



The Bell Ringer

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Mark your calendar: Winter Park Elks Club,
SATURDAY, April 11, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

From the President,

Dear CFLSAR Compatriots and Friends,

Spring has officially arrived, which means two things: Florida pollen is plotting against us, and our chapter calendar is waking up faster than a Minuteman who heard a musket misfire. March always feels like the month when everything happens, and a tremendous amount of activity did, but hold on, there is a lot more to come.

This is also the time of year when I'm reminded just how tough our Patriot ancestors really were. They marched through mud, snow, and the occasional British inconvenience — meanwhile, half of us start negotiating with ourselves the moment the forecast hits 88 degrees. Still, we show up, we suit up, and we present the colors with pride... even if we're secretly wondering why wool was ever considered a breathable fabric.

As we head into April's ceremonies and the busy months ahead, I want to thank each of you for the enthusiasm you bring to our chapter. Whether you're carrying a flag, mentoring youth, or simply explaining for the 47th time what the SAR actually does, you're keeping our history alive in ways that matter.

Here's to a season of meaningful events, good fellowship, and just enough shade — literal and figurative — to get us through the Florida spring before summer reminds us who's boss.

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

2025 – 2027 Officers

President/Historian – Robin Preston

rlpreston0306@gmail.com – (832)655-4173

2nd Vice President – Don LaJoie

grazingbuffalo94@gmail.com - (912) 580-9433

Treasurer – William “Billy” Morgan

wsmorganv@outlook.com - (407) 427-9692

Corresponding Secretary – Gary Smith

trekker01@gmail.com - (214) 437-3577

Member-at-Large/Chaplain/Recording Secretary-

Randal Allen

aerospace321@outlook.com - (407) 909-9649

Member-at-Large – Burt Fairchild

burtfairchild@gmail.com - (407) 415-5655

Immediate Past President – Scott Cook

mousephone2@gmail.com - (407) 579-1612

Sergeant-at-Arms – Michael Meyer

meyermi1775@gmail.com - (407) 452-2666

Patriot Medal Winner/Color Guard Commander – Phil

Markoe

markoevikingsfan@aol.com - (407) 350-8143

Webmaster – Michael Neal

---OPEN POSITIONS---

1st Vice President, Genealogist, Registrar.

If you are interested in any of the above vacant positions, please contact one of the officers and let them 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

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.

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.

Cash Award Amounts

Place	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
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 3,276

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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April 11 Chapter Meeting

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

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 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. 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

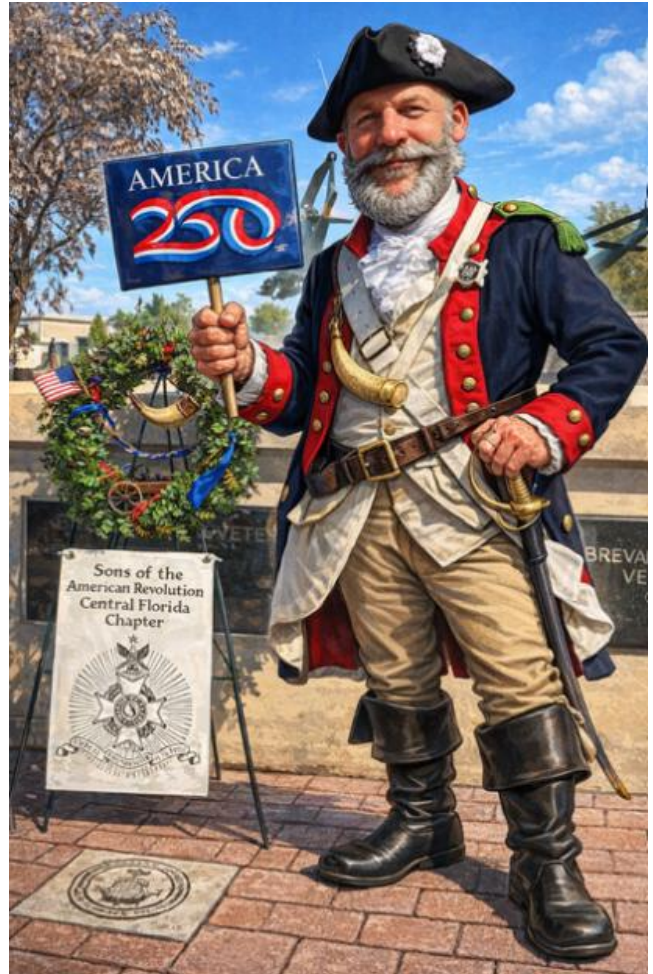
LEARN EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE SAR AT

