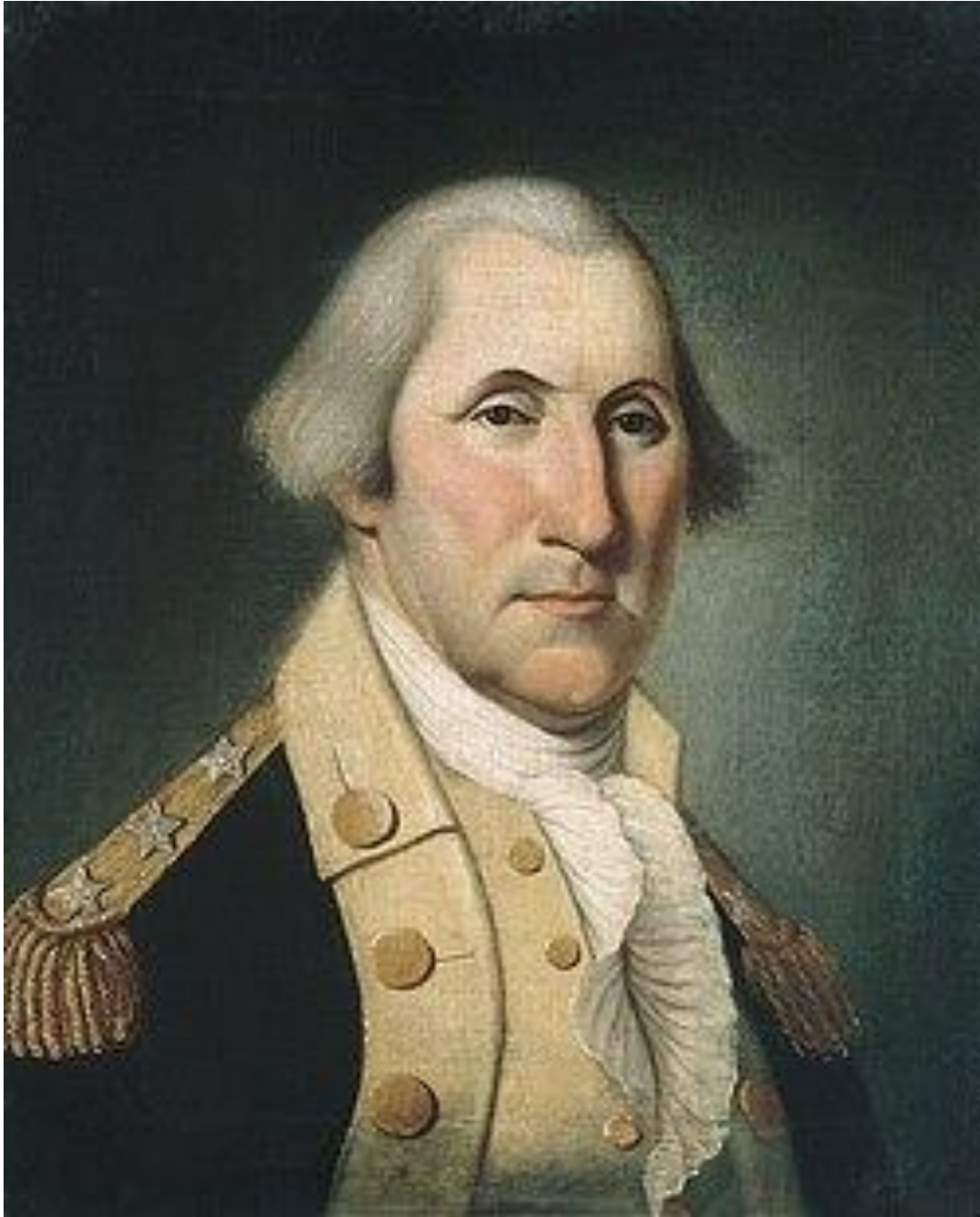




The Florida Society of the  
Sons of the American Revolution  
JULY 25, 2025  
The Central Florida Newsletter  
Chartered 1961



## George Washington



1

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.



## From the President,

Dear CFLSAR Compatriots,

I sincerely hope that everyone is having a safe and enjoyable summer and that you had a great 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration.

