

# The Bell Ringer

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## 2025 – 2027 Officers



**President  
Historian  
RVP – East Central Region**  
Robin Preston  
[rlpreston0306@gmail.com](mailto:rlpreston0306@gmail.com)  
(832)655-4173



**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**  
Don LaJoie  
[grazingbuffalo94@gmail.com](mailto:grazingbuffalo94@gmail.com)  
(912) 580-9433



**Treasurer**  
William "Billy" Morgan  
[wsmorganv@outlook.com](mailto:wsmorganv@outlook.com)  
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**Corresponding Secretary**  
Gary Smith  
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(214) 437-3577



**Member-at-Large  
Chaplain  
Recording Secretary  
Parliamentarian**  
Randal Allen  
[aerospace321@outlook.com](mailto:aerospace321@outlook.com) -  
(407) 909-9649



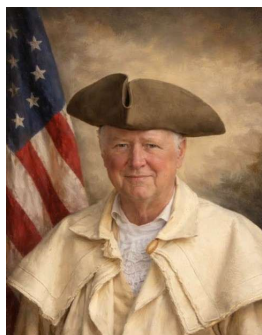
**Member-at-Large**  
Burt Fairchild  
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(407) 415-5655



**Patriot Medal Winner  
Color Guard Commander**  
Phil Markoe  
[markoevikingsfan@aol.com](mailto:markoevikingsfan@aol.com)  
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**Sergeant-at-Arms**  
Michael Meyer  
[meyermi1775@gmail.com](mailto:meyermi1775@gmail.com)  
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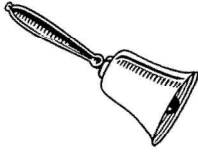


**Genealogist - volunteer  
Registrar - volunteer**  
Harry Rinker  
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(407) 350-8143



**Webmaster**  
Michael Neal  
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[www.cflsar.org](http://www.cflsar.org)  
[www.facebook.com/cflsar](https://www.facebook.com/cflsar)



# The Bell Ringer

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## Committee News, CFLSAR Committees

The following are chapter committees. Some need Chairmen, all of them need members.

### AMERICA 250 COMMITTEE – Robin Preston Chairman

We are seeking volunteers with 250 America points to present the America 250 minutes over the next year. Presenting the short A250-minute earns you 10 points, and attending the meeting adds an extra 3 points, totaling 13.

### FLAG COMMITTEE – Chairman Randal Allen

The Flag Committee is the custodian of the Chapter flags, except those flags assigned to the Chapter Color Guard.

The Flag Committee shall present SAR Flag Certificates to homeowners and business owners who have noteworthy American Flag displays.

The Flag Committee shall present SAR Flag Certificates to homeowners and business owners who properly dispose of flags.

### NEW MEMBER COMMITTEE – Chairman Milton Mersinger

**Mission Statement:** 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.

## Committee News, continued

### JROTC/ROTC COMMITTEE – Chairman Phil Markoe

Purpose - Provide patriotic outreach to the Senior and Junior ROTC programs that exist in Florida schools.

### PROGRAM COMMITTEE – Chairman TBD

This is the committee that arranges the meeting and program, and, as required, special meetings. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Robin Preston.

### VETERANS COMMITTEE – Chairman Phil Markoe

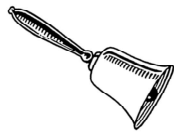
### YOUTH EDUCATION OUTREACH COMMITTEE – Phil Markoe, Chairman

He will try to run as many SAR youth programs as possible each season.

These programs include, but are not limited to, the Eagle Scout Program, Joseph S Rumbaugh Oration Contest, George S & Stella M Knight Essay Contest, Sgt Moses Adams Memorial Middle School Brochure, Youth Video, Elementary School Poster, Car Activity Award, and Good Citizenship Awards.

Cash Award Amounts			
Place	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
History Teacher	300	200	100
Poster Contest	100	75	50
Brochure	150	100	50
Video	150	100	50
Essay	250	125	75
Oration	400	250	125

**BECOME AN ACTIVE PART OF THE CHAPTER and JOIN A COMMITTEE TODAY. YOUR CHAPTER NEEDS YOU. Make your Patriot Proud.**



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## The Elevator Speech

**What is it?** is a short, memorable description of who the Sons of the American Revolution are and what we do.

Example: *The Sons of the American Revolution promotes patriotism, serves the community, and inspires and educates the public about the American Revolution.*

## Americanism Report



Every year, we, as a chapter, are required to submit a report to the State and National Societies detailing our activities. We are graded in the following categories.

- Media Publicity,
- Speakers Bureau,
- CAR-DAR Support,
- Youth Programs,
- Public Service Programs,
- Historic Sites,
- Grave Markings,
- Color Guards,
- Medals and Awards,
- National Society Service,
- Membership,
- Meeting attendance.

2025 Points were 10,535

2026 Points are 6,403

## America 250

### Compatriots

(16.3% of Chapter Membership have medaled)

- Bronze – 11
- Silver – 6
- Gold – 6

### Non-Compatriots

- Bronze – 3
- Silver – 2
- Gold – 3



## How do I get Points?

Attending the following events will earn you 3 points. If in colonials, you get an extra five points.