SAR UNIVERSITY



ENROLL TODAY

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



Social Media

Facebook Page – www.facebook.com/cflsar

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– **47,446**

Views in 2026– **8,176** (as of March 24)

Average views per day – **57**

Average views per post – **38.3**

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



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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 1,477

Attention Vets

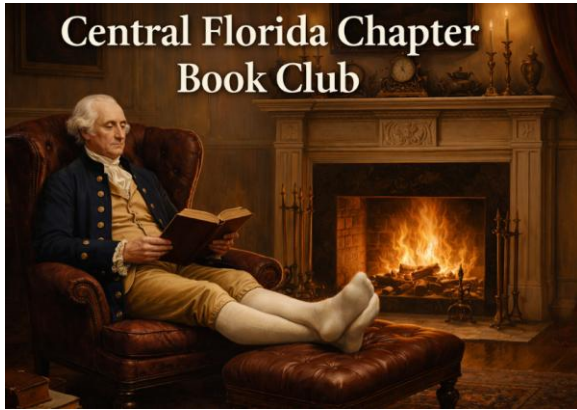
If you are a veteran and have not received a Service Medal, please notify Robin Preston so that we can obtain the medal you have earned through your service to America.



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Book Club Books for 2026



Central Florida Chapter Book Club

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=f04TRwmBBoE3mxZWmMvnWi8IGH6YpM.1>

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

Biography

APR – Tom Paine's War – by Kelly

Semiquincentennial

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

1st British Southern Expedition – Battle of Ft Sullivan (1st 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

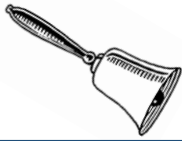
New York Campaign – Battle of Pell's Point

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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DAR Spring Conference



The Real Us

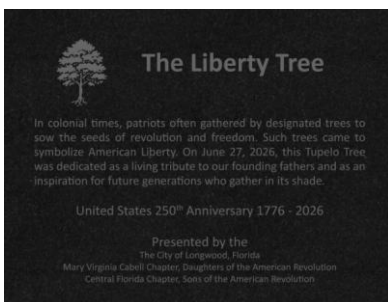
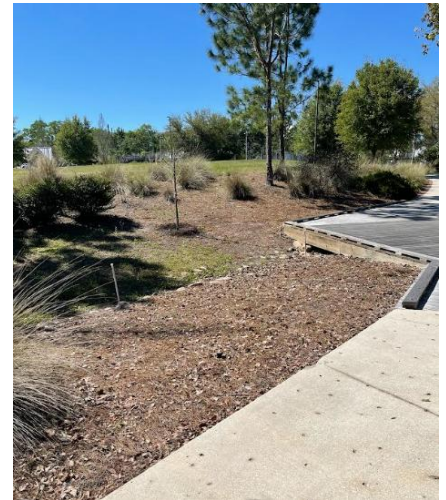


Our Alter Egos

On March 6 and 7, members of the CFSAR Color Guard participated in three events. Those from the chapter performing color guard activities were Randal Allen (not pictured), Phil Markoe, Robin Preston, and Michael Meyer.

Longwood "Reiter Park" Liberty Tree Dedication

June 27, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.



On Thursday, March 13, a Tupelo Tree was planted at the Reiter Park in Longwood. On June 27th, it will be dedicated as a Liberty Tree by our chapter, the Mary Virginia Cabell DAR Chapter, and the City of Longwood. Now would be a great time to add it to your calendar.

A 12" x 15" plaque like the one on the side will be installed between the walkway and the tree.

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Central Florida Chapter Meeting March 11, 2026



Marlene Lambiaso received a Certificate of Appreciation for her donations to the Chapter.



Barbara Fairchild received an America 250 Bronze certificate.



Rob Patton received an America 250 Bronze certificate.