Now we can officially shift our focus to the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this great country we get to live in.

We're just six weeks from the start of the new SAR year. I hope that if you haven't been actively involved in the Central Florida Chapter that you will consider getting involved. We have lots of work to do between now and July 4, 2026 and we can use all the help we can get.

We still have open officer positions as seen in the next column. Many of the current officers have multiple roles, which also may be available to a person who might want that position.

Lastly, the color guard, the most visible part of the SAR, is always in need of new members.

Consider stepping up and being an officer and/or a member of the color guard. If you don't want to do either, consider simply becoming an active member of the chapter.

Patriotically Yours,

Central Florida Chapter SAR



49<sup>th</sup> 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 contact 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 are in need of Chairmen, all of them are in need of members.

### **AMERICA 250 COMMITTEE** – Robin Preston Chairman

We need volunteers, who need America 250 points, to present the America 250 minutes during the next year. If you present the short A250 minute you get 10 points, and being at the meeting will score you an extra 3 points, for a total of 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 that have noteworthy American Flag displays.

The Flag Committee shall present SAR Flag Certificates to homeowners and business owners that dispose of flags in the proper manner.

### **NEW MEMBER COMMITTEE** – Chairman Milton Mersinger

## Committee News, continued

**JROTC/ROTC COMMITTEE** – Chairman Phil Markoe  
Purpose - Provide patriotic outreach to the Senior and Junior ROTC programs which exist in Florida schools.

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE** – Chairman TBD  
This is the committee that arranges the meeting and program and as required, special meetings. There will be times when the program may be arranged by another member or committee of the Chapter such as the Patriots' Day, Law Enforcement, Eagle Scout, or National Defense (including ROTC), and Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration Contest. If you are interested on being on this committee, please let Robin Preston, know.

### **VETERANS COMMITTEE** – Chairman TBD

### **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.



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

**Make you Patriot Proud.**

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
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## America 250

With the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary (semiquincentennial) of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence coming in less than a year, we as a chapter, are likely going to be fairly busy. There is little doubt that we will be called upon to help support various semiquincentennial events. Now, more than ever, we can use as many volunteers as possible. If you are interested in volunteering for one of the chapter committees or the color guard by all means please let me or one of the other officers know.

By attending meetings or events in which the SAR America 250 flag is present and/or there is an America 250 related topic, you can earn points toward a Bronze, Silver, or Gold America 250 medal. Members and non-members are eligible to earn the medals.

As of July 24, we have the following distribution of medals within the chapter

### *Compatriots*

(13.6% of Chapter Membership have medaled)

- Bronze – 10
- Silver – 2
- Gold – 5

### *Non-Compatriots*

- Bronze – 1
- Silver – 2
- Gold – 2

Chris Washler, the FLSSAR President has thrown down the gauntlet and set a goal of the State Society being the number one state in the country in Gold Medals by the 2026 Spring Board of Management meeting. Currently Florida ranks 5<sup>th</sup> but we are only 20 Gold Medals behind first place Virginia.

Our chapter currently ranks third in the state with the number of people who have medaled. Hopefully we can get more people with medals before the anniversary next year. The easiest way to earn the medals is by attending meetings.

## Service to our Vets

Every year we scramble at the end of the year to get the USS Stark Memorial report completed. If you have done something in the service of a veteran or veterans, no matter how small you believe your contribution was, let us know anyway. Small contributions turn into big points by the end of the year. In 2024, contributions made by chapter members added up to over 22,000 points. We were the second ranked chapter in the state in total points. Please send an email to Phil Markoe and let him know what you have done.

Stark Report points are granted for the following types of service to Veterans.