- Chapter Meetings
- Honor Flights
- Chapter Book Club Meetings
- Most SAR activities

## Mentoring Program

**“I’ve joined—now what?”** Exactly. What *do* you do? The Mentors for the Central Florida Chapter are: If you’re interested in becoming a mentor to a new Compatriot, please reach out to Milton Mersinger. Your experience could be the key to helping someone else find their place in SAR.

The current mentors for new members are:

Randal Allen

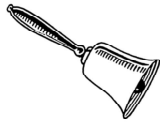
Milton Mersinger

William Morgan

Robin Preston

Harry Rinker

Gary Smith



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## May 13 Chapter Meeting

**Where:** Winter Park Elks Club  
4755 Howell Branch Road  
Winter Park

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Meal Cost:** \$25 per person (payable at the door)

If you plan to attend, RSVP to Phil Markoe – by voice or text **407.350.8143** or by email at [markoevikingsfan@aol.com](mailto:markoevikingsfan@aol.com). It is important for Phil to get an accurate head count to the caterer, otherwise we can be charged more than we should be.

Take Youth Protection Training and other courses at SAR University

LEARN EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE SAR AT

# SAR UNIVERSITY



**ENROLL TODAY**

[SAR University – National Society Sons of the American Revolution](#)



## Social Media

**Facebook Page – [www.facebook.com/cflsar](https://www.facebook.com/cflsar)**

The CFLSAR Facebook page has something new every day. Take a look at our page for yourself and encourage your family and friends to do the same.

- Date of Inception – **15 NOV 2023**
- Numbers of followers – 106
- Consecutive days with a post since inception - **834**
- Total Posts since inception - **1239**
- Views since inception– **51,349**
- Views in 2026– **12,079** (as of April 24)
- Average views per day – **59**
- Average views per post – **40**
- Most views in one day – **580** (25 JAN 2026)

**Chapter Website - [www.cflsar.org](http://www.cflsar.org)**



## Service to our Vets

If you have done something in the service of a veteran or veterans, no matter how small you believe your contribution may have been, please let us know. Small contributions add up to big points by the end of the year. We were the second-ranked chapter in the state in total points. Please email Phil Markoe or Robin Preston and inform them of your actions.

## Actions that Count

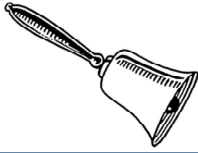
- 1) Member of a VA Hospital Council, Voluntary Service, or Center of Development or Civic Engagement
- 2) Each hour served in VA Hospital Volunteer Service
- 3) Visiting a Veteran in a Hospital, Nursing Home, or private home, or taking one or more Veterans on an outing where the hours aren't recorded in 2.
- 4) Personal care items donated to veterans through an organization whose primary clients are veterans.
- 5) Cash donations to an organization whose primary clients are veterans.
- 6) Each publication whose primary clients are veterans.
- 7) Participation in the SAR Wounded Warriors Program.
- 8) Activities supporting VETS (Honor Flight)
- 9a) Decorating Veterans' (Wreaths Across America) graves and attending funerals.
- 9b) Participation in a Veterans Funeral.
- 10) Donating New or Used men's or women's clothing to an organization whose primary clients are veterans.
- 11) Furniture Donation – New or used, but working items to an organization whose primary clients are veterans.

**2025 Points over 43,271**

**2026 Points to date are 2,452**

## Attention Vets

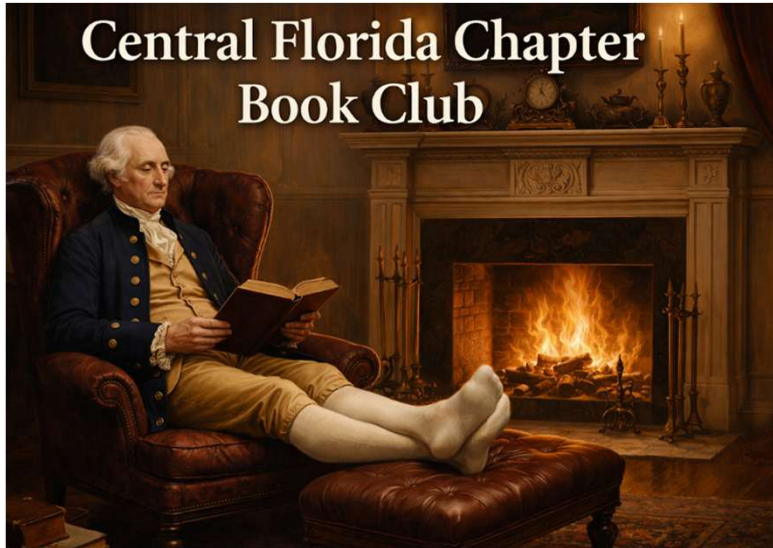
*If you are a veteran and have not received a Service Medal, please notify Robin Preston so that we can obtain the medal you have earned through your service to America.*



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## Book Club Books for 2026



The Central Florida Chapter Book Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.

You can earn 3 America 250 points by attending.

