

# The Bell Ringer

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Mark your calendar: Winter Park Elks Club,  
**WEDNESDAY**, March 11, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00  
p.m.

## From the President,

Dear CFLSAR Compatriots and Friends,

As February draws to a close, we are reminded that patriotism in Florida shines as brightly as our winter sun. While other states shovel snow, we gather under clear skies to honor the sacrifices that shaped our nation. Our chapter's color guard continues to embody that spirit, carrying forward the legacy of our ancestors with dignity and pride.

In the coming days, we will stand together at the **dedication of the first Amphibious Assault Memorial**, a tribute to those who braved the seas and stormed hostile shores in defense of liberty. This ceremony connects the courage of Revolutionary patriots with the valor of modern warriors, reminding us that freedom has always required determination, sacrifice, and unity. Our presence ensures that their stories are remembered and honored.

Soon after, we will join in the **Last Naval Battle Celebration**, commemorating the final naval engagement of the American Revolution fought off Florida's coast. This event reminds us that liberty was secured not in a single moment, but through persistence across land and sea. By honoring this battle, we affirm our mission to keep Revolutionary history alive for future generations. Thank you for your fellowship and dedication — together, we carry forward the flame of patriotism in both ceremony and service.

With patriotic pride,

Central Florida Chapter SAR  
49th Chapter President (2025 – 2027)

## 2025 – 2027 Officers

**President/Historian** – 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) - (407) 427-9692

**Corresponding Secretary** – Gary Smith

[trekker01@gmail.com](mailto:trekker01@gmail.com) - (214) 437-3577

**Member-at-Large/Chaplain** - Randal Allen

[aerospace321@outlook.com](mailto:aerospace321@outlook.com) - (407) 909-9649

**Member-at-Large** – Burt Fairchild

[burtfairchild@gmail.com](mailto:burtfairchild@gmail.com) - (407) 415-5655

**Immediate Past President** – Scott Cook

[mousephone2@gmail.com](mailto:mousephone2@gmail.com) - (407) 579-1612

**Sergeant-at-Arms** – Michael Meyer

[meyermi1775@gmail.com](mailto:meyermi1775@gmail.com) - (407) 452-2666

**Patriot Medal Winner/Color Guard Commander**  
– Phil Markoe

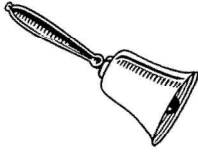
[markoevikingsfan@aol.com](mailto:markoevikingsfan@aol.com) - (407) 350-8143

### ---OPEN POSITIONS---

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Recording Secretary,  
Genealogist, Registrar, Webmaster

*If you are interested in any of the above vacant positions, please get in touch with one of the officers and let him know.*

***Volunteer today and make your Patriot proud.***



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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

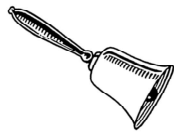
He will try to run as many SAR youth programs as possible each season.

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.**



# The Bell Ringer

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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 2632

## America 250

### Compatriots

(16.3% of Chapter Membership have medaled)

- Bronze – 11
- Silver – 6
- Gold – 5

### Non-Compatriots

- Bronze – 2
- 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

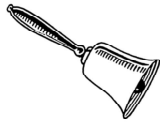
Milton Mersinger

William Morgan

Robin Preston

Harry Rinker

Gary Smith



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## March 11 Chapter Meeting

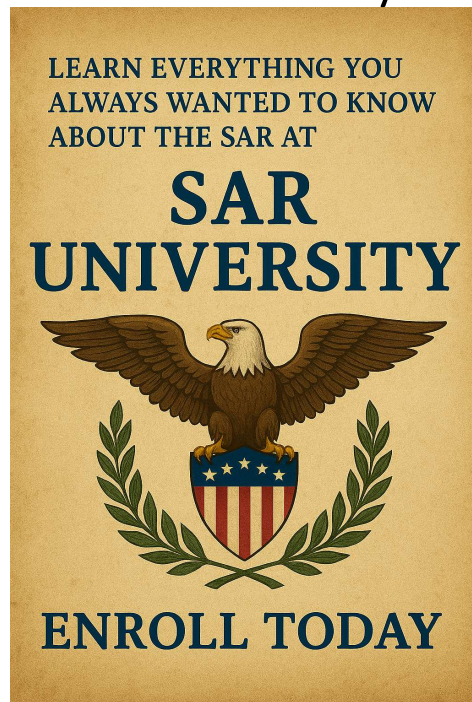
**Where:** Winter Park Elks Club  
4755 Howell Branch Road  
Winter Park

