



# Congratulations!

# Phil Markoe

# Patriot Medal Winner!



On Saturday, May 17, Phil Markoe was awarded the **Patriot Medal**. The Patriot Medal is the highest award presented to a Compatriot by a State Society and recognizes long, faithful, outstanding, and distinguished service at the state and/or chapter level. The Patriot Medal is awarded only by a State Society and may be presented only to an individual.

As a Patriot Medal recipient Phil is a life time member of the chapter Executive Committee. He is also Color Guard Commander for the chapter. Phil is Color Guard Adjutant and Sergeant-at-Arms for the State Society. He is chairman of the State DAR Liaison Committee.

**CONGRATULATIONS PHIL on this GREAT Achievement!!!**



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



**From the President,**

Dear CFLSAR Compatriots,

I am deeply honored and grateful to have been elected as the President of our chapter. Thank you for placing your trust in me to lead and serve this incredible group of gentlemen.

I am excited to work alongside each of you to continue making a positive impact. Your support and collaboration will be essential as we take on new challenges and strive to achieve our shared goals.

I look forward to building upon our successes,

fostering meaningful connections, and driving our mission forward. Please know that I welcome your ideas, feedback, and enthusiasm as we embark on this journey together.

Once again, thank you for this opportunity. I am honored to serve, and I can't wait to see what we accomplish as a team.

Patriotically Yours,

Robin L. Preston  
49<sup>th</sup> CFLSAR Chapter President (2025 – 2027)

**2025 – 2027 Officers**

**President  
Historian**  
Robin Preston



(832) 655-4173  
[rlpreston0306@gmail.com](mailto:rlpreston0306@gmail.com)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

**OPEN**  
Compatriot Needed

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**  
Don LaJoie



(912) 580-9433  
[grazingbuffalo94@gmail.com](mailto:grazingbuffalo94@gmail.com)

**Treasurer**  
William Morgan



(407) 427-9692  
[wsmorganv@outlook.com](mailto:wsmorganv@outlook.com)

**Corresponding Secretary**  
Gary Smith



(386) 668-1757  
[trekker01@gmail.com](mailto:trekker01@gmail.com)

**Recording Secretary**

**OPEN**  
Compatriot Needed



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



**Patriot Medal Winner  
 Color Guard Commander  
 Philip Markoe**



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

**Member-at-Large  
 Burt Fairchild**



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

**Immediate Past President  
 Scott Cook**



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

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



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

**Sargeant at Arms  
 Michael Meyer**



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

**Genealogist  
 Registrar**

**OPEN  
 Compatriot Needed**

*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.***

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
Patriotic – Historical – Educational

## America 250

With the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary (semiquincentennial) of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence coming in little over a year, we as a chapter, are likely 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 May 20, we have the following distribution of medals.

### Compatriots

- **Bronze – 10**
- **Silver – 2**
- **Gold – 4**

### Non-Compatriots

(Non-compatriots are all typically spouses)

- **Bronze – 1**
- **Silver – 2**
- **Gold – 2**

Our chapter is currently tied for 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.

## Service to our Vets

They did more for us than we could ever repay. Many of us do what we can to pay on our debt to the men and women who did so much for us.

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

## Service to our Vets - continued

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. As of May 20<sup>th</sup>, the 2025 Points are 4,149.

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 in a VA or State Hospital or State Veterans Nursing Home, or other organization whose primary clients are Veterans.
5. Each DOLLAR donated to a VAVS/CDCE, State Veterans Hospital or State Veterans Nursing Home, or other organization whose primary clients are Veterans.
6. Each PUBLICATION donated to Veterans in a VAVS/CDCE or State Veterans Hospital or State Veterans Nursing Home, or other 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 (flags, wreaths, etc. placed on Veterans' graves) and removing decorations. B. Participation in a Veteran's funeral
10. New or used men's and women's clothing donated to a VAVS/CDCE or State Veterans Hospital or State Veterans Nursing Home, or other organization whose primary clients are Veterans.
11. New or used but working items, such as TV's, Computers, etc., donated to a VAVS/CDCE or State Veterans Hospital or State Veterans Nursing Home or other organization whose primary clients are Veterans.

Please send an email to Phil Markoe and let him know what you have done.

*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.*

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
Patriotic – Historical – Educational

## Color Guard



The Battle of Thomas Creek

### Color Guard

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. 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.

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

**Minimum Number in a Color Guard Unit.** The optimum minimum number of men that form a Color Guard unit consists of four (4) men:

- Two (2) Color Bearers who carry the United States National Flag and the State or SAR Flag;
- Two (2) Musketeers / Riflemen who escort the Color Bearers. (It is understood that many state and chapter Color Guards do not have Musketeers / Riflemen.)