Join via ZOOM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83529410287?pwd=fo4TRwmBBoE3mxZWmMvnWi8IGH6YpM.1>

**You don't have to have read the book to attend.**

### Semiquincentennial

**MAY** – Our Lives, Our Fortunes, Our Sacred Honor: The Forging of Independence – by Beeman

### **1<sup>st</sup> British Southern Expedition – Battle of Ft Sullivan (1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Charleston)**

**JUN** – Unsung: William Moultrie and the Battle of Sullivan's Island – by Rickerman

**JUN** – March to Independence: The Revolutionary War in the Southern Colonies - Cecere

### New York Campaign – Siege of NY

**JUL** – The Battle of New York – by Schecter

### New York Campaign – Battle of Long Island

**AUG** – The Maryland 400 in the Battle of Long Island, 1776 – by Reno

### New York Campaign – Siege of NY (Kip's Bay, Harlem Heights, Ft. Washington)

**SEP** – The Battle of Harlem Heights – by Price

### New York Campaign – Battle of White Plains

**OCT** – The Battle of White Plains: Washington and Howe in Westchester – by DeVillo

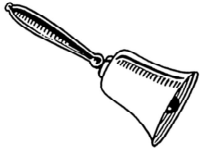
### New York Campaign – Battle of Pell's Point

**NOV** – Saving Washington's Army: The Brilliant Last Stand of General John Glover – by Tucker

### Canadian Campaign – Battle of Lake Champlain (Valcour Island)

**DEC** – Valcour: The 1776 Campaign That Saved the Cause of Liberty – by Kelly

Have you read a good book today?



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## JROTC/ROTC/Sea Cadet Award Season



Cadet Jacob Taft  
Lyman HS



Cadet Boris Delgado  
Winter Springs HS

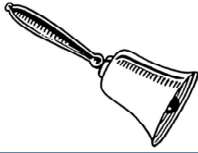
We are in the middle of the JROTC/ROTC/Sea Cadet award season. Before the end of May, the Central Florida chapter, through JROTC/ROTC Committee Chairman Phil Markoe, will award at least 32 medals. Assisting Phil (a little bit) in the awarding of the medals have been Burt Fairchild, Michael Meyer, and Robin Preston.



Phil was given the above token of appreciation by the ARMY ROTC at UCF

Michael  
Verdu  
UCF





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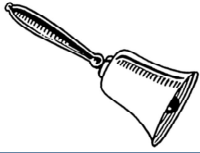
## JROTC/ROTC/Sea Cadet Award Season



Lake Brantley High School – Phil presents Air Force JROTC Lieutenant Colonel Brody Dexter the Bronze JROTC Medal



On March 26, Harry Rinker participated in the Seminole District Scouting Roundtable. Harry introduced them to the SAR Youth Programs and talked about the Eagle Scouting Award program. He encouraged Eagle Scouts to apply. Next to Harry is Compatriot Rich Lester, Vice Chair of the Seminole District.



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## The Battle of Thomas Creek – March 28, 2026



On the left are a couple of the enemy who had the nerve to show their faces. Really, they were a couple of nice young men who drove up from St Augustine.



On the right are Phil Markoe, Michael Meyer, and Robin Preston.

It was the 249<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ambush of American Continentals and militia troops at the Battle of Thomas Creek. There were even a couple of guys from one of the St Augustine British regiments that participated in the Colonial Night Watch who drove up for the event. Except for it being a little on the windy side, the weather was great.



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## Compatriot Grave Marking

April 11, 2026



From L-to-R, Phil Markoe, Randal Allen, Robin Preston, Heather Denon (descendant of John Calvin Hull), Kelly Crumley (Daytona – Ormond Chapter), Andrew Sechler, Gary Smith, Burt Fairchild, Michael Meyer, and Kim Cullars.

NOT SHOWN: William “Billy” Morgan, Milton Mersinger, Michael Neal, and William Rivers

From L-to-R, Randal Allen, Phil Markoe, Burt Fairchild, Robin Preston, Kelly Crumley, Andrew Sechler, Maria Preston, Gary Smith, Michael Meyer, and Kim Cullars.



On Saturday, April 11, the Central Florida Chapter honored five compatriots who are no longer with us. All are located in Greenwood Cemetery, Orlando, Florida

**Donald Alexander Cheney**

**NSSAR #87956**

**Thomas Henry Hancock**

**NSSAR #72896**

**Nelson Carman Huber Jr.**

**NSSAR #92164**

**John Calvin Hull**

**NSSAR #39046**

**Louis Conrad Massey**

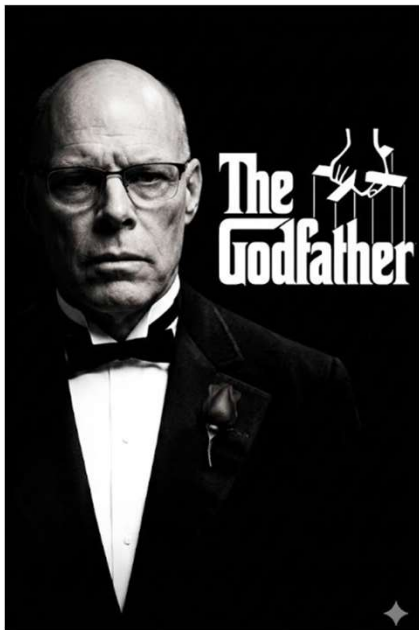
**NSSAR #29909**

# The Bell Ringer

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## Central Florida Chapter Meeting

April 11, 2026



It's been a while since I've seen The Godfather, but I don't remember this guy in the movie



Stacy Markoe introduced the documentary, *To These We Strive*, about her four-times-great-grandfather and the Philadelphia Light Horse Troop he founded. Joining Stacy in the presentation was the director, Kevin Lang.



