SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

CALOOSA PATRIOT

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John L. Maier, Jr. - Newsletter Editor

British Regulars Kill Eight Militiamen And Wound Ten More on Lexington Green! Then Seize Patriot Arsenal In Concord! Colonial Militia Exacts Sweet Revenge During British Retreat Along The Bloody Battle Road

(April 19, 1775)



The Battle of Lexington as depicted in a 1910 portrait by William Barnes Wollen

In the Spring of 1775, General Thomas Gage, the British governor of Massachusetts, received instructions from England to seize all stores of weapons and gunpowder accessible to the American insurgents. On April 18th, he ordered a force of around 700 soldiers on a secret expedition into the countryside to seize and destroy arms and supplies and disrupt the colonists' warlike preparations. His target was the town of Concord, 18 miles northwest of Boston, where he had learned a considerable quantity of these arms and supplies were stockpiled. The expedition consisted of 21 companies of Grenadiers and Light Infantry, the elite soldiers of the army. Grenadiers were chosen for their height and courage. They wore distinctive bear-fur caps which added to their height and frightening appearance. Light Infantry were soldiers chosen for their physical speed, stamina and intelligence. They were trained to spread out, take advantage of cover, and skirmish with the enemy. Their uniforms were adapted to this service with short coats and leather caps instead of brimmed hats which helped them move more easily through woods. As we know, the "secret" plan was quickly discovered, riders were sent from Boston to warn of the approach of the Regulars, and when the British troops reached Lexington, a group of militiamen was waiting. [Continued on Page 2]

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The British light infantry halted about a half mile from Lexington Green in order to load their muskets. They then continued their advance. When they approached the Green, they discovered Captain John Parker's Company of about 77 militiamen formed up and in the open. British Major of Marines John Pitcairn ordered the Americans to lay down their arms and disperse. Then someone fired a shot. In a flash, there were competing musket volleys from both sides. The British light infantry then rushed onto the Green with fixed bayonets and fired upon the retreating militia. Eight American militiamen died on the town common in Lexington. Ten others were wounded. Three British soldiers were wounded. Captain Parker worked to collect what was left of his company and take them back into the fight later that afternoon. Meanwhile, the British moved on to Concord, where another force of colonials met them. This time, the American force included Minute Companies in addition to the regular militia. General Gage, in his orders to Lt. Col. Smith, commander of the British expedition to Concord, had directed that Smith take control of the two bridges in town, the South Bridge and the North Bridge. When the Regulars first entered Concord, the American militia, outnumbered 3 to 1, retreated over the North Bridge to a hill nearly a mile beyond called Punkatasset. There they waited for reinforcements.

As the British carried out their mission to destroy the military supplies the Americans had collected, they soon found themselves rapidly becoming outnumbered by the roughly one thousand colonials now in the field. The minutemen and militia advanced from Punkatasset Hill to a field on high ground overlooking the North Bridge. The British companies left to guard the North Bridge were still on the same side of the river as the Americans. Smoke from the British fires burning supplies was seen rising above the roofs of the town and the Americans assumed the town was being destroyed. The decision was made to march the militiamen to the North Bridge and engage the British soldiers there. However, American Col. James Barrett further directed his men as follows: "Do not fire unless first fired upon . . ."

The British soldiers pulled back to the east side of the bridge and hastily organized for defense. As the colonial column advanced toward the British position, a succession of three shots rang out from the British side and landed in the river on the right of the advancing minutemen. Luther Blanchard, a fifer from Acton cried out that he had been wounded. Major John Buttrick of Concord then gave the fateful order: "Fire for God's sake, fire!" This was the first time colonial militiamen were ordered to fire on British soldiers.

In all, twelve British soldiers were hit, three of them fatally. Four out of eight officers present were wounded. The rest of the British soldiers broke and fell back in disorder towards Concord. The day was still young, and yet so far there had already been fighting at Lexington Green at around 5:00 a.m. where the first colonists were killed, and again at about 9:30 a.m. at Concord's North Bridge where the first British soldiers died. Indeed, the situation was about to get much worse as the British column moved out east from Concord center on the road back to Boston. They were attacked by newly arrived minute and militia companies from Reading, Chelmsford and Billerica at a road junction called Merriam's Corner. The British had to pull in their flanking guard to cross a brook. The colonists took advantage of this choke point and opened fire. This action was the start of what came to be known as the "Battle Road."

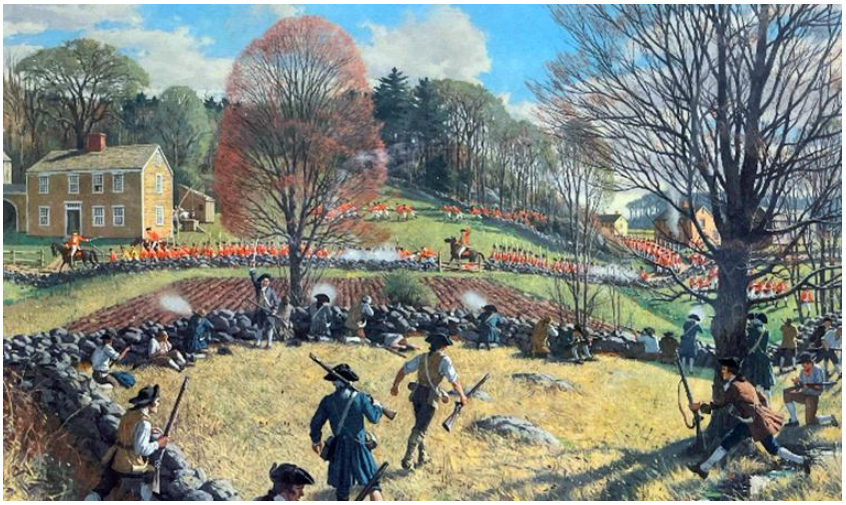


After destroying the military supplies they had seized in Concord, British troops were ordered to return to Boston. As the British retraced their journey, their lines were constantly beset by Patriot militia and minute companies firing at them from behind trees, rocks and stone walls.

