

Colonel Henry Knox



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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,

**Mark your calendar: Winter Park Elks Club,
Wednesday, November 12**

Third Chapter Meeting of the Year

November marks a time of profound gratitude and historic remembrance. On **November 11**, we honor all **Veterans of the United States Armed Forces**—men and women whose courage, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment have secured the freedoms we cherish. Their service is the bedrock of our nation, and though our debt to them is immeasurable, our appreciation must be enduring.

Just one day prior, on **November 10**, we celebrate the **250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps**. On that date in **1775**, the **Second Continental Congress** passed a resolution that gave birth to the Continental Marines—the forerunners of today’s Marines. The historic language read:

“Resolved, That two battalions of Marines be raised...”

From those words emerged a fighting force that would shape history, uphold honor, and defend liberty across centuries.

With patriotic pride,

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 - 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

---OPEN POSITIONS---

1st 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.



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. 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 in serving on this committee, please get in touch with 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.

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

Make your Patriot Proud.

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America 250

Compatriots

(16.3% of Chapter Membership have medaled)

- Bronze – 13
- Silver – 3
- Gold – 6

Non-Compatriots

- Bronze – 0
- Silver – 3
- Gold – 2

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.

The total points across the 12 categories in 2024 were 6,060.

As of September 24, we have accumulated **6,265** points toward the 2025 report.

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. In 2024, chapter members' contributions totaled over 22,000 points. We were the second-ranked chapter in the state in total points. Please email Phil Markoe and inform him of your actions.

2025 Points to date are **14,722**.

If you are a veteran and have not received a Service Medal, please notify Robin Preston so that we can obtain the medal you deserve.



SAR 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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Orlando Naturalization Ceremony

Calendar for the remainder of 2025*

- November 13 – 10:00 a.m.
- December 4 – 10:00 a.m.

Location

[George C. Young Federal Annex Courthouse](#)

Ceremonial Courtroom 3A

401 West Central Boulevard

[Orlando, FL 32801](#)

You do not have to be in the color guard to attend. If you are in the color guard, you will have to wait outside of the ceremony and greet the new citizens when they come out. If you do plan to attend one of the ceremonies, remember to leave any electronics (including cell phone) in your vehicle. No electronics are allowed past security.

*If the government reopens.



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, as Honor Flights arrive at two 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 offers free 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-SANFORD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Mission #68 – Wednesday, October 29 – Allegiant

A WORLD WAR II Veteran will be among the Vets.





**Sons of the
American Revolution**
Central Florida Chapter



Meet a Real American Hero



General John Raean

- Awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in September
- 103-year-old resident of Winter Park
- Last surviving Army Ranger from D-Day

WHAT – Lunch and Learn

WHEN – November 7, 2025 - 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

WHERE – Orange County Regional History Center
65 E. Central Blvd. – Orlando

ADMISSION – FREE

Mayor Jerry Demings will be unveiling a Veterans Honor Wall at 1:30

Cake will be served.



CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER

Orlando VA Fisher House Donation Drive

SUPPORT OUR HEROES — SUPPORT FISHER HOUSE



Greetings everyone. We are excited to announce the launch of our Fisher House Donation Drive, running from September 18 to December 10, 2025. We are collecting supplies, gift cards, and donations to support military families staying at Fisher House while their loved one is having medical treatment. These families are going through some of the hardest moments of their lives—and your generosity can make all the difference.

Fisher House Foundation provides free lodging for families of hospitalized military members and veterans. Your donation helps keep loved ones close during medical recovery.



Donation information:

Date: 11 OCT to 10 DEC 2025

Location: Elks Club

4755 Howell Branch Road
Winter Park, FL

Drop-Off Times: During Chapter Meetings

11 OCT – 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

12 NOV – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

10 DEC – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Items Requested:

Most Needed Items

- Bottled Water
- K-cups (regular & decaf)
- Fabric deodorizer spray
- Bathroom cleaner spray

Cleaning / Laundry Supplies

- Lysol Kitchen Pro spray
- Laundry bleach
- Scentiva Multi-purpose
- Dishwasher pods
- Laundry scent beads
- Dryer sheets
- Laundry detergent pods
- Lysol disinfectant spray

Food & Miscellaneous Items

- Ensure (various flavors)
- Individual wrapped snacks/chips/cookies
- Pop-Tarts
- Belvita breakfast snacks
- Clorox or Lysol wipes
- Microwaveable soups, chill, etc.
- Tea Bags
- Napkins/Paper Towels
- Gatorade (diff. flavors)
- Pastries (individually wrapped)

Let's show our heroes and their families that we stand with them.