Beaming with pride, Phil poses with the documentary director, Kevin Lang, and his sister Anastasia (Stacy) Markoe.



Those gathered for the meeting seemed to enjoy the documentary. Thanks to Stacy and Kevin for giving us the opportunity to watch *To These We Strive*.

**The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 13, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

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## The Villages Honor Flight

April 15, 2026



Sixty-seven American heroes were welcomed back to Orlando/Sanford Airport on April 15.

Members of the welcoming party included Robin Preston, Kelly Crumley (Daytona-Ormond Chapter), Phil Markoe, Harry Rinker, Randy Allen, Michael Meyer, Kim Cullars, and Rob Patton.

Ladies in the welcoming party included Marlene Lambiasco, Kathy Markoe, Linda, Rinker, and Maria Preston

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The next Honor Flight will be tonight at the Sanford Airport. Be there by 9:00 p.m.

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## DAR Plaque Dedication

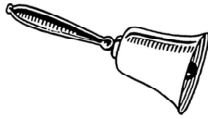
April 20, 2026



The William P. Duval Chapter of the DAR invited the Central Florida Chapter Color Guard to present the colors during its Patriots Day dedication ceremony. The ladies, joined by Winter Park city officials, dedicated a plaque to 15 Patriots whose descendants are connected to Winter Park.

Color Guard members conduct a practice prior to the ceremony. From L-to-R, Phil Markoe, Kelly Crumley (Daytona-Ormond Chapter), William Rivers, Kim Cullars, Harry Rinker, Robin Preston, Burt Fairchild, and Randal Allen





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**Here is an organization for the Ladies of our Chapter**



## *Ladies Auxiliary of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution*

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (LAFSSAR) is a nonprofit association of women organized to assist, support and further the objectives of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (FLSSAR) - promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations. At the state level, we proudly support our FLSSAR Compatriots by encouraging SAR membership and by raising funds to further the Society's objectives.

The Auxiliary consists of members from all over the state. We host a luncheon meeting twice yearly (Spring and Fall) during the Florida SAR Board of Managers (BOM) meetings, and usually have speakers and other small service projects of interest. Fundraising activities during BOM weekends usually include drawings for baskets and silent auction items donated by SAR chapters or members. Some members wear Revolutionary era clothing to SAR events and in support of SAR color guard activities.

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

### **Membership Highlights:**

- ☞ \$10 annual dues
- ☞ Automatic membership in the National Ladies Auxiliary SAR without additional dues
- ☞ Membership and fundraising efforts support important Florida and National SAR projects
- ☞ Dual and out-of-state members are welcome
- ☞ No meeting attendance requirements
- ☞ No Revolutionary Period lineage requirements
- ☞ No age limit
- ☞ Entitled to wear the official Florida and National Ladies Auxiliary SAR pins
- ☞ Opportunities to earn certain SAR medals and awards for service to the Society
- ☞ Fun and friendships!

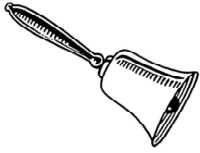


### **SAR Ladies Auxiliary History:**

- 1984: The first Ladies Auxiliary of the Sons of the American Revolution was founded in California
- 1998: The Ladies Auxiliary of Florida was organized
- 2003: The National Ladies Auxiliary of the Sons of the American Revolution was formed

Today the Florida Ladies Auxiliary is among 24 state organizations in Alabama, California, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin and a group of members at large who live in States without a Ladies Auxiliary.

**If you are interest contact Kathy Markoe at [daydreamr613@aol.com](mailto:daydreamr613@aol.com)**



It's time to party. These Compatriots are celebrating a birthday during the next month.