1. Chapter member appointed to VA Hospital Council, Voluntary Service or Center for Development and Civic Engagement.
2. Each hour served in VA Hospital.
3. Each SAR Member visiting a Veteran in a Hospital, Nursing Home or private home, or taking one or more Veterans on an outing.
4. Each GIFT (personal care item) donated to Veterans
5. Each DOLLAR donated to a State Veterans Hospital or State Veterans Nursing Home, or other organization whose primary clients are Veterans.
6. Each PUBLICATION donated to Veterans organization whose primary clients are Veterans.
7. Participation in the SAR Wounded Warriors Program.
8. Activities recognizing or supporting Veterans in cooperation with other organizations.
9. A. Decorating Veterans' Graves and removing decorations. B. Participation in a Veteran's funeral
10. New or used men's and women's clothing donated to an organization whose primary clients are Veterans.
11. New or used but working items, such as TV's, Computers, etc., donated to an organization whose primary clients are Veterans.

2025 Points to date are 10,867.

*If you are a veteran and have not received a Service Medal, please let Robin Preston know so that we can get you the medal you deserve.*

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Color Guard



The Battle of Alligator Creek Bridge – June 28, 2025

The Color Guard is the most visible part of our organization.

There is no such thing as a color guard unit that is too big. With the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence coming soon, there will be a big need for color guards.

Don't worry if you have never marched before. As you can probably tell, many of us haven't either.

If you would like to be a member please contact the Color Guard Commander, Phil Markoe. We'd love to have you in our ranks.

Honor your Patriot by becoming a member of the Central Florida Daniel Morgan Color Guard.



District C.A.R. Conference – July 8, 2025

L-to-R Standing *Jonathan Hunt (Sr. Vice President), Phil Markoe, Robbie Robinson, Brian Jensen, Michael Meyer, Robin Preston, Will Wagner-Hart*, Kneeling L-to-R *Kevin Shurte, Randal Allen, Braeden Shurte*.



Michael Meyer, Phil Markoe, Robin Preston, and Randal Allen participated in a **4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade** in the Isle of Palms neighborhood.

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**HONOR FLIGHTS**

Honor Flights are a great way to give back to Veterans who have given us so much. We are fortunate in the Orlando area in that we have Honor Flights arriving at two area airports; Orlando International and Orlando-Sanford International. Below are the scheduled flights for the remainder of the year.

Most flights arrive back from Washington D.C. at about 9:15 p.m. If you are attending an Honor Flight at Orlando International, Fast Park offers free parking and transportation to and from the airport. If you are attending an Honor Flight at the Sanford Airport, the airport also offers parking.

If you attend an Honor Flight in a colonial uniform it is worth 20 Color Guard points. As long as the America 250 flag is present it is worth 3 America 250 points if not in uniform and 8 America 250 points if you are in uniform.

**ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**ORLANDO-SANFORD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

Mission #35 – Saturday September 20

Mission #67 – Wednesday, October 1 - Allegiant  
Mission #68 – Wednesday, October 29 – Allegiant



**JUN 28** – This Honor Flight was at the Orlando Airport. L-to-R Charles Keen, Phil Markoe, Robin Preston, Randal Allen. We were there to welcome veterans from the Space Coast Honor Flight.

**JUN 28** - Phil Markoe, Robin Preston, and Randal Allen



**JUN 28** – Photos of the Heroes as they arrived at the Orlando International Airport. This is the last time the Space Coast Honor Flight will fly out of Orlando. With the next flight they will be flying in and out of Melbourne.

## Americanism Report

Every year, we as a chapter are supposed to submit a report letting the State and National Societies know what we have done throughout the year. We are graded in categories such as;

- 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.

The 2024 Americanism Report was submitted to the State and National Societies at the end of February. Total points in the twelve categories were 6,060.

A change made this year is keeping track of the Americanism points on a more real time basis instead of working to put the report together toward the end of the reporting period. As of July 24, we have accumulated **5760** points toward the 2025 report.

## Mentoring Program

“Okay, I’m a member, now what do I do?” Exactly. What do you do? We need a mentoring program. Every new member of the chapter should have someone that could inform them about what is available to them in the SAR in general and the chapter in particular.

I would like for us to get to a point that when we learn of a new Compatriot in our chapter, that new Compatriot can be assigned a mentor. The mentor can supply them with the basics of SAR membership and can be consulted if there are questions during the first couple months of membership.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor to a new Compatriot, please let Milton Mersinger know.