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Looking for Something to Do?

| DATE | WHAT | WHERE | COLOR GUARD |
|--------------------------------|--|--|-------------|
| Wednesday 29 OCT 2025 | The Villages Honor Flight #68 | Sanford Airport - 9:15 p.m. See page 5 for more information | Yes/No |
| Saturday 1 NOV 2025 | District Championship JROTC Raider Challenge Invitational Meet | Brevard Veterans Memorial Center Park 0630 - 1230 | No |
| 1 NOV 2025 | 5 – Patriot Grave Marking | Sugar Hill, GA – 11:00 p.m. | Yes/No |
| 7 NOV 2025 | Lunch and Learn with General John Raaen, a Congressional Gold Medal recipient and the last surviving Army Ranger from D-Day at 103. | Orange County Regional History Center – 65 E Central Blvd, Orlando | No |
| 8 NOV 2025 | Annual VFW Post 10131 and City of Cape Canaveral Veterans Day Parade 1000-1130. Entry Details in September | Cape Canaveral | Yes |
| 8 NOV 2025 | Space Coast Honor Flight | Melbourne Airport | Yes |
| 8 NOV 2025 | 4 – Patriot Grave Marking | Elberton, GA – 10:00 a.m. | Yes/No |
| 8 NOV 2025 | Orlando Veterans Day Parade at the VA Hospital | Lake Nona, FL | Yes |
| 13 NOV 2025 | Naturalization Ceremony | Orlando, FL - 401 West Central Blvd | Yes/No |
| 15 NOV 2025 | SC Revolutionary Way Symposium | Columbia, South Carolina | No |
| 16 NOV 2025 | The American Revolution | Ken Burns' 12-part series debuts on PBS | No |
| Wednesday 19 NOV 2025 | CFLSAR Book Club Mtg – 8:30 – 9:30 p.m. | The meeting is online via ZOOM. <i>Washington's Marines: The Origins of the Corps and the American Revolution, 1775- 1777</i> by Bohm | No |
| 4 DEC 2025 | Naturalization Ceremony | Orlando, FL – 401 West Central Blvd | Yes/No |
| 6 DEC 2025 | 100 th Anniversary of the Lakeland DAR Chapter | Lakeland, FL DAR Chapter - TBD | Yes |
| 13 DEC 2025 | Wreaths Across America | Multiple Locations | Yes/No |
| Wednesday 17 DEC 2025 | CFLSAR Book Club Mtg – 8:30 – 9:30 p.m. | The meeting is online via ZOOM. <i>March to Independence: The Revolutionary War in the Southern Colonies</i> by Cecere | No |
| Sat. & Sun. 17, 18 JAN 2026 | Central Florida Scottish Highland Games | Central Winds Park – Winter Springs | Yes/No |
| 31 JAN 2026 | Liberty Tree Dedication – Fort Lauderdale Chapter | City of Tamarac - Veterans' Park – 10:00 a.m. | Yes |
| 13, 14 FEB 2026 | CAR State Conference | Gainesville – University Hilton | Yes/No |
| 28 FEB 2026 | Liberty Tree Dedication – St Augustine Chapter | Palatka, Putnam County, FL | Yes |
| 5 MAR 2026 | American Revolution Musical | OMNI Hotel – Championsgate, FL | No |
| 5, 6, 7 MAR 2026 | FSSDAR State Conference | OMNI Hotel – Championsgate, FL | TBD |