**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



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

## Proper dress for a chapter meeting



**HOW NOT TO DRESS**

**HOW TO DRESS**

## 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 – 102

Consecutive days with a post since inception - **806**

Total Posts since inception - **1193**

Views since inception– **44,809**

Views in 2026– **5,539** (as of February 24)

Average views per day – **56**

Average views per post – **37.6**

Most views in one day – **580** (25 JAN 2026)



## 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

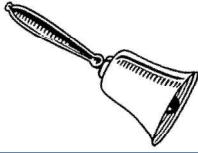
- 1) Member of a VA Hospital Council, Voluntary Service, or Center of Development or Civic Engagement
- 2) Each hour served in VA Hospital Volunteer Service
- 3) Visiting a Veteran in a Hospital, Nursing Home, or private home, or taking one or more Veterans on an outing where the hours aren't recorded 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 784**

## Attention Vets

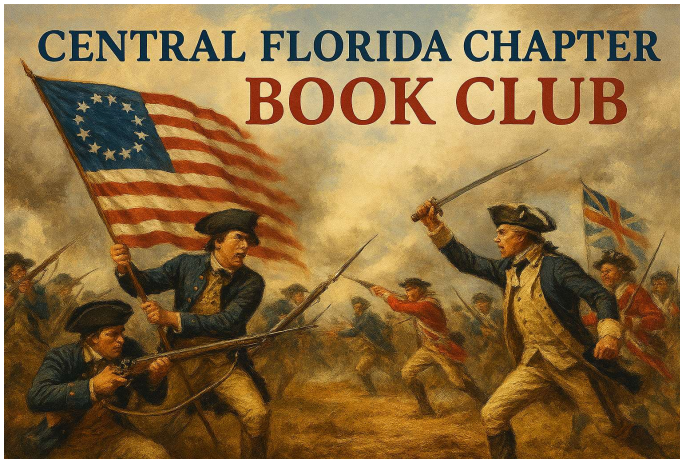
*If you are a veteran and have not received a Service Medal, please notify Robin Preston so that we can obtain the medal you have earned through your service to America.*



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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/86700729150?pwd=EI4w8MA8DYMycGEQTriWW7s7gsEDw.1>

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

### Naval Campaign – Battle of Nassau

**MAR** – Spain, Britain, and the American Revolution in Florida, 1763-1783 – by Raab

### Biography

**APR** – Tom Paine's War – by Kelly

### 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

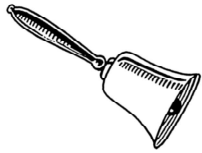
**OCT** – The Battle of White Plains: Washington and Howe in Westchester – by DeVillo

### 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



## Guest Speakers



On January 29, Harry Rinker was the guest speaker at the Winter Park Women's Club.



On February 10, Randy Allen was the guest speaker at the Mary Virginia Cabell DAR Chapter



On February 23, Harry Rinker was the guest speaker at the Longwood Rotary Club.

*Phil Markoe, Michael Meyer, and Harry Rinker were all guest speakers at the Pine Castle Pioneer Days.*

## Orlando Naturalization Ceremony February 12, 2026

On February 12, Randy Allen, Kelly Crumley (Daytona-Ormond Chapter), and Phil Markoe welcomed 50 new citizens at the Federal Courthouse in downtown Orlando.



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## Compatriot Grave Marking

February 14, 2026



On Saturday, February 14, the Central Florida Chapter honored five compatriots who are no longer with us.

**Elisha Gunter Akin, Jr.**

**NSSAR #101382**

**Lyman Antoine Scribner**

**NSSAR #101697**

**Richard Cooley "Hoff" Hoffman**

**NSSAR #199806**

**Douglas William MacFarland Marshall**

**NSSAR #164810**

**William Sterling "Bill" Jenkins**

**NSSAR #87954**

At least 5 more compatriot graves will be marked this year. If you would like to sponsor one or more markings, you can sponsor a grave for \$60 by sending a check to.

William Morgan  
c/o The History Center  
65 East Central Blvd.  
Orlando, FL 32801

Or email William Morgan [wsmorganv@outlook.com](mailto:wsmorganv@outlook.com) for a Clover invoice.

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## Compatriot Grave Marking

February 14, 2026



Lyman Antoine Scribner

William Jenkins



Elisha Gunter Akin, Jr.