**April 26** – Justin Corsa

**April 30** – Ted Price

**May 13** – Ryan Elder

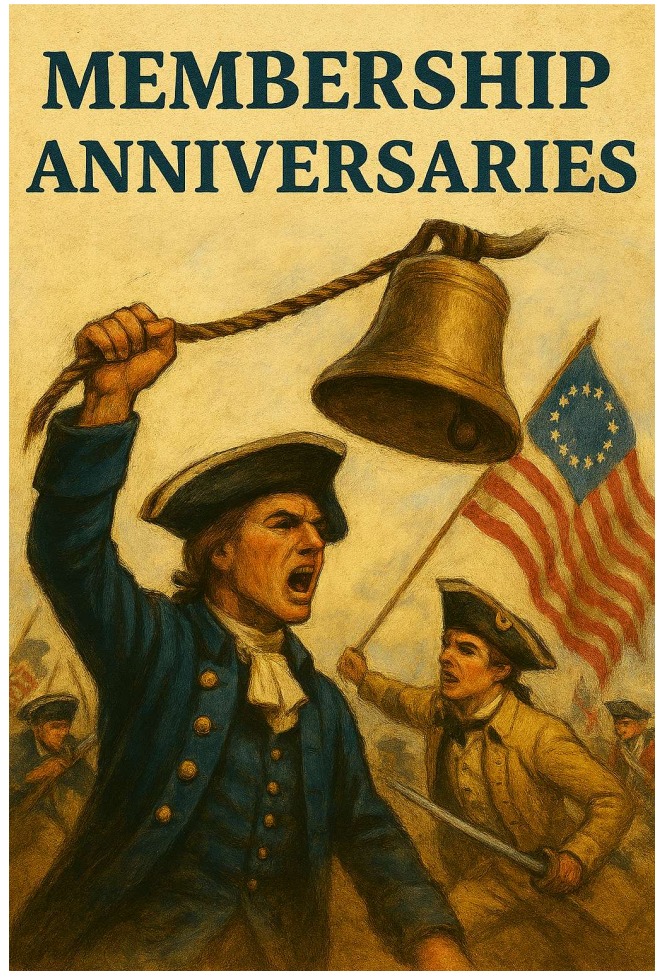
**May 17** – Kim Cullars

**May 21** – Charles Wilklow

**May 22** – Andrew Haynes

**May 25** – Malcolm Draper, Jr.

**May 25** – John Justice



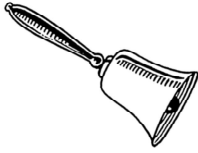
Congratulations on being a valuable member of our chapter. In the next month, you will reach a SAR membership anniversary.

**May 6** – 15 Years

**Robert Lanier**

**May 11** – 15 Years

**Jack Fox**



## Things to do

### Free Access Day: America 250 Celebration

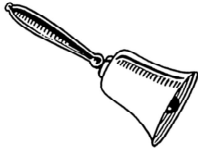


ORANGE COUNTY REGIONAL  
**HISTORY CENTER**  
 DOWNTOWN ORLANDO

**Saturday, May 2, 2026, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Celebrate 250 years of American history with the History Center and enjoy free admission. The day will include theatrical and musical performances, guided museum tours, hands-on activities led by our Teen Council, mock trials in our historic courtroom, and more.

Time	Activity	Location	Role
10:00 AM	Sons of the American Revolution Ceremony	Outdoor Stage, Flagpole	Sons of the American Revolution
10:30 (TBD)	Naturalization Ceremony	Courtroom	DHS/USCIS
3:30 PM	CAR Musical	Chapin Gallery	Children of the American Revolution
4:45 PM	Sons of the American Revolution Ceremony	Flagpole	Sons of the American Revolution



## Things to do

**ND** New Dimensions High School  
4900 Old Pleasant Hill Rd, Kissimmee, FL 34759  
(Behind Poinciana Walmart)

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# MEMORIAL DAY FESTIVAL

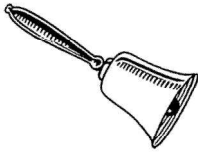
REMEMBER AND HONOR

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**COME JOIN US TO OUR FREE COMMUNITY FESTIVAL!**  
**Car Show, Music, Food Trucks, Prizes  
Games, Entertainment, Vendors  
and more.**

**May 25, 2026**  
11:00 am - 4:00 pm  
For more information visit: [www.newdimensionshs.com](http://www.newdimensionshs.com)



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## Things to do

National Events are in White letters, on a Blue field

**25 APRIL 2026**  
**Orlando Honor Flight**  
Sanford Airport  
Sanford, FL  
9:00 p.m.

**2 MAY 2026**  
**Liberty Tree Dedication**  
Porkchop Park  
Apollo Beach, FL  
10:00 a.m.

**2 MAY 2026**  
**Am Revolution Musical**  
Orange County History  
Center – Orlando, FL  
3:30 p.m.

**Flag Raising Ceremony**  
Orange County History  
Center – Orlando, FL  
10:00 a.m.

**Naturalization Ceremony**  
Orange County History  
Center – Orlando, FL  
TBD

**7 MAY 2026**  
**Naturalization Ceremony**  
401 West Central Blvd –  
Orlando, FL  
10:00 a.m.

**8 MAY 2026**  
**Battle of Pensacola  
Commemoration**  
  
Pensacola, FL

**8 MAY 2026**  
**America 250 Ball**  
**Desoto Chapter DAR**  
Tampa Yacht Club  
7:00 p.m.

**13 MAY 2026**  
**CFLSAR Chapter Meeting**  
4755 Howell Branch Rd.  
Winter Park, FL  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**15, 16 MAY 2026**  
**FLSSAR Spring Board of  
Management Meeting**  
Embassy Suites  
Kissimmee, FL

**25 MAY 2026**  
**Memorial Day Festival**  
New Dimension High  
School  
Kissimmee, FL

**27 MAY 2026**  
**The Villages Honor Flt**  
Sanford Airport  
  
Sanford, FL

**6 JUN 2026**  
**Am Revolution Musical**  
Orlando Garden Club  
Orlando, FL

**11 JUN 2026**  
**Naturalization Ceremony**  
401 West Central Blvd –  
Orlando, FL  
10:00 a.m.

**20 JUN 2026**  
**Battle of Alligator  
Creek Bridge  
Commemoration**  
10:00 a.m.  
Callahan, FL

**27 JUN 2026**  
**Liberty Tree Dedication**  
Reiter Park  
Longwood, FL  
6:00 p.m.

**9 JUL 2026**  
**Naturalization Ceremony**  
401 West Central Blvd –  
Orlando, FL  
10:00 a.m.

**6 AUG 2026**  
**Liberty Tree Dedication**  
Lake Nona VA Hospital  
Lake Nona, FL  
10:00 a.m.

**13 AUG 2026**  
**Naturalization Ceremony**  
401 West Central Blvd –  
Orlando, FL  
10:00 a.m.

**9 SEP 2026**  
**CFLSAR Chapter Meeting**  
4755 Howell Branch Rd.  
Winter Park, FL  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**10 - 13 SEP 2026**  
**FSSDAR Fall Forum**  
OMNI Hotel  
Championsgate, FL