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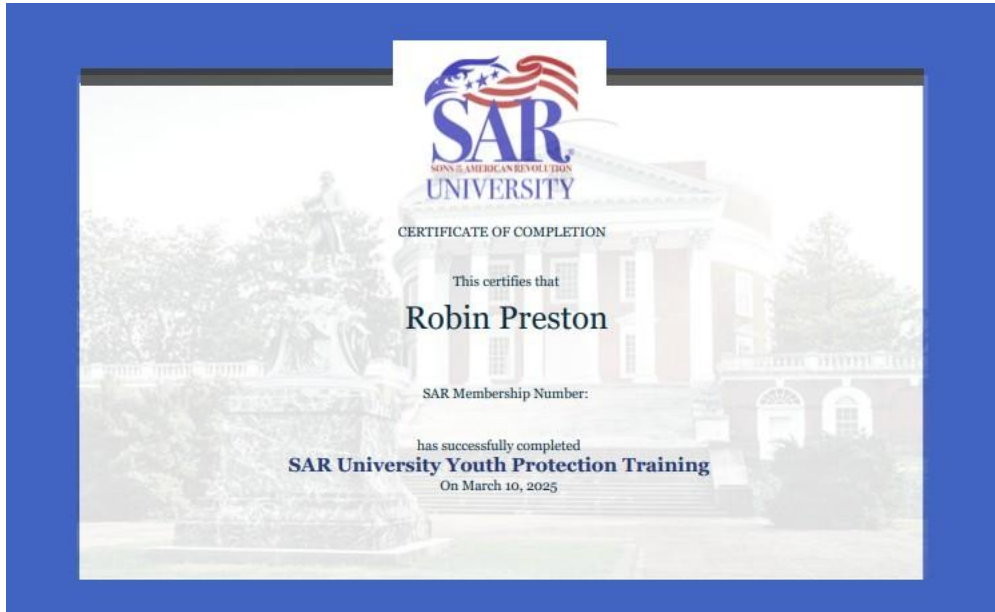
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| | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|--------|
| 7 MAR 2026 | Last Naval Battle Commemoration – Brevard Chapter | Merritt Island, FL – Veterans Memorial | Yes |
| 14 MAR 2026 | 1 st Amphibious Assault Memorial Dedication – Ft Lauderdale Chapter | Pompano Beach, FL | Yes |
| 19 MAR 2026 | Inheriting the Revolution: The Modern Legacy of 1776 | Florida Atlantic University – Boca Raton, FL | Yes |
| 28 MAR 2026 | Battle of Thomas Creek – Commemoration – Jacksonville Chapter | | Yes |
| 4 APR 2026 | Liberty Tree Dedication – Jacksonville Chapter | TBD | Yes |
| 15 APR 2026 | The Villages Honor Flight | Sanford Airport - 9:15 p.m. See page 5 for more information | Yes/No |
| 25 APR 2026 | Liberty Tree Golf Tournament | Palatka Golf Club – St. Augustine | No |
| 2 MAY 2026 | American Revolution Musical | Orange County Regional History Center - Orlando | No |
| 2 MAY 2026 | America 250 Event – Flag Raising by Color Guard – Other activities TBD | Orange County Regional History Center - Orlando | Yes |
| 2 MAY 2026 | Naturalization Ceremony | Orange County Regional History Center – Historic Courtroom A - Orlando | Yes |
| 8 MAY 2026 | Battle of Pensacola – Commemoration – Pensacola Chapter | Pensacola, FL | Yes |
| 8 MAY 2026 | America 250 Ball – Desoto Chapter DAR | Tampa Yacht and Country Club – 7:00 p.m. - Tampa, FL | No |
| MAY 2026 | FLSSAR Board of Management | Embassy Suites - Kissimmee, FL | Yes/No |
| 27 MAY 2026 | The Villages Honor Flight | Sanford Airport - 9:15 p.m. See page 5 for more information | Yes/No |
| 6 JUN 2026 | American Revolution Musical | Orlando Garden Club | No |
| 20 JUN 2026 | Battle of Alligator Creek Bridge – Commemoration – Jacksonville Chapter | Callahan, FL | Yes |
| 27 JUN 2026 | Liberty Tree Dedication – CFLSAR | Reiter Park – Longwood, FL | Yes |
| 10, 11, 12, 13 SEP 2026 | FSSDAR Fall Forum | OMNI Hotel – Championsgate, FL | No |
| 30 SEP 2026 | The Villages Honor Flight | Sanford Airport - 9:15 p.m. See page 5 for more information | Yes/No |
| 28 OCT 2026 | The Villages Honor Flight | Sanford Airport - 9:15 p.m. See page 5 for more information | Yes/No |
| Fall 2026 | John Clark Historical Marker Dedication | Panama City, FL | Yes |