## Looking for Something to Do

### Non-Chapter Meetings or Events

- September 4 – 7, 2025
  - ✓ DAR Fall Forum
- Fri. Sat. October 17, 18, 2025
  - ✓ FLSSAR Fall Board of Management Meeting
  - ✓ Saturday night banquet – color guard
- Sat. December 6, 2025
  - ✓ 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lakeland DAR Chapter
  - ✓ Color Guard Event
- Sat. December 13, 2025
  - ✓ Wreaths Across America
- February 2026
  - ✓ St. Augustine Liberty Tree Dedication
  - ✓ Color Guard Event
- Sat. March 5-8, 2026
  - ✓ DAR State Conference
- Sat. March 7, 2026
  - ✓ Last Naval Battle Commemoration
  - ✓ Color Guard Event
- Sat. March 14, 2026
  - ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> Amphibious Assault Memorial Dedication
  - ✓ Color Guard Event
- Sat. March 28, 2026
  - ✓ Battle of Thomas Creek Commemoration
- Fri. Sat. May 8, 9, 2026
  - ✓ Battle of Pensacola Commemoration
  - ✓ Color Guard Event
- Sat. June 27, 2026
  - ✓ Battle of Alligator Creek Bridge Commemoration
  - ✓ Color Guard Event
- September 10 – 13, 2026
  - ✓ DAR Fall Forum

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## CHAPTER MEETINGS

Winter Park Elks Club

4755 Howell Branch Road – Winter Park

- Sat, September 13, 2025 – 11:00am – 1:00 pm
- Sat, October 11, 2025 – 11:00am – 1:00 pm
- Wed, November 12, 2025 – 6:00pm – 8:00 pm
- Wed. December 10, 2025 – 6:00pm – 8:00 pm
- Sat. January 10, 2026 – 11:00am – 1:00 pm
- Sat. February 14, 2026 – 11:00am – 1:00 pm
- Wed. March 11, 2026 – 6:00pm – 8:00 pm
- Sat. April 11, 2026 – 11:00am – 1:00 pm
- Wed. May 13, 2026 – 6:00pm – 8:00pm

## Social Media

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

The CFLSAR Facebook page has something new every day. Check out our page for yourself and get family and friends to check it out too.

Total Post since inception (15NOV2023) - **869**

Views since inception (15NOV2023) – **25,802**

Views in 2023 **403**

Views in 2024 – **8,515**

Views in 2025 – **16,884** (as of June 24)

Average views per day – **44**

Average views per post – **29.7**

Instagram Account Name - centralfloridasar

## Road Trip

St Augustine Chapter is organizing an America250 trip to South Carolina Rev War sites in November, culminating with the Annual SC Rev War Symposium in Columbia on Saturday, November 15th.

The trip flyer and symposium program in the same email with this newsletter. A docent has been lined up to give a discussion/tour on the Battle of Sullivan's Island at Fort Moultrie, and the Rev War Symposium is always excellent.

The travel, hotels, and symposium fees are on an individual basis, so people can join as desired.

## SAR University

### Time to Learn about the SAR

All members are encouraged to complete the SAR University training. The training is broken down into two general sections; General Training and Officer Training.

The 20 modules that make up SAR University can be found on this link: [SAR University – National Society Sons of the American Revolution](#)

If you have completed the SAR University, please let Robin Preston know.

## CFLSAR Book Club

The book to be reviewed during the August meeting of the CFLSAR Book Club is [Battle for the 14<sup>th</sup> Colony](#) by Mark R. Anderson. For questions, please contact Randal Allen.

Zoom call detail will be emailed out prior to the meeting.

The book for September is [Benedict Arnold's Army: The 1775 Invasion of Canada](#) by Lefkowitz.

The book for October is [March to Independence: The Revolutionary War in the Southern Colonies](#) by Cecere.

## Name our Newsletter

Now is your chance to name the newsletter for the chapter. Let's name it something catchy that harkens back to the revolutionary days of old.

If you have a catchy name for the new newsletter, please send it to Robin Preston at [rlpreston0306@gmail.com](mailto:rlpreston0306@gmail.com). We will vote on the name at the first fall meeting.