**17 SEP 2026**  
**Naturalization Ceremony**  
401 West Central Blvd –  
Orlando, FL  
10:00 a.m.

**30 SEP 2026**  
**The Villages Honor Flt**  
Sanford Airport  
Sanford, FL  
9:00 p.m.

**10 OCT 2026**  
**CFLSAR Chapter Meeting**  
4755 Howell Branch Rd.  
Winter Park, FL  
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**15 OCT 2026**  
**Naturalization Ceremony**  
401 West Central Blvd –  
Orlando, FL  
10:00 a.m.

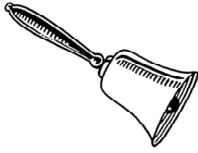
**17 OCT 2026**  
**Orlando Honor Flight**  
Orlando Airport  
Orlando, FL  
9:00 p.m.

**28 OCT 2026**  
**The Villages Honor Flt**  
Sanford Airport  
Sanford, FL  
9:00 p.m.

**5 NOV 2026**  
**Naturalization Ceremony**  
401 West Central Blvd –  
Orlando, FL  
10:00 a.m.

**11 NOV 2026**  
**CFLSAR Chapter Meeting**  
4755 Howell Branch Rd.  
Winter Park, FL  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**10 DEC 2026**  
**Naturalization Ceremony**  
401 West Central Blvd –  
Orlando, FL  
10:00 a.m.



# The Bell Ringer

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## Skeletons in the Closet Ramblings of a SAR Registrar/Genealogist

No. 2

By and with permission of Harry L. Rinker



Who is responsible for membership recruitment? There are those who think the responsibility rests with a chapter's registrar/genealogist. Nothing could be further from the truth. **EVERYONE IN THE CHAPTER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT.**

Why does the SAR not have the same level of recognition in the community as the DAR? Arguing that it is because the DAR is six times the size of the SAR is just an excuse. The primary reason is that most SAR members are not aggressive in touting their pride in their SAR membership to others, prompting the goals and principles of the organization, and actively seeking other males who may have a Revolutionary War ancestors.. In fairness to SAR members, many SAR chapters, state organizations, and even National are not good at "getting their name in paper" or more correctly in "social media" in today's world.

The good news is that the 250 Anniversary Celebrations are providing a wealth of public exposure for the SAR that has not been available for decades. These events are generating a strong interest in the history of the Revolutionary War period as well as a renewed interest among individuals in their Revolutionary War ancestors and lineage. This year's opportunity to recruit new members for the SAR must not be lost - strike while the iron is hot [I love cliches].

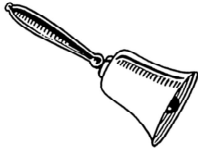
Imagine what can happen if each existing SAR member, even one out of three, recruits a new member. The size of the SAR would double.

Where are the opportunities for member recruitment? First, start with the member's family - sons, grandsons, brothers, nephews, and cousins. They tie-in directly with the member's application. Every chapter registrar/genealogist loves this type of membership application. The primary way to find out if they are interested is to ask.

Also, remember as a recruiter, you are an SAR salesman. Tout the mission and goals of the SAR. Demonstrate the values by sharing your experiences and the rewards that result in being a member of the SAR.

Second, talk about SAR with friends and acquaintances. Don't forget to wear your SAR lapel pin. It attracts attention. Invite them to a meeting to "get the feel" of the SAR.

Third, encourage your chapter or state to create membership recruitment booths. These can occur in a variety of circumstances - at a genealogy event at a local library, a festival at a historic site or park, Pioneer Day event, JROTC competition, ethnic festivals such Scottish Highland Games, and educational meeting and seminars.



# The Bell Ringer

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## Skeletons in the Closet Ramblings of a SAR Registrar/Genealogist

No. 2

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Fourth, develop a threefold flyer providing information about the SAR, your chapter, and the contact information for your chapter/registrar genealogist.

Maybe it's time to find out  
who is hiding in your closet

Use your imagination to add to the above list.

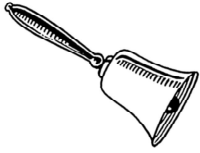
When a lead develops, your chapter/registrar genealogist will need four pieces of information: (1) the full name of the person, (2) a mailing address, (3) a phone number, and (4) an email address. All four are needed if the chapter registrar/genealogist is to respond to the initial contact. If possible, also indicate how the contact was made and the level of interest the person showed. Do not wait to get this information to your chapter registrar/genealogist. Do it immediately.

Finally, you will never know if a person is interested in joining the SAR if you do not ask. Not everyone will say yes. In fact, "no," "not at this time," "I do not have any Revolutionary ancestors," or "my family came to American after the Revolutionary War" are the most frequent responses. But they are not always the answer. When the answer is "yes," get their contact information. You will never know if the answer is "Yes" unless you ask.

Set a personal goal to help the SAR grow in 2026 and beyond.