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[Continued from Page 2] The British were now witness to what Gen. Thomas Gage had hoped to avoid by dispatching the expedition in secrecy and in the dark of night – namely, the ability of the colonial militiamen to rise and converge by the thousands when British forces ventured out of Boston. They had not counted on a long fight and so had not brought additional ammunition beyond the standard issue in the soldiers' cartridge boxes.

A 'running fight' began as the British continued their retreat. Militiamen knew the local countryside and were familiar with "skulking" or "Indian warfare." They used trees and other obstacles to cover themselves from British gunfire and pursuit by British soldiers, while the militia were firing and moving. This kept the British under constant fire and caused them to exhaust their limited ammunition.



Aiden Lassell Ripley (1876-1969), Retreat from Lexington at the Foot of the Rocks. A.2.509. Arlington Historical Society Collections

Companies from Framingham and Sudbury soon arrived from the south and engaged the British column on their right flank at a place called Brooks Hill. The British charged up the hill to drive them off. The colonists did not withdraw but instead inflicted significant casualties on the attackers. The British withdrew and the column continued on, but more and more militia companies continued to arrive and engage the Brits.

Militia forces continued to arrive, raising the total militia present to about 2,000 men. When the British column neared the boundary between Lincoln and Lexington, it encountered yet another ambush from a hill overlooking the road set by Captain John Parker and his Lexington militiamen, including some of them bandaged up from the encounter earlier in the day. The ground chosen by Parker's company overlooked the road and a narrow bridge that the Regulars would have to pass over. It was also wooded and strewn with large boulders for cover. When the advance guard of the British column crossed the bridge, Parker's men opened fire. At this point, Lt. Col. Smith was wounded in the thigh and knocked from his horse. Major John Pitcairn assumed effective command of the column but took still more casualties from ambushes set by fresh militia companies joining the battle. In one of the musket volleys from the colonial soldiers, Major Pitcairn's horse bolted in fright, throwing Pitcairn to the ground and injuring his arm. At this point both principal leaders of the British expedition were injured, their men were tired, thirsty and lacking in ammunition.



Colonial militia on Battle Road

Just at the point when surrender was at hand, cheering was heard – it was a full brigade of about 1,000 British troops with artillery under the command of Hugh Earl Percy who had arrived to rescue them. It was about 2:30 p.m. and the British column had now been on the march since 2 o'clock in the morning. After a brief rest and time to tend the wounded at Munroe Tavern in Lexington, the British column (now under the command of Percy) resumed their march to Boston. But the fight wasn't over yet. Indeed, some of the most difficult and brutal fighting took place as the column entered more thickly settled areas closer to Boston proper. In their accounts written afterward, British officers and soldiers alike complained that the colonial troops fired at them from behind cover, rather than confronting them in large linear formations in the style of European warfare. However, reflecting on the British experience that day, Hugh Earl Percy showed he understood the significance of the American tactics: *"During the whole affair, the Rebels attacked us in a very scattered, irregular manner, but with perseverance & resolution. . . Whoever looks upon them as an irregular mob will find himself much mistaken . . . They have men amongst them who know very well what they are about, having been employed as Rangers against the Indians & Canadians, & this country being much covered with wood, and hilly, is very advantageous for their method of fighting."*

When the British column finally stopped and took a defensive position on Bunker Hill, covered by the guns of the fleet, the engagement came to an end. British casualties were 73 killed, 174 wounded, 26 missing. Colonial casualties were 49 killed, 41 wounded, 5 missing.

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The American Militia and
Minutemen of 1775
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A Message From Our President



Greetings to All!

It's hard to believe that following our May 10th Chapter meeting, we will be taking our summer break. I have a few miscellaneous notes before we break for the summer.

I first want to thank the members of the ExCom for the extraordinary work they have done. At the May meeting we will distribute copies of the New Members Orientation Manual to all members of the Chapter. The work that members of the New Member Committee have done to produce this Manual, and develop a mentorship program, is greatly appreciated and will no doubt lead to many more, and better directed, future Caloosa Chapter SAR Compatriots! Without the work undertaken by the members of the ExCom, we would not have had the success we have experienced so far this year.

As we head into the second half of the year, and conduct our October, November and December meetings, I would like to hear from anyone interested in joining this superb ExCom group. We have possible openings for Vice-President and Treasurer and other positions in the coming year. Anyone interested can contact either myself or our current Vice-President, Rick Parfitt. We would be happy to speak with you.

I am pleased to report that several others and I will be representing our Caloosa Chapter at the upcoming Spring BOM in Orlando. The Fall BOM is where State Officers are elected. If there is anything you wish me to bring up at BOM, please let me know.

Just a reminder, on May 1st I will have the honor of presenting a $1,500 scholarship check to an outstanding Lee County JROTC student. The Lee County Schools have named the presentation ceremony after our own Chapter Compatriot, General James L. Dozier.

I urge everyone to get their meeting reservations in as soon as possible for our May 10th meeting. It's a big help for me, as I need the numbers to order our meals.