A Color Guard may consist of a minimum of three (3) members with at least one Musketeer / Rifleman marching to the right of the National Colors. The left side of the National Colors should be covered either by a second Musketeer / Rifleman or another Color Bearer carrying another flag (most often a state flag). In either situation, the Color Guard Commander will either be the Musketeer / Rifleman guarding the

National Colors or the Guardsman carrying the National Colors.

As the Color Guard grows, the Commander will march ahead of the National Colors separate from any other rank.



The Last Naval Battle



He might not be your Uncle Sam, but Phil **WANTS YOU** to be in the Color Guard! Who could turn down that face?

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
Patriotic – Historical – Educational

**C. A. R. America 250 Marker Dedication Ceremony**

Riverview Park – Sebastian, Florida

May 3, 2025



Phil Markoe, Michael Meyer, and Kevin Shurte (Fort Lauderdale Chapter) standing behind the newly dedicated marker.



Members of the community, the C.A.R., DAR, and FLSSAR President Jim Gaskins all made presentations during the dedication ceremony. Several of the presentations were given during a torrential downpour.



Robin Preston, Phil Markoe, Michael Meyer, Andrew Showen, and Randal Allen from the Central Florida Chapters joined members from four other chapters in participating in the color guard for the dedication ceremony.



Randal Allen, drummer extraordinaire, beat cadence while the color guard marched in.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
Patriotic – Historical – Educational

**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 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  |
|---|--|
| Space Coast – Saturday June 14 – Southwest<br>Space Coast – Saturday June 28 – Southwest<br>Space Coast – Saturday, September 6<br>Mission #35 – Saturday September 20<br>Space Coast – Saturday, October 11<br>Space Coast – Saturday, November 8<br>Mission #36 – TBD – Fall 2025 | Mission #66 – Wednesday, May 28 - Allegiant<br>Mission #67 – Wednesday, October 1 - Allegiant<br>Mission #68 – Wednesday, October 29 – Allegiant |



**MAR 29** - This is the path that Veterans took as they exited the Orlando airport. Taken at 12:40 in the morning.



Phil Markoe, Michael Meyer, and Robin Preston greeting the Veterans as they arrived from a day in Washington D.C.



**APR 9** – Scott Cook, Randal Allen, Robin Preston, Phil Markoe & Samuel Moon at the Villages Honor Flight.



**APR 9** – Veterans standing in front of the CFLSAR Color Guard with many asking for pictures with the Compatriots.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
Patriotic – Historical – Educational

### 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 May 24, we have accumulated **3,920** 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 me know.

### 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

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE** – Chairman TBD

Shall be responsible for arranging 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.

**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.

**JROTC/ROTC COMMITTEE** – Chairman Phil Markoe

**NEW MEMBER COMMITTEE** – Chairman Milton Mersinger

**VETERANS COMMITTEE** – Chairman TBD

**YOUTH EDUCATION OUTREACH COMMITTEE** – Phil Markoe Chairman

He shall 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.

***Volunteer to be on a committee today and make your Patriot Proud.***

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
Patriotic – Historical – Educational

### CHAPTER MEETINGS

#### Winter Park Elks Club

4755 Howell Branch Road – Winter Park

Time: 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

- 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 TBD, 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.

Views since inception (15NOV2023) – **20,887**

Views in 2023 **403**

Views in 2024 – **8,515**

Views in 2025 – **11,969** (as of May 23)

Average views per day – **39**

Instagram Account Name - centralfloridasar

### Non-Chapter Meetings or Events

- Mon, May 26, 2025 – 7:30 a.m.
  - ✓ Flag Raising - Chick-fil-A at Conroy and Kirkman Road
  - ✓ Color Guard Event
- Sat, June 28, 2025 – 8:00am – 5:00pm
  - ✓ Commemoration of the Battle of Alligator Creek Bridge
- Sat-Fri, July 12 – 18, 2025 – SAR 135<sup>th</sup> Congress
  - ✓ Uncasville, CT – Mohegan Sun Resort and Casino
- Fri. Sat. October 17, 18, 2025
  - ✓ FLSSAR Fall Board of Management Meeting
- Sat. December 6, 2025
  - ✓ 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lakeland DAR Chapter
  - ✓ Color Guard Event
- Sat. December 13, 2025
  - Wreaths Across America

### 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](#)

There is no need to do the Blue Book Training or the Vice President General Training. If you have completed the SAR University, please let Robin Preston know.

### CFLSAR Book Club

The book to be reviewed during the June meeting of the CFLSAR Book Club is *Bunker Hill: A City, A Siege, A Revolution* by Philbrick. For questions, please contact Randal Allen.

The book for July/August is *Ethan Allen: His Life and Times*.