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If you have not already done so, please send me a copy of your Youth Protection Certification. If you do not have a Youth Protection Certification yet, please take the Youth Protection Course at the SAR University website and then send me the certification. The link to the SAR University is <https://www.sar.org/sar-university/>. Make sure you complete the course and receive a certification like the one below. Before receiving the certification, you will be required to pass a test. Save the certification to your files and send me a copy at rlpreston0306@gmail.com.



American Revolution Musical

Debbie and Scott Cook need help with the American Revolution Musical, which they and others will be presenting. They need a few items that some of our Chapter members might be able to help with. They need some colonial clothing to either borrow or buy for some of their male characters. They need large to XXL men's colonial shirts (just the basic shirt), vests, breeches, and shoes. Pretty much complete colonial costumes. They also need some simple Minute Man outfits (the kinds they would have worn daily).

If anyone has items they no longer use and would like to donate, sell (at a reasonable price—they're on a tight budget), or loan to us, we would greatly appreciate it.

Please get in touch with Debbie if you have any of the items. debbiecdar@gmail.com

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CHAPTER MEETINGS

Winter Park Elks Club

4755 Howell Branch Road – Winter Park

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

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.

Total Posts since inception (15NOV2023) - **919**

Views since inception (15NOV2023) – **27,158**

Views in 2023 **403**

Views in 2024 – **8,515**

Views in 2025 – **20,235** (as of October 24)

Average views per day – **45**

Average views per post – **30.1**

Instagram Account Name - centralfloridasar

November 12 Chapter Meeting

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

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

Topic: Science during the American Revolution

Dress Code: Business Casual

If you plan to attend, RSVP to Phil Markoe – by voice or text **407.350.8143** or by email at **markoevikingsfan@aol.com**

CFLSAR Dues

The FLSSAR for the second year is using a billing system provided by the company "Club Express". You can pay your dues through Club Express using a credit card. You can also update any information as needed.

To renew online, [click here](#). If you do not remember or know your Username and Password, please use the "Forgot My Username/Password"

Members wishing to pay by check, make the single check payable to **Central Florida Chapter SAR, or CFLSAR,** and mail it to:

William Morgan
c/o The History Center
65 E Central Blvd – 5th Floor
Orlando, FL 32801

If you have already renewed your membership, we appreciate your continued support.

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| CFLSAR Chapter Dues | \$20.00 |
| FLSSAR State Dues | \$20.00 |
| NSSAR National Dues | <u>\$50.00</u> |
| TOTAL DUES | \$90.00 |

CFLSAR Book Club

The book for November is *Washington's Marines: The Origins of the Corps and the American Revolution, 1775-1777* by Bohm. For questions, please contact Randal Allen.

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

The readings for December are *March to Independence: The Revolutionary War in the Southern Colonies* by Cecere and *The Battle of Great Bridge" Boys, Stand to Your Arms* on Kindle.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY COMPATRIOTS

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

| | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| October 25 | Gregory Davis |
| October 27 | Phil Markoe |
| October 27 | Stuart Green |
| October 31 | James Sagan |
| November 3 | John Rose |
| November 11 | Ian Rinker |
| November 12 | Paul Hughes |
| November 13 | Garrett Gastfield |
| November 17 | Alan Clark |
| November 19 | Eldon Wade |
| November 20 | Colson Short |
| November 21 | Rich Lester |
| November 22 | Steven Petty |
| November 23 | Chris Meyer |
| November 30 | Samuel Jones |
| November 30 | Louis Lovestrand |

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The First Amphibious Assault Memorial Pompano Beach, Florida

Dedication is set for March 14, 2026



Donate to the Cause

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

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RICK SCOTT
FLORIDA

United States Senate

ARMED SERVICES
BUDGET
FOREIGN RELATIONS
HOMELAND SECURITY
SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON AGING
CHAIRMAN

October 9, 2025

Mr. Chris Washler
President
Florida Society Sons of the American Revolution

Dear Mr. Washler:

It is my honor to support the Florida Society Sons of the American Revolution on the memorial honoring the First Amphibious Assault Memorial in Pompano Beach. Thank you for your commitment to commemorating the Continental Sailors and Marines who were a part of first amphibious assault landing during the American Revolution.