And to all, please have an enjoyable and safe summer. If I don't have the pleasure of seeing you on May 10th, I look forward to seeing you all in the Fall.

At Your Service,

Jeff

Jeffrey Brunelle, President
Caloosa Chapter FLSSAR

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SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Chapter Officers for 2024-2025



Immediate Past President
and Treasurer
Edward “Mike” Buff



President
Jeffrey F. Brunelle



Vice-President
Richard “Rick” Parfitt



Genealogist
Dr. Ronald L. Peck



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



Registrar
Chris Jenner



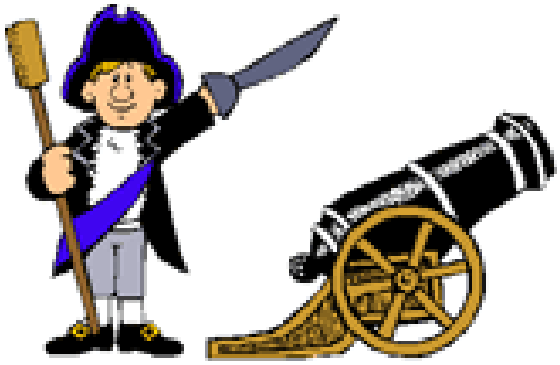
Member-at-Large
Jonathan Hunt



Chaplain
Rev. Dr. Randy Moody

Caloosa Chapter SAR

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye! May Meeting Notice



Chapter Meetings Are Held At Famous Daves

Looking Ahead
Caloosa Chapter SAR
2024-2025 Revised Meeting Schedule

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

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

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

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

THE NEXT CALOOSA CHAPTER MEETING WILL BE HELD:
SATURDAY MAY 10, 2025 AT:
FAMOUS DAVE'S BBQ RESTAURANT

12148 South Cleveland Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33903



(At the Intersection of Cleveland Ave. and Crystal Drive)

Our Program: "REMEMBER THE MAINE" will be presented by:

Caloosa Chapter SAR Compatriot Mark Barie

Mark is an award-winning author, having published five novels in the last six years. One of his books is about the mysterious explosion of the USS Maine, which triggered the Spanish-American War. Mark's extensive research on the subject led him to a conclusion which will shock you! His presentation will place you at the scene of the explosion and will be interactive. He will be asking you, as his fellow Compatriots, for your opinion as to who, what, and why, the USS Maine was destroyed.

Lunch Buffet Menu:
St. Louis Style Spareribs, BBQ Chicken, Cornbread Muffins,
Fresh Steamed Broccoli, Dave's Cheesy Macaroni, 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 quickly 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.

A Report on the April 9th Caloosa Chapter SAR Meeting: Promoting the Mission of Women Veteran Warriors

More than 2,300 years ago, the Greek philosopher, Plato, complained loudly as follows: *"What is happening to our young people? They disrespect their elders. They disobey their parents. They ignore the laws. They riot in the streets inflamed with wild notions. Their morals are decaying. What is to become of them?"*

Today, while I sometimes find myself shaking my head in disapproval at the behavior of some of the younger members of our society, I took heart to think that if Plato happened to find himself in attendance at the Caloosa Chapter SAR Meeting on April 9th, he would have been forced to reconsider his position after hearing the presentation made by our speaker, US Air Force Veteran, Tiana Bohrer.

Tiana introduced herself as a native of Billings, Montana, who, as a high school student, lived through the "911" terrorist attack on the Twin Towers in NYC – an event which changed the course of her life. Upon graduation, she enlisted in the USAF, entered basic training, and embarked on a remarkable journey that ever since has intertwined military service, medical expertise, and a deep commitment to our country's veterans.



Sharing some stories of basic training experiences with Tiana Bohrer

Tiana's pride in the USAF was apparent to all of us as she recounted her service as an aerospace medical technician in the United States Air Force at Luke Air Force Base in Phoenix, AZ. She related how she provided hands-on emergency life support, conducted minor procedures and also saved lives by identifying suicidal conditions in active-duty airmen. While earning the Global War on Terrorism Medal and National Defense Service Medal, she also ensured Air Force Global readiness by screening deploying personnel for duty-impacting conditions.

Post military service, Tiana transitioned to certified Surgical Technologist in 2016 and Surgical First Assistant in 2021. Tiana secured scholarships from prestigious medical organizations as well as the local Uncommon Friends Foundation. She is currently the Pediatric and Robotic clinical specialist at Healthpark and Golisano Children's Hospital here in Fort Myers. Her commitment to improved healthcare has included lobbying efforts in advocating for protection from surgical smoke in operating rooms.

But she didn't stop there.

Tiana's advocacy and passion for veterans persists through her hands-on involvement with the Collier-Lee Honor Flight Program and has served as a guardian for five Korean/Vietnam war veterans during their trips to D.C., as well as the welcome home parade at RSW Airport.

And still she didn't stop expanding her service to vets, not by a long shot!

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Tiana recognized the need for a local women veterans social support group and founded the nonprofit Women Veteran Warriors (the "WVW") in 2023, which now has received official IRS recognition as a 501(c)(3) organization. Tiana describes the Mission of the WVW as an "effort to partner with supportive community organizations to honor, preserve, and promote the legacy of the remarkable women who have selflessly served our nation."



Tiana went on to relate the fact to her audience that women face "unique challenges and experiences" as a result of their military service, and that "the goal of the Women Veteran Warriors is to provide mental health support, career development, mentorship initiatives, health and wellness retreats, educational and resource workshops, and community-building social events to enrich personal development and improve the mental health of women veterans."