Grave Marking donations have been made by Compatriots Robert Crawford, Sheldon Ickes, Gary Smith, and Harry Rinker. Thank you for your contribution.

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## Compatriot Grave Marking

February 14, 2026



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## Central Florida Chapter Meeting February 14, 2026



**Don Lajoie** was given two flag certificates. One was for the proper display of the flag. The other was for the proper disposal of used flags.

## Central Florida Chapter Meeting February 14, 2026

**Robin Preston** presented a certificate to each player on the winning team of the CFLSAR Trivia Challenge, held in January.

The “winners,” and I use that term loosely, were **Gary Smith, Michael Meyer, Randal Allen, and Phil Markoe.**



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## Central Florida Chapter Meeting

February 14, 2026



Two new members were inducted into the chapter: Paul Adams with his wife, Susan, and Matthew Coughlin with his mentor, William Morgan.

## Central Florida Chapter Meeting

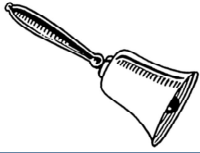
February 14, 2026



Bill Thompson received his silver America 250 certificate.



Phil Markoe leading out the color guard following the presentation of the colors.



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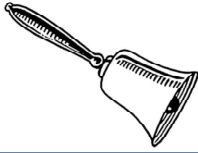
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Pioneer Days ~ February 21-22, 2026



Color Guard members, Phil Markoe, Michael Meyer, Robin Preston, Gary Smith, Harry Rinker, and Randal Allen participated in the opening ceremonies of the Pioneer Days in Pine Castle.





## Be a Senior Leader in the local chapter of the Children of the American Revolution

The Fort Gatlin Society C.A.R. is having a meeting on Sunday, March 15, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. at American Legion #286, 529 Fairlane Avenue, Orlando, to discuss new Senior leadership for the Society. Debbie & Scott Cook will be moving to South Carolina this summer. They have been the leaders of Fort Gatlin since 2019.

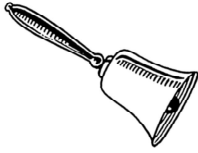
They are looking for adults willing to share leadership responsibilities, with one adult serving as Senior Society President to oversee the society. Training and materials will be available for all positions. Dividing responsibilities among the adults will result in less time commitment. They believe they have a plan that will work effectively and will continue to provide excellent opportunities for the youth of our community.

Please let Debbie Cook know if you have any questions.

Debbie Cook

Senior Society President, Fort Gatlin Society C.A.R.

[debbiecdar@gmail.com](mailto:debbiecdar@gmail.com)



## The Monument is in Place



Artist rendition of what the memorial monument is supposed to look like when completed.



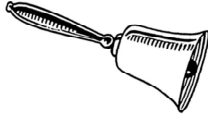
Front view of Pompano Beach Pier area with red arrow indicating where the memorial is located in relation to the pier.



The 20-foot-tall obelisk was erected on 20 February.

The dedication ceremony will be at 10:00 a.m. on 14 March.

**To see photos of the construction, go to the link below**



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**Here is an organization for the Compatriot's BETTER Half**



## *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!

Scan for Membership Application

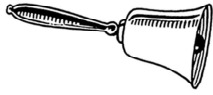


### **SAR Ladies Auxiliary History:**

- 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)**

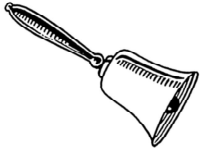


## Black Powder Training



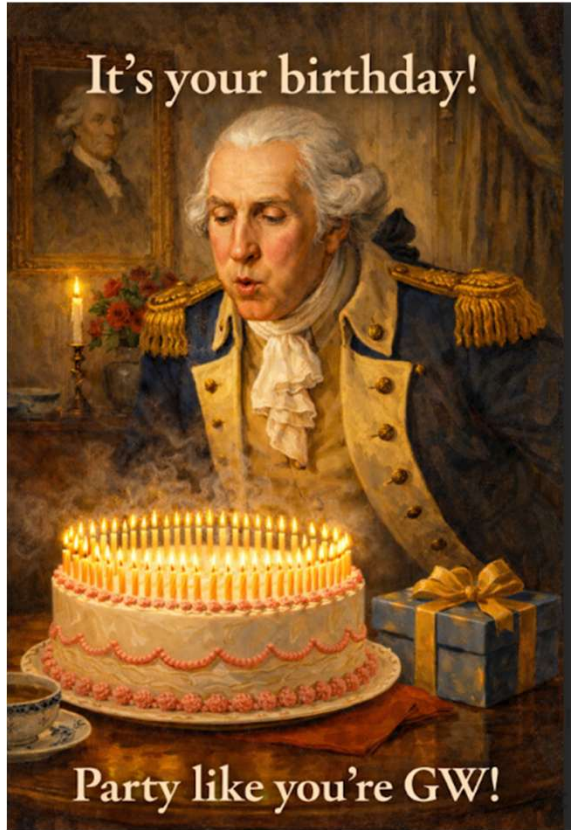
### Compatriot Mark Johnson is a certified black powder trainer