Those who fought for the freedoms and values we now share are heroes, and I commend you for your dedication to recognizing and honoring the critical role they played in shaping our great nation's history. Thank you for your dedication to reminding future generations about their contributions to making America great.

Organizations like Sons of the American Revolution are vital to the health of our country. Thank you again for honoring our nation's history and for all that you do for the Sunshine State. I'm proud to stand with you in Washington to ensure that Washington works for every Floridian, and I wish you continued success as you carry on this work. God Bless America!

Sincerely,



Rick Scott
United States Senator

It Happened 250 Years Ago This Month

November 1775 – Washington's force in and around Boston exceeded 20,000. Of those, 14,000 were present and fit for duty. There were 60 colonels and lieutenant colonels, 30 majors, 290 captains, 558 lieutenants, 65 ensigns, 21 chaplains, 31 surgeons, 1,238 sergeants, and 690 drummers and fifers.

NOV 1, 1775 – Siege of Fort Saint-Jean

Brigadier General Richard Montgomery sent a captured prisoner under a flag of truce to request the fort's surrender from British Major Charles Preston.

NOV 1, 1775 – East Florida governor, Patrick Tonyn, issued a proclamation offering refuge to loyalists fleeing the rebellion in the thirteen colonies.

NOV 2, 1775 – Siege of Fort Saint-Jean

With only three days of food remaining, the British surrendered Saint-Jean on the fifty-fifth day of the siege.

NOV 3, 1775 – Siege of Fort Saint-Jean

The British troops marched out of the fort, surrendering a total of 622 officers, soldiers, and volunteers, along with their weapons. During the siege, there were 43 British casualties, either killed or wounded, and 11 Patriots killed or wounded.

NOV 3, 1775 – Patrick Cunningham and about sixty Loyalists seized a wagon train at Mine Creek, which was en route to deliver gunpowder to the Cherokees from the First South Carolina Provincial Congress. The Loyalists made prisoners of the guard of 20 Rangers and their officers, then took them to the fort at Ninety Six.

NOV 3, 1775 – King George III wrote Prime Minister North a note telling him to hire as many German soldiers as he could. King George first attempted to rent 20,000 Russian soldiers but was turned down by Catherine the Great.

NOV 4, 1775 – Congress issued specification standards for American-made muskets. These standards closely replicated the English-built Brown Bess and were known as the "Committee of Safety" model.

NOV 5, 1775 – Quebec Campaign

Brigadier General Richard Montgomery and his American force left St. John's and headed to Montreal.

NOV 7, 1775 – Lord Dunmore's Proclamation

John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore and the royal governor of Virginia, issued a proclamation (formally proclaimed on November 15) promising freedom to slaves who left their owners to join the British army. The proclamation also offered the same offer to indentured servants.

The proclamation prompted 800 to 2,000 slaves to run away to enlist with Lord Dunmore, regardless of whether Patriots or Loyalists owned them. Dunmore, however, did not achieve his objectives and was forced to leave the colony in 1776.

By the end of the revolution, as many as 100,000 slaves escaped from bondage.

NOV 9, 1775 – Quebec Campaign

Sixty-five days after volunteering in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and forty-five days after leaving, Colonel Benedict Arnold's diminished force of only 600 men finally sighted Quebec City across the St. Lawrence River, through a fierce snowstorm. Due to the weather, it would be another four days before they could cross over.

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NOV 9, 1775 – Around 500 British regulars crossed from Charlestown Point to Lechmere’s Point with the intent of confiscating sheep and cattle from the Phipps Farm. They captured a drunken American sentry, who alerted other sentries, who fired shots at the British. This commotion spread an alarm among the surrounding American forces. Colonel William Thompson was ordered to respond. After a brief firefight, the British withdrew, taking 10 cows with them.