Sadly, Tiana explained that women veterans often lack a sense of belonging and purpose following their service. "But by connecting, sharing experiences, and supporting each other through local support events, we promote their mental well-being and ensure they receive the recognition and support they deserve to thrive beyond their military service."

Women Veteran Warriors is growing to meet the needs of our sisters in arms. "You can help," said Ms. Bohrer, "by investing in our organization. Our programs need moral, hands-on, and financial support. Your donation and community support will ensure Women Veteran Warriors mission is met by providing financial access to vital health/wellness retreats, educational/resource workshops, to make a positive impact on Women Veterans."

To make a donation to Women Veteran Warriors, click: https://square.link/u/EUIKtZtT?src=sheet
For more information on WVW, their website is at: https://womenveteranwarriors.com/



Staging for Memorial Day Parade

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Tiana's talk more than accomplished the goal of explaining to those in attendance that our women veterans require additional, differing, areas of support, as compared to those of their brothers in arms. And that the corresponding means required to satisfy those needs has often been left unheeded and unaddressed. This, then, is what Tiana's group - Women Veteran Warriors - has been created to provide.

At the conclusion of her presentation, after answering a number of questions raised by members of our Chapter, Tiana was thanked by our President, Jeff Brunelle, via both a financial contribution as well as the presentation of a 'Challenge Coin' minted during our Caloosa Chapter 50th Anniversary Year and also given a long and well-deserved round of applause. It was indeed another great program, providing yet more ways to further the mission of our own SAR Chapter.



Presentation of Challenge Coin by President Brunelle to our Speaker Bohrer



President Brunelle giving the America250 SAR Moment

Our meeting then proceeded with our President giving the "America250 SAR Moment" in the absence of our Chaplain, Randy Moody. In this regard, Jeff chose to recall "The Lexington Alarm" sounded nearly 250 years ago to the day of our meeting – the "Regulars are coming" – given by Paul Revere and Thomas Dawes, who rode out from Boston to warn of the coming march of British troops into Lexington and Concord to set about the capture of the hidden stockpile of arms, powder and other supplies stored at the Patriot arsenal in Concord.

It was on April 19, 1775, at about 5 a.m., that 700 British troops marched into Lexingon to find 77 armed Militiamen under the command of Captain John Parker waiting for them on the town's common green. The Patriots were ordered to disperse, and then suddenly a shot was fired from an undetermined gun, and a cloud of musket smoke soon covered the green. Eight Americans lay dead or dying and ten others were wounded. Only one British soldier was injured, but the "hot" war that was our American Revolution had begun.

It is fitting that Jeff made this presentation since his own Patriot ancestor, Jonathan Blaisdell was himself an enlistee in the Mass. Militia, a member of one of its Minute Companies, and who marched with his unit after having been notified to muster in the face of British soldiers making their way out from Boston. You can read about his service as a soldier and gunsmith for Gen. George Washington and the Continental Army in the Compatriots Corner section on Page 14 of this issue.

The assembled Compatriots were also presented with the entries for our Chapter's youth poster and brochure contest and asked to take a look and vote for the top 3, with the winners to be announced at the Chapter's May meeting. Then, following announcements and reminders, the meeting was adjourned.

National Society
of the
Sons of the American Revolution

Proclamation of the
250th Anniversary of the Battles at Lexington and Concord

WHEREAS, We are gathered here to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the events that set our Nation on the path to independence, and

WHEREAS, On the evening of April 18, 1775, a plan was formed to hang lanterns in the Steeple of Old North Church to signal the impending arrival of Redcoat soldiers – one if by land and two if by sea, and

WHEREAS, These two lanterns were the force behind the now famous Midnight Ride of Paul Revere to warn that the British were coming and led to the Battles at Lexington and Concord and ignited the American Revolution, and

WHEREAS, The Sons of the American Revolution, organized in 1889 and federally chartered in 1906, are honored to participate in these events which commemorate the bravery and sacrifices made by our Patriot Ancestors, and

WHEREAS, The mission of the Sons of the American Revolution is to promote patriotism and educate future generations about the founding principles of our Country, and

WHEREAS, It is my honor, as the President General, to sponsor and represent the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution at this Commemorative event – one of the many celebrations leading up to the Semiquincentennial on July 4, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Darryl S. Addington, President General of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution encourage all American citizens, patriotic, community, and Veterans organizations, recognize and commemorate the "shot heard 'round the world," the first Military engagement of the American Revolution at Lexington and Concord and present this Proclamation with gratitude to all those who worked to organize this event.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts this 18th Day, April, 2025.

Darryl S. Addington

Darryl S. Addington
President General, 2024-2025

So you think you "know your stuff? Here is a quiz to test your knowledge of:

The Battles of Lexington and Concord

April 19, 1775

1. **Myth or Fact:** On the morning of April 19, 1775, it was American Minutemen who responded to the alarm sounded by Paul Revere and William Dawes, and faced off against British Regulars on the Lexington Village Green, leading to the "shot heard 'round the world."

2. **Myth or Fact:** Lexington Green was the place colonial militia and British Regulars first exchanged volleys of musket fire.

3. **Myth or Fact:** Paul Revere and William Dawes were the only riders given the responsibility of sounding the alarm.

4. **Myth of Fact:** British General Gage's goal in sending his troops out from Boston on April 18, 1775, was the capture of Sam Adams and John Hancock, leaders of the colonial resistance, who were staying in Lexington at the Hancock-Clarke House.

5. **Myth or Fact:** The American Captain John Parker, who led his men the morning of April 19, 1775, never had any intention of blocking the British troops from marching through Lexington, or of getting into a battle that morning.