The course will be taught on Thursday, May 14, at 9:00 a.m. Chulouta Gun Club will supply the address as the date approaches. Thursday is classwork; no guns allowed out of vehicles. Friday, we will complete any unfinished classwork and shoot three rounds, two with a ball and one without, to simulate color guard activities. Expect to be done by noon on Friday. Certificates will be presented at the BOM Friday night awards Banquet. If there are lanes available on Thursday, the course may wrap it up that evening. Mark is trying to get it all done by Thursday, but may not be able to. The cost is \$85.00, with a \$35 deposit due by April 15th. There are ten spots in total, and four are spoken for. First come first served basis for the remaining 6. The next time this will be offered is at the Fall BOM. The Muzzleloading Safety or Basic Course is required to fire a firestick per the National Insurance. If you are interested, email Mark at [markmcj@gmail.com](mailto:markmcj@gmail.com), and he will forward the details, including the mailing address for a check. Mark will need your name, address, phone number, email, NRA number (if applicable; not required), and date of birth.



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

**February 28** – Charles Grist II & Cole Harper

**March 5** – Lane Cardinal

**March 6** – Robin Preston

**March 7** – Malcolm Draper Sr.

**March 9** – Ryan Spry

**March 15** – Paul Bridgford

**March 16** – George Norwicki

**March 17** – Donald Irely

**March 22** – Craig Cowen & Donald Dysart

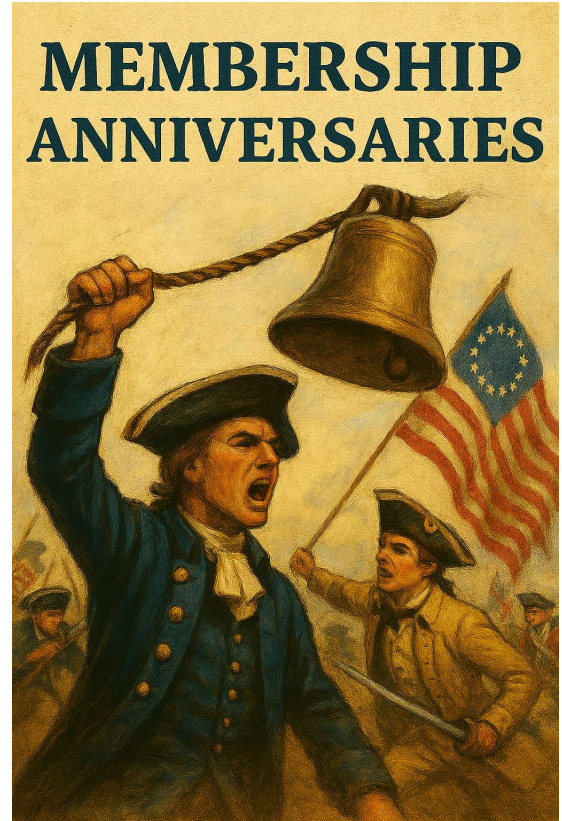
**March 25** – John Justice

**March 26** – Oliver Peters

**March 27** – Daniel Dall

**March 28** – Walter Wheeler

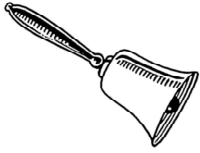
**March 30** – Mason Velie



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

**March 25 — 45 Years**

**Daniel Garris**



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## Things to do

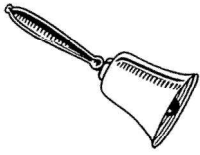
**250 YEARS OF  
AMERICAN  
INDEPENDENCE**

**THE LIBERTY TREE OF PUTNAM  
DEDICATION**

**FEBRUARY 28 • 1:00PM**

**TRIANGLE PARK, PALATKA FL**

**US 17 AND SR 19**

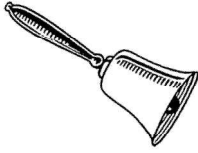


## Things to do



Members of the Central Florida Color Guard will be marching with other SAR members in the George Fest parade on February 28. For more information about the George Fest Celebration, visit the official website.