Zoom call is the third Wednesday of the month at 8:30 p.m. The following is the Zoom link.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86700729150?pwd=1E14w8MA8DYMycGEQTriWW7s7gsEDw.1>

- Meeting ID: 867 0072 9150
- Passcode: 265459

### 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.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
Patriotic – Historical – Educational

**Photos from the Spring Board of Management Meeting – May 16, 17, 2025**



Members from around the state gather to vote on issues related to the operation of the Florida State Society as well as officers who will serve until May 2026.



Those Compatriots who have left us since the last BOM were remembered.



The new President of the Florida Society stands with the National President General Dr. Darryl Addington



Phil Markoe was congratulated by PG Darryl Addington for being one of four Compatriots selected to receive the prestigious Patriot Medal



Kathy Markoe (first from left) and Maria Preston (fifth from left) being sworn in as Registrar and Vice President of the Florida Society Ladies Auxiliary by PG Addington.

10

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.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
Patriotic – Historical – Educational

## FPEA Conference

Orlando – May 22 through May 24, 2025

The FPEA Convention is the largest home school convention in the state.



David Hitchcock - Withlacoochee Chapter, Phil Markoe - Central Florida Chapter, and Kevin Shurte – Fort Lauderdale Chapter.



Michael Meyer – Central Florida Chapter, Phil Markoe - Central Florida Chapter, and Kevin Shurte – Fort Lauderdale Chapter.

Compatriot Randal Allen presented a neighbor, Gary Fishman with a Flag Certificate on May 24.

The Flag Certificate is presented to people or businesses who display the Flag of the United States in a manner of Exemplary Patriotism.



## Patriot of the Month

**John Billingsley** – Compatriot Robin Preston

John was born on August 17, 1753 in St Mary's County, Maryland. He married Jean Millsaps on June 2, 1772. After getting married John and Jean moved to Rutherford County, North Carolina. His parents and siblings farmed in Rowan County, North Carolina.

In April 1776, a group of Tories invaded the home of James Billingsley, John's father, seeking material aid for the Tory cause. James refused. The Tories removed James from the house and brought him to a nearby tree where they hanged him.

Following his father's execution at the hands of Tories, John and three of his brothers joined the North Carolina militia.

John served four tours of six months each as a private. During his time in the militia, he was engaged in the Cherokee Expedition in the western Carolinas and Tennessee from August 1 to December 28, 1776. Shortly after his return from the Cherokee Expedition he returned home where he stayed until again entering the militia 1780.

Most of that six-month stint was spent recruiting. Just before the end of his six-month enlistment John saw action at the Battle of Camden in South Carolina. Camden was the worst and most humiliating American defeat during the American Revolution. Horatio Gates, the commander of the Southern Department of the Continental Army left the battlefield on a fast horse while Americans were still dying in combat.

His final enlistment was at the beginning of 1781. On January 17<sup>th</sup> John saw action at the Battle of Cowpens, South Carolina, under the command of Daniel Morgan. Cowpens is often considered as one of the major victories by American forces during the American Revolution. John stayed under the command of General Daniel Morgan until he was discharged from his fourth and final deployment.

John died on his land grant in Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky on September 19, 1844.

*If you know your Patriot's story share it with us. Forward your story to Robin Preston and see it in a future chapter newsletter. [Rlpreston0306@gmail.com](mailto:Rlpreston0306@gmail.com)*



SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
Patriotic – Historical – Educational



John Burgoyne



Henry Clinton



William Howe

**AMERICA 250 Minute  
MAY 1775**

Three generals arrive

In May, John Burgoyne, Henry Clinton, and William Howe, arrived on board the *HMS Cerberus*. The three British major generals brought with them an additional 4,500 soldiers.

Sir William Howe was to be the new commander in America. Was William Howe the best man for the job? He was supposedly an expert in light infantry tactics, which should be a good attribute to have when fighting against the unconventional fighting techniques of the colonists. Was it reason enough for him to have been selected over one hundred ten more senior general officers?

Before leaving London, Burgoyne bet a friend £52 (over \$12 thousand in today's money) that the war would be over and he would be back home, victorious, before Christmas Day 1777. **Spoiler Alert:** *He lost the bet.*

About fifteen thousand Patriot militia had arrived in the Boston area from Massachusetts and other colonies in New England. Inside Boston were about five thousand British troops with nowhere to go. If they wanted to leave, they would either have to bust through the Patriot lines or vacate the city by sea.

One thing the British needed was hay for their horses. There was hay available on Grape Island, located in the harbor. Once the British arrived on Grape Island, they came under fire from militia. As if that wasn't bad enough, the militia burned a barn full of hay. The British were still able to get some of the hay, but nothing like they thought they were going to get.

The Patriots didn't stop with Grape Island. They also destroyed or confiscated supplies in other locations before the British could get to them.

An army during the 18<sup>th</sup> century usually had one horse for every four men. The horses pulled baggage wagons as well as artillery. They were also used by the cavalry and many of the officers.