6. **Myth or Fact:** No one knows who fired the first shot at Lexington.

7. **Myth or Fact:** The bloodiest parts of the battle took place outside either Lexington or Concord.

8. **Myth or Fact:** It was the wife of British General Thomas Gage, Margaret Kemble Gage (born in New Jersey, and an American sympathizer and alleged spy), who secured the top-secret plans of Gage to send his troops into Lexington and Concord, and sent them to Dr. Joseph Warren and the Sons of Liberty.

9. **Myth or Fact:** Some historians consider April 19, 1775 as the true birth date of the United States armed forces, and that the Brown Farm just outside Concord, Mass. is the true birthplace of the United States armed forces, as a result of events that took place during the battle.

10. **Myth or Fact:** Unfortunately, many of the specifics of what took place at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, were never documented or under-documented, and thus have been lost to us.

Now go see how you did. Answers on Page 22

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 19 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, Caloosa SAR President Jeff Brunelle.

My Patriot Ancestor: Jonathan Blaisdell And His Legacy As George Washington's Gunsmith

By Compatriot Jeff Brunelle (with Christine Racine and Compatriot Mark Barie)

My Patriot, Jonathan Blaisdell, saw action at the battles of Saratoga, Cobleskill, Cherry Valley, and during the Sullivan campaign.

In addition to acquitting himself admirably at each of those encounters, he also served as a gunsmith at Cambridge, Massachusetts. He arrived there shortly after the newly appointed Commander-in-Chief, George Washington, designated Cambridge as Headquarters for the Continental Army.

Washington was blessed to have in his ranks such a skilled and hardworking gunsmith as my Patriot ancestor. According to Jonathan Blaisdell's ledger, he did gunsmithing for 19 different regiments and 44 different companies in the Continental Army. And it was not an easy job.

Gunsmithing during colonial times was a challenging profession. A skilled gunsmith required the strength and endurance of a blacksmith. He needed the exact precision of a machinist. And, depending on the weapon, a gunsmith's talents had to include the creativity and careful hand of a skilled woodcarver.



Gun Shop at Martin's Station
Wilderness Road State Park, Virginia

A typical day for my Patriot would be hours and hours of cleaning and assembling weapons. There was the endless inspection of weapons and the repairs themselves, which often involved the replacement of minor parts and, at times, major repairs.

Ironically, gunsmithing during colonial times was not a lucrative profession. The vast majority of the colonists' weapons were made in England. The imported guns were less expensive. A gun owner rarely had the requisite funds to repair his weapon, must less purchase one. As a result, artisans such as Blaisdell, when he was not on the government payroll, would barter for the value of his goods and services. He would accept food, clothing, or dry goods, in exchange for his skilled labor.

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It was also necessary for a gunsmith to make a significant investment in the tools of his trade. A gunsmith's shop would include internal and external calibers, a small vice, metal files, a small anvil, drilling tools, a selection of hammers and mallets, tongs, metal stamps, and perhaps even a forge.

The gunsmithing profession started during the 1200s in China, where guns were first invented. Whether my Patriot worked on General George Washinton's weapons is unknown. There is no documented evidence to suggest that he did. In fact, most of George Washington's guns and long-barreled rifles were acquired after the war. When he died, Washington owned 19 pistols, 3 rifles, 4 muskets, and 9 fowling pieces (rifles with exceptionally long barrels).

Even so, it is an old axiom that wars are won not by generals, but by the brave soldiers who do the actual fighting. And even the bravest soldier would be lost without his weapon. My Patriot served his General well by utilizing his considerable skills to ensure that hundreds of soldiers marched into battle with a weapon that was neither defective, nor in need of repair.

Family research showed us that following the Battle of Bunker Hill, Jonathan Blaisdell returned home, but only for a short time. Very early in 1777 he joined the 6th Massachusetts Infantry of the Continental Line, where he became an armorer for the Continental Army. He continued to maintain and repair muskets until his death in 1781. Jonathan Blaisdell's role in our War for Independence required the bravery of a soldier and the skill of an artisan, and I am very proud to be his direct descendant.



Although most weapons were made elsewhere, American-made muskets played a crucial role in the early battles of the War for Independence, including the Battle of Bunker Hill, and are shown here in artist Don Troiani's painting "Bunker Hill."
Of the 300,000 muskets used by American line troops during the Revolutionary War, in excess of 80,000 were the products of America's some 2,500 to 3,000 scattered gunsmiths using mixed components.

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.

If You Are Interested . . .

2025 Battle of Pensacola Commemoration and Galvez Day Celebration

Friday May 9, 2025

On May 9, the Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard will once again present the opening procession for the Galvez Day Celebration **sponsored by the City of Pensacola**. The Color Guard will muster at 09:00 AM (Central) at Fort George (501 N. Palafox Street) and march down Palafox Street to one of the largest monuments in the United States to General Bernardo de Galvez as the opening ceremony of Pensacola's Galvez Day celebration.

Additionally, the Pensacola Chapter SAR and Pensacola area DAR chapters will be hosting a wreath laying ceremony in the afternoon at the Minuteman Monument located in Veterans Memorial Park on Bayfront Parkway in Pensacola.