<https://www.eustis.org/Residents/Georgefest#section-1>



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## Things to do

National Events are in White letters, on a Blue field

**28 FEB 2026**

9:00 a.m.

**George Fest Parade**  
Parade Line-up 7:00 – 8:00

Eustus, FL

**28 FEB 2026**

1 p.m.

**Liberty Tree Dedication**  
St. Augustine Chapter

Palatka, Putnam County, FL

**5 MAR 2026**

**American Revolution Musical**

OMNI Hotel  
Championsgate, FL

**5, 6, 7, MAR 2026**

**FSDAR State Conference**

OMNI Hotel  
Championsgate, FL

**11 MAR 2026**

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**CFLSAR Chapter Meeting**  
4755 Howell Branch Rd  
Winter Park

**14 MAR 2026**

10:00 a.m.

**1<sup>st</sup> Amphibious Assault  
Memorial Dedication**

Pompano Beach, FL

**19 MAR 2026**

**Inheriting the Revolution:  
The Modern Legacy of 1776**

Florida Atlantic University  
Boca Raton, FL

**21 MAR 2026**

10:00 a.m.

**Last Naval Battle  
Commemoration**

Veterans Memorial Center  
Merritt Island, FL

**28 MAR 2026**

10:00 a.m.

**Battle of Thomas Creek  
Commemoration**

Jacksonville, FL

**4 APR 2026**

**Liberty Tree Dedication**  
Jacksonville Chapter

Jacksonville, FL

**11 APR 2026**

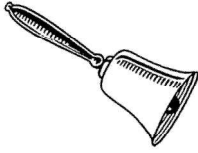
**Central Florida  
Compatriot Grave Marking**  
9:00 a.m.

**Greenwood Cemetery**  
Orlando, Florida

**11 APR 2026**

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**CFLSAR Chapter Meeting**  
4755 Howell Branch Rd  
Winter Park



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## Things to do

National Events are in White letters, on a Blue field

**15 APR 2026**

9:00 p.m.

**The Villages Honor Flight**  
Mission 70  
Allegiant Air  
Sanford, FL

**17 APR 2026**

Time TBD

**Liberty Tree Dedication**  
Clearwater Chapter  
  
Clearwater, FL

**25 APR 2026**

9:00 p.m.

**Orlando Honor Flight**  
Mission 36  
  
Sanford, FL

**2 MAY 2026**

**American Revolution Musical**  
  
Orange County History Center  
Orlando, FL

**2 MAY 2026**

**Flag Raising by Color Guard**  
  
Orange County History Center  
Orlando, FL

**2 MAY 2026**

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

**8 MAY 2026**

**Battle of Pensacola  
Commemoration**  
  
Pensacola, FL

**8 MAY 2026**

7:00 p.m.

**America 250 Ball**  
**Desoto Chapter DAR**  
  
Tampa Yacht and Country  
Club - Tampa, FL

**13 MAY 2026**

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**CFLSAR Chapter Meeting**  
4755 Howell Branch Rd  
Winter Park  
  
Awards Night

**15, 16, MAY 2026**

**FLSSAR Spring Board of  
Management Meeting**  
  
Embassy Suites  
Kissimmee, FL

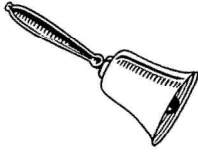
**27 MAY 2026**

9:00 p.m.

**The Villages Honor Flight**  
Mission 71  
Allegiant Air  
Sanford, FL

**6 JUN 2026**

**American Revolution Musical**  
  
Orlando Garden Club  
Orlando, FL



# The Bell Ringer

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## Things to do

National Events are in White letters, on a Blue field

**20 JUN 2026**

10:00 a.m.

**Battle of Alligator Creek  
Bridge Commemoration**

Callahan, FL

**27 JUN 2026**

10:00 a.m.

**Liberty Tree Dedication  
Central Florida Chapter**

Longwood, FL

**6 AUG 2026**

10:00 a.m.

**Liberty Tree Dedication  
Central Florida Chapter**

VA Hospital  
Lake Nona, FL

**10 - 13, SEP 2026**

**FSDAR Fall Forum**

OMNI Hotel  
Championsgate, FL

**30 SEP 2026**

9:00 p.m.

**The Villages Honor Flight  
Mission 72  
Allegiant Air  
Sanford, FL**

**17 OCT 2026**

9:00 p.m.