NOV 9, 1775 – In Charleston Harbor, the British sloop *HMS Tamar* captured a Georgian sloop in heavy fog. On board was a load of apples and cider bound for Georgia. Gunner George Walker, who had capitulated at Fort Johnson and had recently been paroled, was given command of the captured sloop. Walker took on board two trunks of pistols and cutlasses, two chests of arms, and another sailor from *Tamar*, with orders from Royal Governor Lord William Campbell to go to St. Augustine and bring back 20 men to take Fort Johnson.

As soon as *Tamar* was out of sight, Georgia Captain John Wanton and his men seized Gunner George Walker and his mate, placing them in the hold. Captain Wanton then sailed to Savannah, turned the two men over to the Committee, and collected £200 for the arms.

In a different account, two South Carolina pilot boats, the *Hawke* and the *Hibernia*, chased the British ship *HMS Shark*, under Lt. Peyton’s command, back to Charleston harbor—marking the first recorded offensive action by the South Carolina Navy. By November, the SC Navy had included the schooner *Defense* under Captain Simon Tufts, as well as the pilot boats *Hawke* under Captain Joseph Vessey and *Hibernia* under Captain Thomas Smith. Another ship, the *Comet*, was still being outfitted. Soldiers from the SC 1st and 2nd Regiments augmented these ships as sailors.

The SC Navy’s first cruise was on November 7, when the pilot boats *Hawke* and *Hibernia* set sail to warn incoming merchant ships to head to Beaufort or Georgetown ports. On November 9, they spotted the British boat *Shark* under Lt. Peyton’s command and chased it back into Charleston port.

NOV 9, 1775 – A British foraging party of nine infantry companies and 100 grenadiers landed at Lechmere’s Point at high tide, aiming to seize cattle for the British garrison. Suspecting this might be more than just a foraging mission, the American commanders ordered Colonel William Thompson and his Pennsylvania riflemen to counterattack. To support this operation, Colonel Benjamin Woodbridge, along with part of his regiment and Colonel John Patterson’s regiment, was dispatched.

Despite the icy waters around the point, with depths of up to 2 feet, the American force advanced against the British. The British soon withdrew, taking 10 head of cattle. The Americans had two wounded.

NOV 10, 1775 – The Second Continental Congress authorized the formation of two battalions of naval infantry, marking the beginning of what became the United States Marine Corps.

NOV 11, 1775 – The American vessel *Defense*, commanded by Captain Simon Tufts, proceeded with four ship hulks to sink them in the Hog Island channel. At 4:30 p.m., the English man-of-war *HMS Tamar*, under Captain Edward Thornborough, spotted the *Defense* and fired six shots. The *Defense* dropped anchor and returned fire. After the *Tamar* ceased firing, Captain Tufts successfully sank three of the hulks.

NOV 12, 1775 – At 4:00 a.m., the British vessels *HMS Tamar* and *HMS Cherokee* drifted close to the American vessel *Defense* and commenced firing broadside shots for three hours. The *Defense* managed to sink the last hulk before withdrawing from the area. *Tamar* fired over 100 rounds at the *Defense* but struck her only three times. Fort Johnson fired three shots at the two British vessels, striking their sails. The Charles Town District Regiment of Militia was called out during the naval battle and remained on station for several hours, anticipating a land assault that never came.

NOV 13, 1775 – Quebec Campaign

About six weeks before the Battle of Quebec, the Continental Army, under Brigadier General Richard Montgomery, captured Montreal without firing a shot. After Fort St. Jean, which protected Montreal, fell to the Patriots, Governor General Guy Carleton abandoned the city and headed to Quebec. Today, the

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160-mile journey takes less than three hours by car. In 1775, Carleton's trip took eight days by ship up the St. Lawrence River.

The Patriots might have had more success rallying the Canadians to their cause if they hadn't been so unkind. Had Brigadier General Richard Montgomery stayed in Montreal, things might have turned out differently. Unfortunately for the Patriots, Montgomery left Brigadier General David Wooster in charge while he focused on Quebec. Wooster, being anti-French and anti-Catholic, shut down the Catholic churches.

NOV 13, 1775 – Quebec Campaign

Benedict Arnold and his men, after four days, successfully crossed the St. Lawrence River and set up camp on the Heights of Abraham. Upon examining their available arms, they discovered they had no bayonets, no field pieces, and only four rounds per man.