Schedule of Events:

8:30am	-	Color Guard Muster begins at Fort George (501 N. Palofox St.)
9:30am (approx.)	-	Color Guard Procession to Galvez Monument
10:00 – 11:30 am	-	Ceremony at Galvez Monument and at St. Michael's Basilica
12:00 – 2:30 pm	-	Luncheon at Pensacola Yacht Club (Reservations Required)
3:00 pm	-	Wreath Laying at Minuteman Monument in Veterans Memorial Park

All participating Color Guard Units will receive a **BATTLE OF PENSACOLA FLAG STREAMER.**

Additional information can be found at: http://pensacolasar.org/chapter-programs/battle-of-pensacola- commemoration/

Caloosa Chapter SAR Compatriot Mark Barie to be Guest Speaker at May 10, 2025 Chapter Meeting

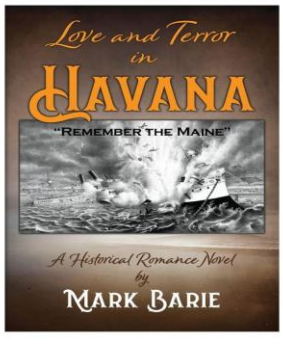
The speaker at our May Chapter meeting will be one of our own – Mark Barie. Mark is an award-winning author, having published five novels in the last six years. He has won the gold medal for Historical Fiction from the Florida Authors and Publishers Association and received a Finalist Designation from the prestigious Eric Hoffer Book Awards, a nationwide competition that attracts some of the best writers in the country.

Most recently, Barie won the Bronze Medal for Military Fiction for his War of 1812 love story from the International Publisher Book Awards. The "IPPY" Awards, as they are called, attracts more than 5,000 authors from the United States, Canada, and more than a dozen countries in Europe. It is one of the largest and oldest writing competitions in the world.

One of his books, *Love and Terror in Havana,* begins with the mysterious explosion of the USS Maine, which triggered the Spanish American War. Mark's extensive research on the subject led him to a conclusion which will shock you. In fact, when the book first came out, it made headlines.

Mark's presentation will place you at the scene of the explosion and he wants all of you, to decide who or what, caused the explosion of the USS and triggered the Spanish American war.

Plan to attend this very special presentation and be prepared to abandon everything they told you in high school history class!



See Page 8 of this newsletter for more details, and the way to register for lunch and Mark's program.

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, 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!

The latest of these series of stories is included in this issue of the Caloosa Patriot, on Page 14. If you are interested, and wish to avail yourself of this complimentary service, please feel free to contact Compatriot Barie directly at his email address: Authormarkbarie@gmail.com.

We thank Christine and Mark for their interest in assisting our members in the documentation of the stories of what their involvement was in the War for Independence.



Christine Racine and Mark Barie

Unsung Heroes (and Heroines) of the Revolutionary Period: The American Militia and Minutemen of 1775



From the beginning of European colonialization of North America, communities all along the eastern seaboard required nearly all able-bodied males between the ages of 16 and 60 to participate in the defense of their towns and colonies. Every town was expected to maintain at least one company (approx. 60 men) commanded by a captain. Regiments were formed by region and county comprising several companies within their designated geographic area.

These militia units served as the backbone of protection from foreign foes like the French, Native American uprisings, and potential for local insurrections, social unrest, and rioting. They also created a community bond that connected many far-flung neighbors.

Most militias would muster and train in town and county centers, usually on court days. Company-level training was required by law only 6 days each year: two days in April, one day each in May and June, and two days in October. The events tended to have the air of a county festival, where the whole community came out to witness the drill and then host festivities afterward. Militias were the main colonial military organization for defense, but they were only part-time, and very non standardized or professional.

Regimental training days, called a "muster" were only held once every few years. Those who failed to appear when required were fined. Repeat offenders could be arrested and thrown in jail.

Militiamen were required to be armed "according to law." This meant that they were to have a "well fixt Firelock Musket, or Musket (69-75 caliber) or Bastard Musket (50-60 caliber) Bore, the Barrel not less than Three Foot and a half long; or other good Fire Arms, to the Satisfaction of the commission officer of the company . . ." They were also expected to have twenty bullets fit to their gun, one pound of powder, twelve flints, and a backup arm, such as a short sword or belt axe. Later, bayonets were required for at least half the men in each company. As with the training, fines were levied against those who failed to provide themselves with these arms.

Ammunition was often carried in a cartridge box, a leather bag fitted with a wooden block with holes drilled in to accept a paper cartridge, a sealed tube of paper containing a measured amount of powder (enough for one shot) and a lead ball. Militiamen also had knapsacks, blankets, and wooden canteens. Arms were imported into the colonies from a variety of sources. Sometimes they were purchased by the town or province from British or Dutch merchants or manufacturers. Other times they were provided by the British government during wartime. Merchants regularly imported firearms, edged weapons, and advertised them for sale in the newspapers. Arms were also often captured from the French or Spanish by provincial soldiers and brought home. There were also a few gunsmiths in the colonies, but most weapons were imported.

Though there were a few exceptions, most militia companies were not uniformed. The men wore their own clothes. However that does not mean they were dressed in rags. During training days, like any time spent in public, participants dressed respectably.

For many generations, the militia units would turn out in times of emergency, often acting as an auxiliary to the British "Regulars" and when the danger had passed, the militia would return to their homes and private lives. However, by the mid-17th Century, militia commanders began organizing smaller companies of men, taken from the ranks of the town militias, who could act as "first responders" in times of danger. Commanders were ordered "to make a choice of thirty soldiers of their companies in ye hundred" whose regiments shall be "ready to march on a moment's warning to prevent such danger as may seem to threaten us." Eventually, these smaller units would come to be known as "minute companies."