# happy birthday

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

July 29

James Cardinal

July 29

Gary Smith

July 31

Gilmore Daniel

August 1

Steven Spry

August 2

Michael Laliberte

August 4

Matthew Velie

August 4

Michael Neal

August 7

Larry Walker

August 9

Norman Hughes

August 14

Scott Cook

August 19

David Ester

August 19

Alec Worden

August 24

William "Bill" Thompson

August 25

John Thompson

August 27

Robert Smither

August 28

Arthur Bullock

August 29

John Poulson

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**AMERICA 250 Minute**  
**JULY 1775**

On July 1, 1775, the Restraining Acts became law. They were two acts, passed by Parliament, devised to curtail trade with the colonies. They were implemented in order to respond to the growing disobedience. The New England Trade and Fisheries Act set limitations on fishing off Newfoundland, and most of the American Atlantic Coast, without special permission. It limited imports and exports to and from Great Britain, Ireland, and the British West Indies. Trade with other nations was prohibited. The Trade Act limited trade with the colonies, south of New England, except for New York, Delaware, North Carolina, and Georgia. Before long all of the southern colonies were included.

On July 2, General George Washington arrived in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to assume command of the Continental Army. Due to a severe rain storm, the formal arrival ceremony was postponed for one day.

On July 3 Washington met his army on a makeshift parade ground where he read a short speech, which included the 101<sup>st</sup> Psalm. His headquarters was set up at a house located in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Washington's first course of action was to start whipping the soldiers into some form of organized military.

Militia men continued to arrive throughout the month of July. While they were showing up, Washington was still making improvements to the army. He required that officers wear some sort of insignia distinguishing one rank from another.

On July 4, 1774, Congress incorporated the state militias into the Continental Army. This allowed Washington to issue general orders which applied to everyone.

On July 5, The Olive Branch Petition was signed by representatives from all the colonies, except Georgia. It was a last-ditch effort by the Second Continental Congress to avoid an all-out war against England. The petition confirmed loyalty to the king and country, and asked the king to take actions to prevent any further conflict.

On July 6, congress adopted the Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms. It explained why the thirteen colonies took up arms against the British. The document reinforced the colonial stance that they weren't yet seeking independence, but that they had some issues that needed to be addressed. Those issues included such things as the Coercive Acts, the Declaratory Act, taxation without representation, and the use of the vice admiralty courts.

It stated that the colonies had taken up arms to defend their birthright as British subjects. The document also stated that they would lay down their arms if the hostilities with England stopped.

On July 26, Benjamin Franklin was made the first Post Master General of the United States.

**Official Announcement From  
The First Amphibious Assault Monument Committee**

The First Amphibious Assault Monument Committee (FAAM) of the Florida Society Sons of the American Revolution (FLSSAR) is pleased to announce the opening of their official website, [1776Landing.org](http://1776Landing.org). This website provides considerable information about the monument that will be constructed at Pompano Beach, Florida, to honor our nation's Continental Marines and Sailors who took part in the first amphibious assault operations during the Revolutionary War on 3-4 March 1776, in the Bahamas. The FAAM Committee is planning to hold the ribbon-cutting ceremony on 14 March 2026, to commemorate the 250th anniversary of our nation and this historic event, which has been overlooked until now.

The website will be continuously refreshed throughout the next several months to provide updated information about events associated with the ceremony, as well as list the new names for the Honor Roll, which contains the individuals and organizations that have contributed to the monument project. The website also contains photos that help explain where the monument will be located and has historic information about the assault on Forts Montague & Nassau in the Bahamas by our nation's continental sailors and marines during the very early stages of the Revolutionary War. The (FAAM) website is focused on supporting the mission statement of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution—to honor our patriot ancestors, support our communities, and educate and inspire our children about the founding principles of our nation.