Jane Bullock (not pictured) presented an America 250 Minute on Mary Ball Washington. Phil Markoe spoke to the chapter about his Patriot Ancestor, Abraham Markoe.



Burt Fairchild received an America 250 Silver certificate.



Phil Markoe, chairman of the chapter Education Outreach Committee, presented Krizia Columna with the Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Certificate and a \$300 check for first place.



Andrew Sechler presented Leighton Yates with a Flag Certificate at his home, which he earned because of his proper display. Leighton was really appreciative of the certificate.



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First Amphibious Assault Memorial Dedication

March 14, 2026



By the Numbers

Members of the
Florida Sons of Liberty
Brigade Color Guard

Present

28

SAR Chapters
Represented

23

From **4** States

DAR Chapters
Represented

11

Wreaths Presented

1

Carnations presented in
place of wreaths

69

Reserved Seats Filled

225

General Public Present
Hundreds





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Last Naval Battle

March 21, 2026

In our staging area waiting for the GO command.



Once around the block



Lined up and ready to go.



Three of our better halves



Phil Markoe with the chapter wreath



Jim Gaskins, Holly Hamilton, and Christopher Ratzel



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Last Naval Battle

March 21, 2026



19 Color Guardsmen, 5 from CFLSAR



The After Party at Fishlips



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Here is an organization for the Ladies



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.

Scan for Membership
Application



If you are interest contact Kathy Markoe at daydreamr613@aol.com



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

March 25 – John Justice

March 26 – Oliver Peters

March 27 – Daniel Dall

March 28 – Walter Wheeler

March 30 – Mason Velie

April 1 – Lee Evans

April 6 – Matthew Meier

April 7 – Scott Fairchild

April 9 – Charles Keen

April 11 – David Emsley

April 12 – John Meyer, Robert Fisher

April 13 – William "Billy" Morgan

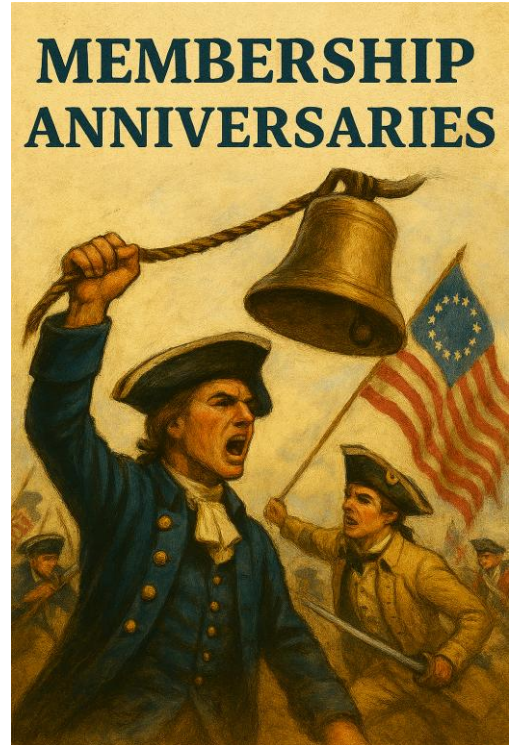
April 18 – Burt Fairchild

April 20 – Carl Holden

April 21 – Christopher Swigart

April 26 – Justin Corsa

April 30 – Ted Price



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

March 31 – 45 Years

Richard Davis

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Compatriot Grave Marking

February 14, 2026



On Saturday, April 11, the Central Florida Chapter will honor 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

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 for a Clover invoice.



Sons of the American Revolution



Central Florida Chapter



CFLSAR Chapter Meeting

WHAT – Commemoration of the Last Naval Battle

WHEN – April 11, 2026

TIME – 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch Cost - \$25 per person

WHERE – Winter Park Elks Club
4755 Howell Branch Road

NOTE – *We are going to be treated to an Exclusive showing of the documentary "For These We Strive". The documentary is the result of 23 years of work by Phil Markoe's sister, Anastasia Ferger. She is gracious enough to give us a private screening.*



Things to do

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

MEMORIAL DAY FESTIVAL

REMEMBER AND HONOR

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



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Things to do

National Events are in White letters, on a Blue field

28 MAR 2026

10:00 a.m.