Generally, these minute companies were comprised of young citizen-soldiers, 30 years of age or younger, who [Continued on Page 21]

[Continued from Page 20] were quick, agile, and kept ready for deployment "in a minute's notice." Like most militia forces, they were armed and equipped at their own expense, and by the 1750's, during the French and Indian War, some companies began calling themselves "minutemen." Thus, while all minutemen were part of the militia, not all militia troops were minutemen. Though most minuteman companies were formed in the New England colonies, some similar groups popped up in other colonies (such as Virginia).



Minute man shown "armed as according to law"

In October, 1774, in reply to the "Massachusetts Government Act" passed by the British Parliament, repealing the Massachusetts Charter of 1691 and giving exclusive power to the Royal Governor, the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts was formed. This body would then act as the government of MA outside of Boston. Among other things, it created a Committee of Safety and began collecting arms and ammunition as tensions with the mother country increased. The Provincial Congress recommended that all towns organize minute companies, to be ready to march "at the shortest notice."

While each town's process for establishing minute companies differed, most towns within the colony (with the notable exception of Lexington) complied with the request of the Provincial Congress. Minute companies would comprise only about a quarter of the town's militia force, and would drill twice per week, and be paid for their service. Overall, these elite units were well-trained in the art of maneuver, and usually first to arrive at the scene of action.

As important as the militiamen were, and though they were the most numerous American participants in the war, they were considered generally unreliable by American military leaders (including Gen. George Washington). This having been said, militias played a very important role for the Americans in the war. Militias in areas such as New Jersey and South Carolina served as strike units against the British supply lines and attacking Loyalist units – thus playing a key role in keeping Loyalists from playing a larger role in the war. Militias also provided the Continental armies in the field much needed manpower (although it was only on a temporary basis). When British commanders planned for their campaigns against the Continental armies on the field of battle, they had to take into consideration the size of militia forces operating in those same geographic areas. The British knew the militia were unpredictable, but they could not totally neglect their presence either.

In some instances, militia units were the deciding factors in important battles. The war's first battles of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts were fought mostly by militia with minuteman units engaged in Concord at the North Bridge. At the Battle of Bunker Hill, outside Boston, militia dealt a deadly blow to the British. Later in the war at battles such as Bennington, Vermont, King's Mountain, Cowpens, both in South Carolina, and Guilford Courthouse, in North Carolina, the militia was crucial to American victories.

The Second Continental Congress established the American Continental Army by an act of June 14, 1775, authorizing ten companies of riflemen from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, and appointing George Washington commander in chief. The act also drew into the Continental Army the militia surrounding Boston, fortifying Boston, and fortifying the New York City area.

Transformation of local and colonial militias, to a more regularly trained "minuteman" force of militia to finally a professionally trained national Continental Army happened relatively quickly. Military necessity required American leaders to change their perceptions of standing armies and their republican ideals of volunteer, part-time, military service.

And while the war ended up having the Continental Army secure victory, it was the "citizen soldiers" who filled the ranks of the colonial militias and minute companies who initially stood in the breach, against the finest trained and equipped army in the world. Hats off to "Yankee Doodle" – the brave American Militia and Minutemen of 1775.

Answers to the Quiz on Page 13:
The Battles of Lexington and Concord
April 19, 1775

1. **Myth or Fact:** On the morning of April 19, 1775, it was American Minutemen who responded to the alarm sounded by Paul Revere and William Dawes, and faced off against British Regulars on the Lexington Village Green, leading to the "shot heard 'round the world."

   Answer: This is a myth! Although the terms *militia* and *minuteman* are sometimes used interchangeably today, in the 1700's there was a decided difference between the two. Militia were men in arms founded to protect their towns from foreign invasion and ravages of war. Minutemen were a small hand-picked elite force which were required to be highly mobile and able to assemble quickly. Minutemen were selected from militia muster rolls by their commanding officers. This being said, Lexington NEVER created Minuteman company. It was militia that met the British Regulars at Lexington Green in the early morning of April 19, 1775.

2. **Myth or Fact:** Lexington Green was the place colonial militia and British Regulars first exchanged volleys of musket fire.

   Answer: Not true. The events of April 19, 1775 were a culmination of many prior altercations between local militia and British soldiers. On December 14 and 15, 1774, militia from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, attacked Fort William and Mary. The British fort was undermanned but would not surrender to the militia force of 300 men. Fighting ensued, and one British soldier was wounded, the fort surrendered, and gunpowder, firearms, and cannon were captured. Though shots were exchanged, it did not lead to war. And these events have mostly been forgotten today.

3. **Myth or Fact:** Paul Revere and William Dawes were the only riders given the responsibility of sounding the alarm.

   Answer: Myth. Though Revere and Dawes are by far the most well-known riders that night, as they rode toward Lexington, they handed off their message to other riders in the towns they rode through. Soon, dozens of riders were spreading the word as far away as New Hampshire and Connecticut by the end of the day. The network of information sharing was astounding and showed that colonial leaders were very well organized.

4. **Myth of Fact:** British General's goal was the capture of Sam Adams and John Hancock, leaders of the colonial resistance, who were staying in Lexington on April 19 1775 at the Hancock-Clarke House.

   Answer: Although the Sons of Liberty believed the goal was the capture of Adams and Hancock, Gage wanted his Regulars to take the supplies of weapons, powder and cannons being stored in Concord by the Provincial Congress. The fact that the road to Concord from Boston that the Regulars took went through Lexington had nothing to do with the presence of Hancock and Adams.

5. **Myth or Fact:** The American Captain John Parker, who led his men the morning of April 19, 1775, never had any intention of blocking the British troops from marching on to Concord, or of getting into a battle that morning.