**Orlando Honor Flight  
Mission 37**

TBD

**28 OCT 2026**

9:00 p.m.

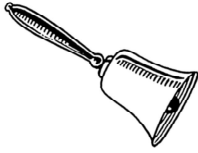
**The Villages Honor Flight  
Mission 73  
Allegiant Air  
Sanford, FL**

**FALL 2026**

9:00 a.m.

**John Clark Historical Marker  
Dedication**

Panama City, FL



# The Bell Ringer

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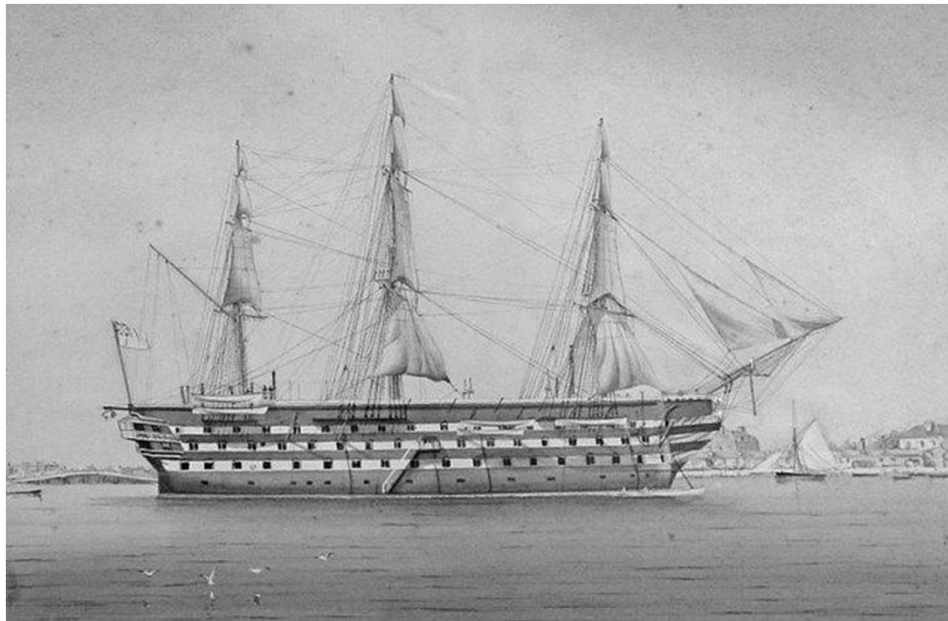
## It Happened 250 Years Ago

**FEB 5, 1776** – The *HMS Syren* captured the American pilot ship *Hawke*.

**FEB 10, 1776** – The *HMS Cruizer* captured the *America*. The American ship was sailing up the Cape Fear River when it was captured.

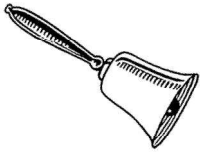
**FEB 17, 1776** – Commodore Esek Hopkins ordered his fleet of eight small merchant ships to sail to Providence in the Bahamas. These ships, once merchant vessels, had recently been converted into American man-of-war ships.

**Trivia Question:** What is a *man-of-war*? A “man-of-war” is a term for a large British warship used between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Although there isn’t a strict definition, it has two distinguishing features: it is armed with cannons and propelled by sails rather than oars.



**FEB 26, 1776** – The Continental Congress passed an embargo on exports to Great Britain and the British West Indies.

**Trivia Question:** What was a *Regulator*? A Regulator was someone who opposed corruption within the colonial government. They were part of a five-year uprising from 1766 to 1771 against corruption in North Carolina.



# The Bell Ringer

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**It Happened 250 Years Ago**

## The Battle of Moore's Creek



The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, fought on February 27, 1776, near Wilmington, North Carolina, was a brief but decisive Patriot victory that crushed Loyalist hopes in the colony. A force of Scottish Highlander Loyalists under Brigadier General Donald MacDonald marched to join the expected British reinforcements. Still, the Patriot militia led by Colonels Richard Caswell and Alexander Lillington blocked them at Moore's Creek. The Patriots removed planks from the bridge and greased its beams, then opened fire with muskets and artillery as the Loyalists attempted to cross. The clash lasted only minutes, leaving about 50 Loyalists killed or wounded and nearly 850 captured, while the Patriots suffered just one casualty. The victory permanently weakened Loyalist support in North Carolina, forced Royal Governor Josiah Martin into exile, and encouraged the colony to become the first to call for independence from Britain formally.