**Battle of Thomas Creek
Commemoration**

Jacksonville, FL

4 APR 2026

10:00 a.m.

Liberty Tree Dedication
Jesse Ball Dupont Park
1207 Prudential Dr.

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. – 1:30 p.m.

CFLSAR Chapter Meeting
4755 Howell Branch Rd
Special Movie Screening
For These We Strive
Winter Park

15 APR 2026

9:00 p.m.

The Villages Honor Flight
Mission 70
Allegiant Air
Sanford, FL

16 APR 2026

**Orlando Naturalization
Ceremony – 10:00 a.m.**

401 West Central Blvd.
Orlando, FL

17 APR 2026

10:00 a.m.

Liberty Tree Dedication
Veterans Memorial Plaza
Crest Lake Park
Clearwater, FL

20 APR 2026

Patriot Marking Dedication
11:00 a.m.

Central Park

Winter Park, Florida

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



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Things to do

National Events are in White letters, on a Blue field

7 MAY 2026

Orlando Naturalization Ceremony – 10:00 a.m.

401 West Central Blvd.
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

25 MAY 2026

11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Memorial Day Festival

New Dimension High School
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

11 JUN 2026

Orlando Naturalization Ceremony – 10:00 a.m.

401 West Central Blvd.
Orlando, FL

9 JUL 2026

Orlando Naturalization Ceremony – 10:00 a.m.

401 West Central Blvd.
Orlando, FL

13 AUG 2026

Orlando Naturalization Ceremony – 10:00 a.m.

401 West Central Blvd.
Orlando, FL

10 - 13, SEP 2026

FSDAR Fall Forum

OMNI Hotel
Championsgate, FL



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Things to do

National Events are in White letters, on a Blue field

17 SEP 2026

Orlando Naturalization Ceremony – 10:00 a.m.

401 West Central Blvd.
Orlando, FL

30 SEP 2026

9:00 p.m.

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

15 OCT 2026

Orlando Naturalization Ceremony – 10:00 a.m.

401 West Central Blvd.
Orlando, 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**

5 NOV 2026

Orlando Naturalization Ceremony – 10:00 a.m.

401 West Central Blvd.
Orlando, FL

10 DEC 2026

Orlando Naturalization Ceremony – 10:00 a.m.

401 West Central Blvd.
Orlando, FL

FALL 2026

9:00 a.m.

**John Clark Historical Marker
Dedication**

Panama City, FL



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It Happened 250 Years Ago

MAR 1, 1776 – British Major John Maitland landed a force on Cockspar Island, Georgia. A local Patriot force engaged the English force in a skirmish and was eventually forced to withdraw. One Patriot and four British were wounded.

MAR 2, 1776 – The congressional Committee of Secrecy commissioned Silas Deane as a secret envoy to France. He was authorized to conduct commercial and political business on behalf of Congress.

MAR 2-3, 1776 – The Battle of the Rice Boats, also known as the Battle of Yamacraw, was a land and naval engagement that took place on and around the Savannah River. The Patriot militia from Georgia and South Carolina fought a small fleet of Royal Navy ships.

As food supplies dwindled in Boston, a small Royal Navy fleet was sent to Georgia to purchase rice and other provisions. Upon the fleet's arrival, colonial rebels who controlled the Georgia government arrested the British Royal Governor, James Wright. While some supply ships anchored in the Savannah area were burned, the British secured the majority of the remaining vessels.

Wright escaped and reached one of the British ships. With his departure, British control over Georgia was effectively ended, at least for the next couple of years.

MAR 3, 1776 – The American navy's first planned operation led to the capture of New Providence and a substantial amount of munitions as plunder. Esek Hopkins' fleet of eight ships sailed into the port town of Nassau on New Providence Island in the Bahamas.

About 200 marines from the newly formed Marine Corps, led by Samuel Nicholas, comprised the central part of the landing party that occupied the town and its two forts. Fort Nassau was the principal fort on the island.

The battle marked the Marine Corps' first taste of combat, even though they did not encounter any resistance. They confiscated 71 cannons and 24 casks of powder.