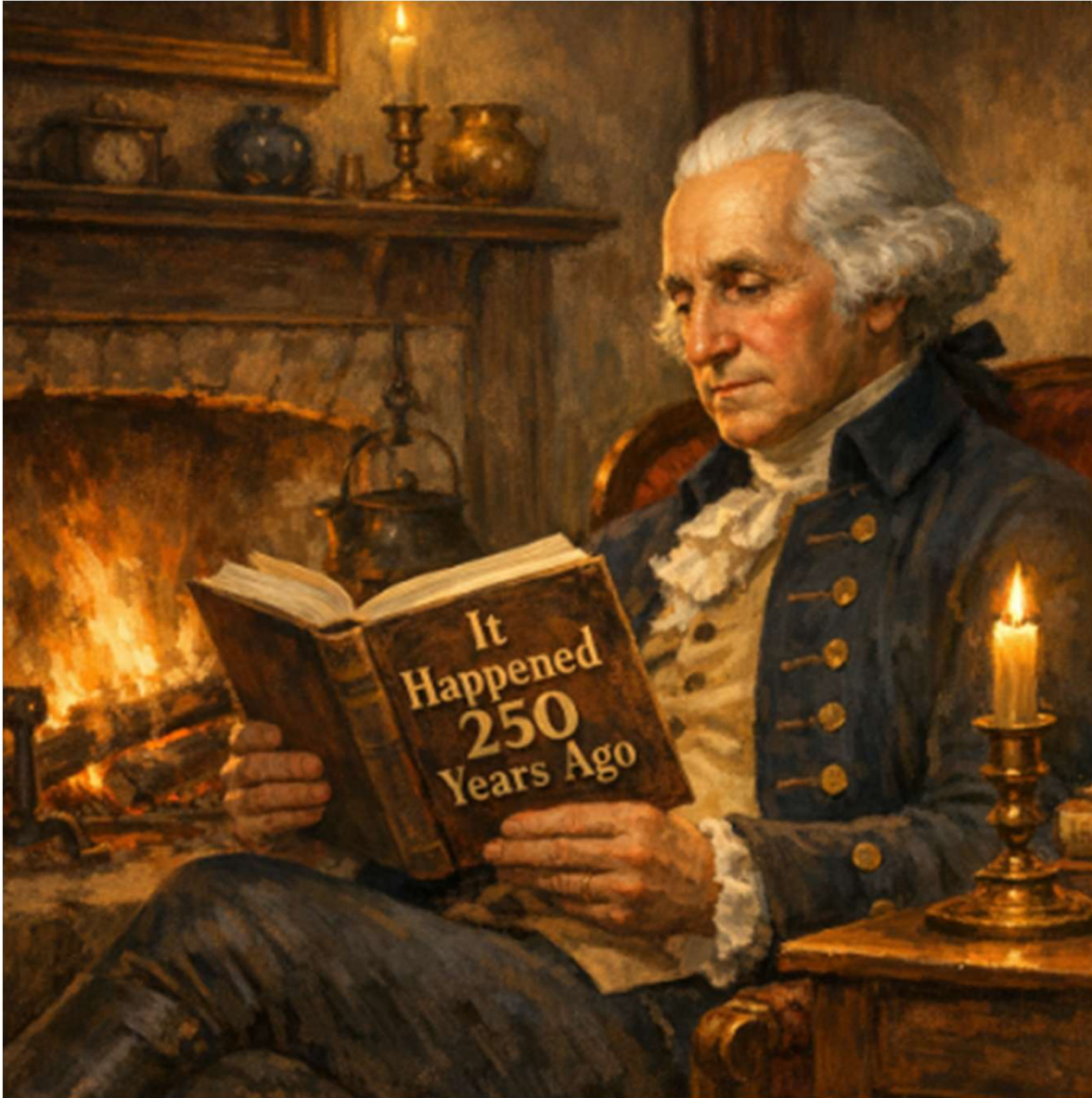
**WHAT'S NEXT** - The role of the chapter registrar/genealogist as a Salesman, First Contact, and First Responder.



# The Bell Ringer

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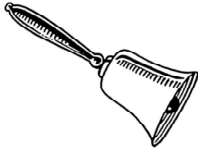
## It Happened 250 Years Ago



**APR 4, 1776** – Siege of Boston

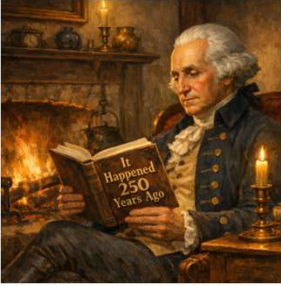
With British Lieutenant General William Howe's departure from Boston, the British threat to New England was significantly reduced. Washington feared the next target would be New York City. He left his headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and headed to Manhattan, marking the beginning of the New York and New Jersey phase of the war.

At that time, the inhabited part of Manhattan was at the island's southern tip. The town consisted of four thousand brick and wooden buildings, occupying less than a square mile and connected by cobblestone lanes and sidewalks. The island had already been expanded along the wharves and riverfronts with artificial land. There were 268 liquor vendors in Manhattan at the time.



# The Bell Ringer

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## It Happened 250 Years Ago

**APR 4, 1776** – General George Washington's army left its first winter encampment at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**APR 6, 1776** – Commodore Esek Hopkins' naval fleet encountered the HMS *Glasgow*, which sailed into their midst after midnight on April 6. The ensuing pitched battle lasted for three hours, with British Captain Tryingham Howe displaying superior seamanship in a series of bold moves.