NOV 14, 1775 – Quebec Campaign

Colonel Benedict Arnold needed to cross the St. Lawrence River to attack Quebec. By the morning of November 14, he had moved all his 700 troops to within a couple of miles of the city. They were outnumbered and ill-prepared for a battle against the British.

Arnold demanded the city's surrender and sent two messengers to deliver his terms. Both messengers were shot and killed by the British, making it clear they had no intention of surrendering.

Following the rejection of the surrender, Arnold moved upriver and waited for Brigadier General Richard Montgomery to arrive with his forces.

NOV 15, 1775 – Battle of Kemp's Landing

It was also known as the Skirmish of Kempsville. The Princess Anne County militia assembled at Kemp's Landing to confront the troops of Virginia's royal governor, Lord Dunmore, who had landed at Great Bridge. Militia leader Joseph Hutchings planned an ambush.

The ambush failed because the inexperienced militia fired too soon. Dunmore's forces managed to flush the militia from the woods, causing them to scatter. One of Hutchings' former slaves captured him.

The British suffered only one minor wound, while the Patriots had seven killed and eighteen captured.

NOV 15, 1775 – Colonel Henry Knox left Cambridge on his way to Fort Ticonderoga. First, he went to New York City and then up the Hudson River to Albany, before proceeding to Fort Ticonderoga.

NOV 16, 1775 – In a silver tongue brogue, the bespectacled Edmund Burke, for three hours and twenty minutes, implored the House of Commons to abandon the war. After 14 hours of debate, Burke's proposal was defeated by a margin of two-to-one.

NOV 19, 1775 – Patriot forces blocking the St. Lawrence River near Sorel managed to seize three armed British ships and eight smaller crafts, along with their crews and cargoes, as well as the British garrison from Montreal.

NOV 19 – 21, 1775 – Battle of Ninety-Six

The town of Ninety Six, a crossroads in western South Carolina, was initially known as "Jew's Land" because Jews settled it. It served as a relocation destination for Jews moving from London to the New World.

More roads passed through Ninety Six than through Gettysburg at the time of that battle, 88 years later. The town was named Ninety Six because it was 96 miles from Fort George on the Keowee River.

The question of independence divided the people of the area. Loyalists favored the land grants and the protections provided by the British government, while the Patriots believed the British had failed to keep their promises. What began in the backcountry of South Carolina was more of a civil war between the two factions than a revolution against England.

There had been a few skirmishes in the area starting in July 1775 when Patriots captured a nearby fort on the Savannah River. The Patriots returned to Ninety Six with captured ammunition, but Loyalists met them and reclaimed it without bloodshed. A few weeks later, another near-conflict ended in a truce.

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after Loyalists threatened an attack. Patriots William Henry Drayton and Major Andrew Williamson displayed a show of force, leading both sides to agree to a ceasefire.

On November 19, 1775, eighteen hundred Loyalists attacked about six hundred Patriots who were occupying a hastily built stockade near Ninety Six. The fort, made of logs, measured 85 feet by 150 feet and had earthen berms on the north and northeast sides. Inside the stockade was ammunition intended for the Cherokee. The ensuing three-day battle saw little bloodshed and ended in a truce, with the Patriots retaining control of the ammunition.

NOV 20, 1775 – The Prohibitory Act was introduced in the House of Commons by Lord North. It declared that all vessels found trading with the Americans "shall be forfeited to His Majesty, as if the same were the ships and effects of open enemies." Cargoes seized on the high seas would be considered lawful captures, and captured American mariners could be pressed into the Royal Navy. American ports were to be blockaded, effectively amounting to "a declaration of perpetual war."

Parliament overwhelmingly approved the measure, and the king gave his assent at the end of December.

NOV 22, 1775 – A Patriot force of 4,000 men overwhelmed a smaller Loyalist force at Reedy River. They captured the principal Loyalist leaders, which effectively collapsed the armed Loyalist opposition in South Carolina.

NOV 24, 1775 – The Continental Congress initially voted to ban African Americans from joining the army, and those already enlisted were not allowed to re-enlist. This policy changed over time due to a shortage of recruits. In total, approximately 5,000 African Americans served on the American side.

