Treasurer, William Wagner-Hart
Registrar, Ray Lantz At-Large ExCom, Hampton Allen
Recording Secretary, Randall Allen Sergeant-at-Arms, Philip Markoe
Chaplain, Larry Burns, Jr Chancellor, Charles Klug
Genealogist, Brian Jensen Historian, Kevin Shurte
Editor, Jeff Sizemore
National Trustee, Chris Washler (past president)
Alt National Trustee, Jonathan Hunt

*Note that the Webmaster is no longer an officer, but appointed along with the Parliamentarian.

More Photos from the FLSSAR Spring BOM Meeting



Ari Hogsed with (now) Past-President Washler



Caloosa Chapter SAR Shows Well in 2026 Chapter Youth Contest Participation



Caloosa Chapter SAR Compatriot Levi Golden addressing the BOM as President of the C.A.R.



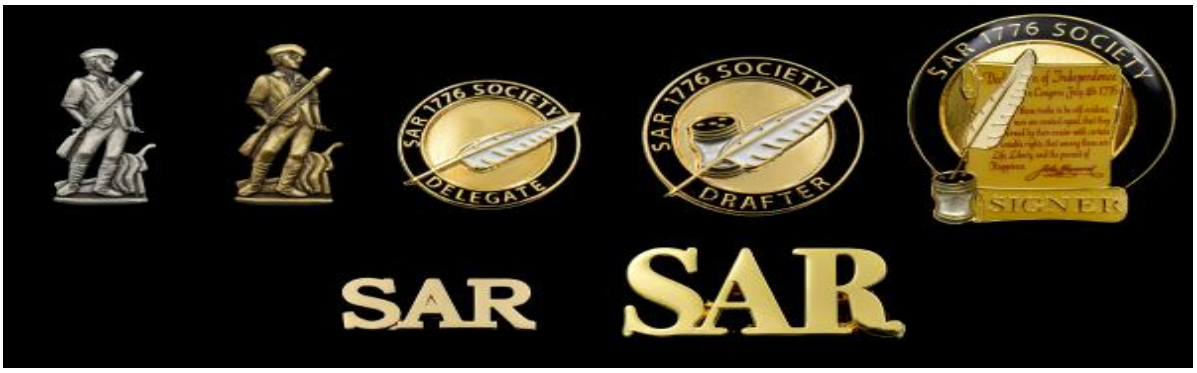
Youth Contest Display at BOM



Rachel Michel with President Parfitt at the BOM



Pres. Parfitt with Ari and Ezrah Hogsed at the BOM



Dear Compatriot,

The SAR 1776 Campaign recognizes support of the SAR Education Center & Museum through distinctive commemorative lapel pins and museum recognition opportunities.

These lapel pins are visible symbols of dedication to preserving the legacy of the American Revolution and the future of the SAR. Worn proudly at chapter meetings, Congress, and leadership events, fellow compatriots immediately recognize the significance of these distinctions and the commitment they represent.

Many members enjoy adding each level to their SAR collection while advancing toward higher recognition within the campaign. In addition to the lapel pins, Quill-level donors receive permanent recognition within the museum.

• **Bronze Quill** — $5,328 • **Silver Quill** — $8,880
• **Gold Quill** — $17,760



Click Here to Contribute to the 1776 Campaign

Click Here to Download the 1776 Campaign Pledge Card

These quills will remain on display within the SAR Education Center & Museum as a lasting tribute to those helping preserve our nation's history for future generations. Partial donations are accepted and may be applied toward future recognition levels. Thank you for your time and please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions. I would love to speak with you!

Sincerely,

Amanda Holmquist

Amanda Holmquist
SAR Foundation Fundraising Manager
aholmquist@sar.org
502.588.6125

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 30 (FALL 2026): OCTOBER 10, 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 30
October 10, 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 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.