MAR 4, 1776 – Siege of Boston

To mask the noise of activity coming from Dorchester, Colonel Henry Knox had his artillery fire 157 shots and shells toward the British. Washington's men moved prefabricated fortification structures and cannons to Dorchester Heights. It took 360 carts to transport all the entrenchments. All the work was done in one night.



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It Happened 250 Years Ago

MAR 5, 1776 – Siege of Boston

On the sixth anniversary of the Boston Massacre, during darkness, Washington and three thousand men moved into position on Dorchester Heights overlooking Boston. Placing the guns where they were positioned put the British fleet in the harbor and the soldiers in Boston within range of cannon fire.

The British attempted to bombard the heights, but from their positions, the bombardment was futile. Storming the Heights was feasible, but at a great loss of life. Remember what happened at Bunker Hill? The Patriots did not have enough gunpowder for sustained bombardment, but British General William Howe did not know that. For the British, the only sensible option was to vacate the city.

MAR 5, 1776 – Quebec Campaign

Major General Philip Schuyler received a report from Major General David Wooster indicating that there was some scheming between the British and Indians west of Quebec City.

MAR 6, 1776 – British warships traveled upriver and captured 11 merchant vessels filled with rice. A transport ship unloaded British troops, commanded by Major John Maitland and Major James Grant, at Hutchinson's Island, Georgia. The Americans warned the British to withdraw from the island, but the British ignored this warning.

MAR 7, 1776 – The Americans set fire to two merchant ships and sent them drifting towards the British transport ship. When the British saw the two ships heading toward their transport ship, they panicked. The British withdrew from the area, leaving only two of the merchant ships intact.

MAR 8, 1776 – Siege of Boston

Washington received a letter stating that the British would evacuate the city and leave it unharmed if the Patriots allowed them to leave peacefully. Washington rejected the letter, not because of its content, but because it was not properly addressed to him. It lacked his name or title.

MAR 9, 1776 – Siege of Boston

The British fired 700 cannonballs at the Patriots on Dorchester Heights overnight. In the barrage, four Patriots were killed, with very little additional impact.



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It Happened 250 Years Ago

MAR 11, 1776 – Commander-in-Chief's Guard was authorized.

The group, better known as Washington's Life Guard, was authorized on this date and organized the next day in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The unit had a threefold purpose: to protect Washington, official papers, and the Continental Army's payroll and other funds.

Washington was specific about the type of person he wanted for his guards. He sought men of good behavior, sober, honest, clean, and between five feet, eight inches and five feet, ten inches tall. He also requested that they be volunteers. The number of men in the unit ranged from 64 to 250, with guards from all 13 colonies.

Washington instructed each of his regimental commanders to select four men from their regiment to contribute to the guard group.

MAR 11, 1776 – Col. Stephen Bull learned of the British attack on Savannah and embarked from Purrysburg with a relief force of 400 South Carolina militiamen. They moved down the Savannah River and landed on Hutchinson's Island. Upon their arrival, they spotted and fired on some British troops, causing the British to quickly scatter across the island, leaving behind two artillery pieces.

The British sloop *Cherokee* and a transport ship sailed up the river to the island. Upon their arrival, they assisted in the safe withdrawal of some British ships. Those ships threw about 2,000 lbs. of rice overboard and sailed out of the range of Bull's floating artillery.

Trivia Question: What is a **Sloop**? A *Sloop* is a sailing vessel that is distinguished by its single mast and fore-and-aft rig, shallow draft, and broad beam. Typically, they ranged in length from 40 to 70 feet, had 4 to 12 guns, and a crew of 40 to 70 men. *Sloops* were usually used for patrols, dispatches, and/or coastal defense.





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It Happened 250 Years Ago

MAR 12, 1776 — The *HMS Raven* captured the *Georgia Packet* off Savannah Bar. The *Georgia Packet* was loaded with food and drink supplies.

MAR 13, 1776 — George Washington informed Congress that after the British departed from Boston, they would likely move to New York. He cautioned that if they entrenched themselves in the city, it would be challenging to dislodge them.

MAR 14, 1776 – Quebec Campaign

A Canadian miller by the name of Jean-Baptiste Chasson crossed the Saint Lawrence River to Quebec City. There, he met with Governor General Guy Carleton of Quebec and informed him that a group of Patriots was setting up a cannon battery on the south shore of the Saint Lawrence River at Pointe-Levis. In response, the Loyalists began raising a militia to attack the unfinished battery.