An important feature of this website is a link that explains how anyone, even if they are not a member of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), can contribute to help raise funds for the monument. This link offers a straightforward way to make donations. Data about the contributions made through this link will be sent to the (FAAM) committee, ensuring that proper recognition is given on the website and in The FLSSAR Patriot Magazine.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact the (FAAM) committee at [1776landingcontact@gmail.com](mailto:1776landingcontact@gmail.com)

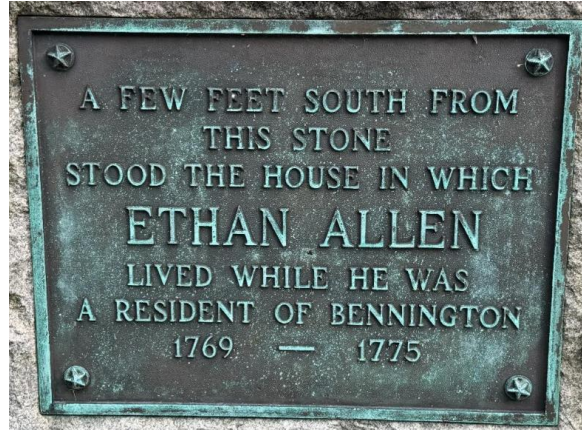


First Amphibious Assault Website - <https://1776landing.org/>

**Revolutionary Travels** – If you travel somewhere that was touched by the American Revolution and would like to share your photos, please submit them to Robin Preston, so they can be shared with your fellow compatriots. [rlpreston0306@gmail.com](mailto:rlpreston0306@gmail.com)



Fort Stanwix, New York



Bennington, Vermont

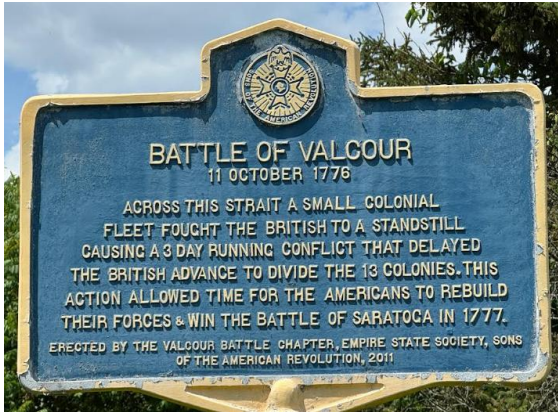


John Stark – Bennington, Vermont



Old Saybrook, Connecticut

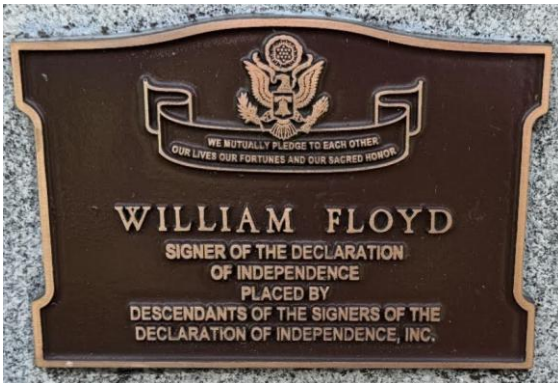
## Revolutionary Travels – continued.



Valcour Island, New York



Old Saybrook, Connecticut



Fort Stanwix – New York



Fraunces Tavern – New York City



Oriskany, New York

## Revolutionary Travels – continued.



Mount Defiance overlooking Fort Ticonderoga



Von Steuben's Grave



Fort Ticonderoga – New York

## Revolutionary Travels – continued.



Saratoga, New York



Fraunces Tavern – New York City



The Long Room - Fraunces Tavern – This is the room in which GW said farewell to his officers before leaving New York City for Mount Vernon.



Alexander Hamilton's grave in the church yard of Trinity Church, a four-minute walk from ground zero in New York City. Eliza Hamilton is buried in a non-conspicuous grave just in front of this one.

## Revolutionary Travels – continued.



George Washington was born on February 22, 1732, at Popes Creek Plantation in Westmoreland County, Virginia, near the Potomac River. Today, the site is preserved as the George Washington Birthplace National Monument, a 551-acre park managed by the National Park Service.



This is the grave of Thomas McKean. One of his claims to fame is that he was the last person to sign the Declaration of Independence. Even he didn't remember for sure when he signed it, but it was sometime after March 1777, and possibly as late as 1781.



Okay, this is not revolutionary but it is still pretty cool. This is Compatriot Randal Allen holding a battle hat worn by Robert E. Lee.

*Most of the photos in this section of the newsletter came to us, courtesy of Randal Allen. He's done a lot of traveling this summer.*