Though greatly outnumbered, the *Glasgow* inflicted 24 American casualties while only suffering 4 of her own. Its guns knocked out the American vessel *Alfred's* wheel block and raked the ship's deck with shot.

During the battle, Howe threw overboard dispatches he was carrying from General William Howe in Halifax, Nova Scotia, to General Henry Clinton. Although badly damaged, *Glasgow* escaped.

**APR 6, 1776** – Upon learning of the British fleet's arrival at Cape Fear on March 12, Colonel James Moore assembled a force of 1,847 men to confront the 700 British Regulars on the military transports anchored offshore. He ordered the construction of two artillery batteries equipped with 6-pounders and 9-pounders, and had hulks sunk in the Cape Fear River to block the channel below Wilmington.

British Lieutenant General Sir Henry Clinton managed to land foraging parties along the shore. In one skirmish near Brunswick Town, the British captured a Patriot officer and five of his men. The Royal Navy patrolled the area, firing salvos at anyone who appeared on the shore and rescuing survivors and refugees from the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge.

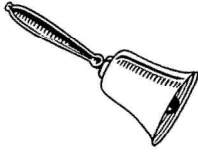
General Clinton issued a proclamation urging citizens to reaffirm their allegiance to the King, promising pardons to all except Robert Howe and Cornelius Harnett—two ardent Patriots from Brunswick and New Hanover counties—who were declared outlaws by the British ministry for organizing the first militia against the King.

**APR 7, 1776** - Israel Putnam arrived in New York and sent Congress a letter asking for permission to fortify Governor's Island in New York's upper harbor.

**APR 8, 1776** – Putnam didn't wait for a response from Congress. During the evening, he sent 1,000 troops to Governor's Island.

**APR 8, 1776** – The Patriot fleet, commanded by Commodore Esek Hopkins, arrived back in New London, Connecticut, fresh from its raid of Nassau, Bahamas. During the raid, the Americans captured eighty-eight cannons, fifteen mortars, thousands of rounds of shot, and other artillery implements, including gunpowder.

**APR 10, 1776** – On April 10, Congress appointed James Moore as brigadier general, placing him in command of all forces in North Carolina.



# The Bell Ringer

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## It Happened 250 Years Ago

**APR 12, 1776** – The *Halifax Resolves* were adopted in Halifax, North Carolina. Eighty-three delegates to the Fourth Provincial Congress, in North Carolina, met and unanimously adopted a resolution calling for independence from England. The resolves empowered North Carolina's three delegates to the Second Continental Congress to join with other colonies calling for independence.

**APR 13, 1776** – Washington arrived in New York City and began working at his headquarters on lower Broadway. Four days later, Martha arrived, and the couple occupied a mansion north of the city.

**APR 17, 1776** – Capt. John Barry, commanding the American ship *Lexington*, engaged in battle with the British sloop *Edward*. Although Barry's ship had more guns, the British had superior experience. The *Lexington* sustained heavy damage and four casualties, but managed to inflict severe damage on *Edward's* sails and rigging.

Ultimately, *Edward* struck her colors, making Barry the first American naval captain to capture a British ship in actual combat. A wealthy Philadelphia shipowner, Barry had served as master of the *Alfred*—now under Commodore Esek Hopkins's command—before the Revolutionary War.

**APR 18, 1776** – British Commodore Peter Parker arrived in Cape Fear with 11 warships.

**APR 21, 1776** – The day after American Captain Joseph Turpin, onboard the *Comet*, captured the English prize ship *St. James*, which was loaded with rum and sugar, he was spotted by the British sloop *Falcon* and its tender, *General Clinton* (formerly the rebel brig *Hetty*). Capt. Turpin attempted to bring his prizes into Charleston harbor, but the *Falcon* pursued him. As he reached Charleston, his prize ship ran aground three miles northeast of Fort Johnson, forcing Capt. Turpin to abandon it after setting it on fire.

Capt. John Linzee of the *Falcon* sent Capt. William Stacey was tasked with extinguishing the fire, but Capt. Turpin fired on the *General Clinton*. The guns of the *Comet* failed to cause any damage due to the distance, and the *St. James* and her cargo were completely lost.

**APR 22, 1776** – Capt. Turpin and his ship, the *Comet*, swiftly overtook *General Clinton*, marking the first time the South Carolina Navy defeated a British warship. The *Comet* captured the *General Clinton*, along with several pilots who had been assisting the British. With this victory, the British were left without any pilots to aid their navigation of Charleston Harbor.

**APR 23, 1776** – Congress accepted the resignation of Major General Artemus Ward. Despite his resignation, Ward continued to serve until March 1777, when General William Heath assumed command. Congress had appointed Ward as one of the original four major generals in the Continental Army, second only to General Washington. He resigned due to poor health.

At the time of his resignation, Washington still needed General Ward. On August 21, 1776, Congress resolved "that Major General Ward be authorized and requested, if his health will permit, to continue in the command of the forces in the service of the United States, in the eastern department, until further orders."

Ward continued to serve until March 1777, when William Heath assumed command.

**Rest In Peace, Compatriot**

***Richard Austin Branham***

**Many of us knew him as “Buck.”**

Buck was born on 19 June 1952 and died on 11 April 2026. He was 73.

Buck became a member (226111) of the SAR and our chapter on 21 April 2023.

**He will be missed.**