MAR 14, 1776 — A couple of South Carolina tenders were sailing upriver at Sandy Point when they encountered a small Loyalist ship coming down the river with a cargo of flour. The Loyalists quickly ran their ship aground and fled. The tenders stayed with the ship, trying to work it loose. The Loyalists regrouped and opened fire on the tenders, who returned fire. When the tide came in, the tenders were able to free the Loyalist ship and carried it downstream to Charleston.

MAR 14, 1776 — Outside of Charleston, at sunrise, the British frigate *Syren* spotted an American ship carrying a Pennsylvania Artillery Company. The *Syren* chased the ship and soon fired a shot across its bow. The American ship stopped and surrendered without a fight.

MAR 17, 1776 – Siege of Boston

At 4 a.m., the British began moving to the ships. By 9 a.m., 120 ships were on their way out of Boston Harbor, carrying 9,900 soldiers and over 1,200 women and children. For the first time since 1768, Boston was no longer occupied. The fleet set course for Halifax, Nova Scotia. Harvard celebrated the departure by awarding General Washington an honorary Doctor of Laws degree for his civic and military virtues. "Evacuation Day" remains a celebrated holiday in Boston.

MAR 18, 1776 — General George Washington sent five regiments from Boston to New York City, which he believed would be the British's next target.

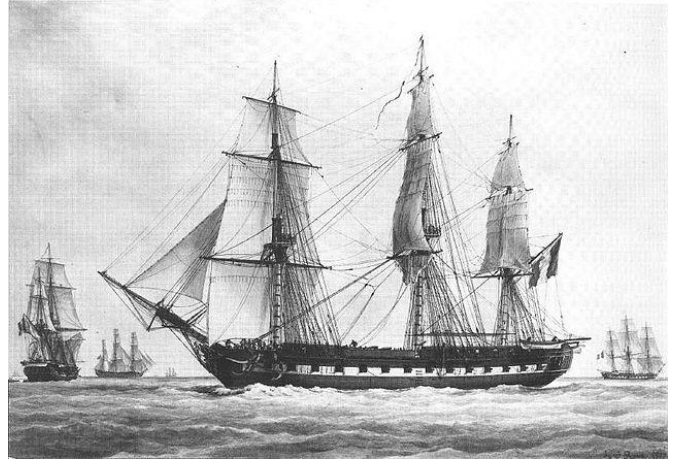


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It Happened 250 Years Ago

Trivia Question: What is a *Frigate*? A *Frigate* was the name given to a three-masted, all square-rigged ship built for speed and maneuverability, intended to be used in scouting, escorting, and patrol roles. This type of vessel was characterized by a single-armed deck, with an unarmed deck below used for berthing the crew. A Frigate weighed between 700 and 1,200 tons, carried between 24 and 44 guns, and had a crew of between 200 and 300 men.



MAR 20, 1776 – Siege of Boston

When the fleet left Boston three days earlier, they dropped anchor in the Nantasket Roads channel, just past the harbor islands. Besides preparing the ships for the upcoming ocean voyage, Howe had one piece of unfinished business. Castle William, an eighteen-acre island compound where the British flag had flown since the previous century, was targeted. At 8:30 p.m., eighty-seven mines began detonating beneath the corner bastions, batteries, brick breastworks, and outbuildings. Within thirty minutes, the resulting fire could be seen in Plymouth, more than thirty miles away.

MAR 20, 1776 – Battle of Sullivan's Island

British Lt. General Henry Clinton arrived in Cape Fear, North Carolina, only to be met with bad news. He learned that the Scottish Loyalists he was expecting had been defeated earlier at Moore's Creek Bridge. Additionally, the fleet carrying the Irish troops he was expecting had not yet arrived.

MAR 20, 1776 – Unaware of what had transpired at Moore's Creek Bridge, Captain Thomas Reid gathered over one hundred Loyalist militiamen and marched to join Brigadier General Donald McDonald's army at Cross Creek, North Carolina. Upon approaching the town, they learned of the Loyalist defeat nearly a month earlier.