   Answer: True! Parker and his men were there as a show of force, to remind British authorities were armed and ready to defend themselves. Other militia units had shadowed other British Regular forays, and the 77 men of the Lexington militia had no intention of getting into a firefight with a much larger force of 400 well-trained British Regulars.

6. **Myth or Fact:** No one knows who fired the first shot at Lexington.

   Answer: True. This is one of the biggest mysteries of the war. Both sides have claimed the other side shot first, thus placing the blame on their enemy for the bloodshed that ensued.

7. **Myth or Fact:** The bloodiest parts of the battle took place outside either Lexington or Concord.

   Answer: True. Although soldiers were killed in both Lexington and Concord, the bloodiest and fiercest fighting took place along "Battle Road" as the British Regulars tried to make their 18-mile trek back to Boston through hostile Mass. countryside, with American patriot soldiers firing at them from hidden positions all along the way.

8. **Myth or Fact:** It was the wife of British General Thomas Gage, Margaret Kemble Gage (born in New Jersey, and an American sympathizer and alleged spy), who secured the top-secret plans of Gage to send his troops into Lexington and Concord, and sent them to Dr. Joseph Warren and the Sons of Liberty.

   Answer: Despite being a good story, there is no hard evidence that the General's wife was a spy for the patriots. Many of her writings show divided loyalties, typical of many of the time. But the evidence to attach her as a colonial spy is very circumstantial and has never been proven.

9. **Myth or Fact:** Some historians consider April 19, 1775 as the true birth date of the United States armed forces, and the Brown Farm just outside Concord, Mass. the true birthplace of the United States armed forces, as a result of events that took place during the battle.

   Answer: True. It was on the farm of David Brown, just west of the North Bridge in Concord that mixed companies of militia and minutemen gathered under arms and orders to confront British Regulars at the North Bridge. For the first time, then, in combat formation, these men moved towards battle at the North Bridge. Today, a US flag flies from the location now known as the "muster field."

10. **Myth or Fact:** Unfortunately, many of the specifics of what took place at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, were never documented or under-documented, and thus have been lost to us.

    Answer: False. After the fighting ended, the Mass. Provincial Congress began to take depositions from those involved in the fighting. Colonial leaders were experts in public relations and knew that they needed to control the narrative of the events that had taken place at Lexington and Concord if they were to succeed in a revolution. Dozens of interviews were conducted in the days, weeks and months after the fighting. Hundreds of pages of transcripts are still available today. British authorities took depositions from their soldiers as well. Hence, these accounts from both sides have given historians great insight into the events of April 19, 1775, in an otherwise under-documented period of history.



Tiana Bohrer presenting at the April 9th Caloosa Chapter SAR meeting (Photo courtesy of Forrest Myers)

Caloosa Chapter SAR Supports Billy Bowlegs Society Children of the American Revolution



The Billy Bowlegs Society recently held their first joint meeting with their sponsoring DAR chapter, USS Hannah. A primary purpose of this joint meeting was to celebrate our Caloosa Chapter SAR Compatriot Caleb Golden, and his years as President of the Florida Society Children of the American Revolution. Over thirty DAR and C.A.R. members and guests attended to help celebrate Caleb's achievements, which include raising just over $9000.00 in cash contributions to benefit the C.A.R. State Project – Wolfhound Legacy (see Page 25 of this issue for more information).



Chapter President Jeff Brunelle with State C.A.R. President Jaelyn Tillman

Caloosa SAR Chapter President, Jeff Brunelle attended the meeting in support of Caleb, C.A.R., and the Billy Bowlegs Society in particular. Jeff succeeded in his plan for totally surprising current State Florida C.A.R. President Jaelyn Tillman, when Jeff handed her a $500 check to help the Society continue their work.

Veteran Ray Tomlinson was also a guest at the meeting, with his service dog trained by Wolfhound Legacy.



Caleb Golden with Ray Tomlinson

Caleb Golden, and his brother, Levi, are proud junior members of our Caloosa Chapter SAR, and as a result of recent Florida State C.A.R. elections, Caleb is currently Honorary State President, and Levi is State First Vice-President. Jaelyn Tillman, who spoke last year at one of our Chapter meetings, is now State C.A.R. President.

Our President, Jeff Brunelle commented: "The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country. I can't think of a better way of carrying out this mission by supporting our fellow Compatriots in the C.A.R., and celebrating the achievements of Caleb and the work of all the other members of the Billy Bowlegs Society."

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

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



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

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

Home | AVM, Inc.

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

[https://www.avmemorial.org]

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

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

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

WOLFHOUNDS LEGACY
NO HERO WALKS ALONE

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

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



For more information, and to donate to this cause, please check out their website:

https://wolfhoundslegacy.org/

Education Center and Museum Liberty Tree Campaign

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

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

The Liberty Tree Campaign has four levels.

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

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

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

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



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

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

If You Are Interested . . .

SAR 250th Commemoration of the U.S. Army



Compatriots,

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

Register Here

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

SAR Hotel Reservation Link

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

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

Chapter Web Site



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

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

Chapter Facebook Page

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

https://www.facebook.com/CaloosaChapteroftheSAR

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

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

DATE FOR MISSION 29 (FALL 2025) TO BE ANNOUNCED



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

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

Next Flight
Will Be Scheduled For The Fall On A Date TBA
If You Or Your Vet Are Interested In Being Part Of This Next (Or Future) Missions
As An Honored Participant, Or As A Guardian Or Volunteer
See Our Website And Sign Up Now!

The SAR Mission Statement

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

The SAR Pledge

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

Recessional

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