Captain Reid and Captain Walter Cunningham decided to proceed with fourteen men to help. When they entered Cross Creek, they learned that Patriots now occupied Cochrane's Mill with a superior force. These Patriots, part of the Tryon County Regiment of Militia under Colonel William Graham, were returning from the battle at Moore's Creek Bridge and had taken lodging at the mill. Exhausted and incorrectly assuming there were no active Loyalists in the area, they posted no guards.



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It Happened 250 Years Ago

In a bold move, Captain Reid marched up to the mill's door and demanded their surrender, leading the Patriots to believe he had a larger force. The Patriots surrendered without resistance. After disarming them, Captain Reid immediately let them go and continued toward the coast, where he and his men boarded a sloop of war.

MAR 22, 1776 – The American vessel *Comet* captured the British sloop *General Clinton*, marking the first time that the South Carolina Navy defeated a British warship.

MAR 24, 1776 – Quebec Campaign

The Loyalists in the Pointe-Levis area established a base in a Loyalist's house, preparing to deal with the newly promoted Brigadier General Benedict Arnold, stationed outside of Quebec, who was also at Pointe-Levis.

MAR 24, 1776 – 1765 Quartering Act expired.

MAR 25, 1776 – Quebec Campaign

Arnold was tipped off that the Loyalists were recruiting troops at Pointe-Levis. He sent about 80 Patriots to address the recruitment issue. The Patriot detachment arrested Jean-Baptiste Chasson. The Loyalists, surprised by the Patriots, retreated into a house where they came under attack.

Most of the Loyalists' men in the house surrendered, and three were killed. Because both sides were recruited from the same area, there were cases of family members fighting each other.

MAR 29, 1776 – Siege of Boston

General Sullivan set out with the lead brigade, to be followed over several days by the remaining ranks and their commander-in-chief.

Trivia Alert: Soldiers were trained to interpret various drumbeats, which were not muffled to ensure they could be heard over the din of battle. British regiments had over 170 different drum signals. Men were taught to move immediately at the sound of the drum. It was found that during times of stress, soldiers responded more quickly to drum than to voice commands.



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March America 250 Minute Oi Mate, it's raining cannonballs from Dorchester

Presenting this or any other teaching on the American Revolution during a meeting earns 3 points for everyone in the meeting. The person doing the presenting is entitled to 10 points. Anyone in colonials can add 5 points.



On the sixth anniversary of the Boston Massacre, March 5, 1776, during darkness, General Washington and three thousand men moved prefabricated fortification structures and cannon to Dorchester Heights. All was moved in one night. The Dorchester Heights overlooked Boston. Placing the guns where they did put the British fleet in the harbor and the soldiers in Boston in range of cannon fire.

The British attempted to bombard the heights, but from their positions, the bombardment was futile. Storming the Heights was feasible, but at a great loss of life. Remember what happened at Bunker Hill? The Patriots didn't have enough gunpowder for a sustained bombardment, but Gage didn't know that. For the British, the only sensible option was to vacate the city.

On March 8, Washington received a letter stating that the British would evacuate the city and leave it unharmed if the Patriots allowed them to leave peacefully. Washington rejected the letter. Not because of the content, but because it wasn't addressed to him properly. It didn't have his name or title.

On March 9, the British fired 700 cannonballs at the Patriots on Dorchester Heights overnight. In the barrage, four Patriots were killed.

On March 11, the Commander-in-Chief's Guard, also known as "Washington's Life Guard," was authorized. It was organized the next day in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The unit's purpose was threefold. It was to protect Washington, official papers, payroll, and other money of the Continental Army.

Washington was specific as to the type of person he was looking for to become one of his guards. The person needed to be of good behavior, sober, honest, clean, and between five feet, eight inches and five feet, ten inches tall. He also requested that they be volunteers. The number of men in the unit varied from 64 to 250. There were guards representing all thirteen colonies.

On March 17 at 4 a.m., the British began boarding the ships. By 9 a.m., 120 ships were on their way out of Boston Harbor. On those ships were 9,900 soldiers and over 1,200 women and children. Boston was no longer occupied, for the first time since 1768. The fleet sailed to Halifax, Nova Scotia. Harvard celebrated the departure by giving Washington an honorary degree. "Evacuation Day" is still celebrated as a holiday in Boston.