NOV 24, 1775 – Two more hulks were sunk in Hog Island Channel, forcing all ships to pass by the guns of Fort Johnson. The SC Provincial Congress authorized the arming and manning of the ship *Prosper* to engage or sink the menacing British warships off the coast. The *Prosper*, formerly a merchant ship operating between Bristol, England, and the colonies before the war, was outfitted as a frigate with eight 12-pounders, seven 6-pounders, and four 4-pounders. Captain Simon Tufts was given command as soon as she was ready for action.

NOV 27, 1775 – On November 27, after learning that two British ordnance brigantines were headed to Boston, General George Washington was informed that Captain John Manley had spotted both ships off the coast of Massachusetts. The HMS Nancy was soon captured, while the other ship managed to escape. The Nancy was taken to Cape Ann and unloaded. Its cargo included 2,000 muskets, 100,000 flints, 30,000 round shots, 30 tons of musket shot, and a 13-inch brass mortar. It was stated that it would have taken the Americans about 18 months to produce the goods captured.

NOV 29, 1775 – Siege of Boston

The English brigantine *HMS Nancy* was captured by the 74-ton schooner *Lee*, which was armed with six cannons and commanded by Captain John Manley. The crew of the *Lee* consisted of men from Washington's infantry regiments.

The *Nancy*, an unarmed 250-ton vessel, was carrying military stores and ordinance for the British forces in Boston. It got separated from a larger convoy during rough weather. The material seized from the *Nancy* included 2,000 muskets, 100,000 flints, 30 tons of musket balls, 30,000 cannonballs of various sizes, 1500 barrels of gunpowder, and a much-needed 13-inch brass mortar.

Washington sent troops to Cape Ann to secure and protect the vessel, which later entered American service as the *Congress*.

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| <p>Trivia Question: <i>What is a Brigantine?</i> Simply put, it's a sailing ship, but not just any sailing ship. There are specific rules for this type. It has to have two masts, with the main mast being the second one. The main mast must have at least two sails: a square topsail and a gaff-rigged mainsail located behind the mast. Other features of Brigantines included a weight range of 30 to 50 tons, a cannon armament of 10 to 16 pieces, and a crew size of 50 to 80 men. Their primary role was scouting, dispatch, and light combat.</p> |
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IT IS OFFICIAL!



The Battle of Alligator Creek Bridge
Has been recognized by the SAR as a
National Event

Special Thanks to;
Christopher Washler
Jonathan Hunt
Douglas Gibbens
and
Paul Tucker

For their work on making, it happen!

Patriot of the Month

Our Patriot for September is **Colonel Henry Knox**.



Revolutionary War Hero & Founding Father

- **Born:** July 25, 1750, Boston, MA
- **Background:** Son of Irish immigrants; left school at age 9 to support his family
- **Career Start:** Opened the London Bookstore in Boston, where he immersed himself in military strategy and Enlightenment thought
- **Marriage:** Wed Lucy Flucker in 1774, defying her Loyalist family to join the Patriot cause
- **Boston Massacre Witness:** Present during the 1770 clash, which galvanized his Patriot sympathies
- **Fort Ticonderoga Expedition (1775):** Led the daring “Noble Train of Artillery,” transporting 60 tons of captured British cannons over 300 miles of snow and ice to Boston—instrumental in forcing British evacuation.

Chief of Artillery: Appointed by George Washington, Knox oversaw artillery in key battles:

- **Battle of Trenton & Princeton**
- **Battle of Brandywine & Germantown**
- **Battle of Monmouth**
- **Siege of Yorktown (1781)**

Promotion: Rose to **Major General** and became Washington’s trusted military advisor

Secretary of War (1785–1794):

- First under the Articles of Confederation, then under President George Washington
- Oversaw the creation of U.S. military infrastructure and advocated for a strong Navy

Society of the Cincinnati: Co-founder, preserving the legacy of Revolutionary officers

Retirement: Settled at Montpelier estate in Thomaston, Maine

Died: October 25, 1806, at age 56, from complications after swallowing a chicken bone

Burial: Thomaston Village Cemetery, Maine

Namesake: Fort Knox in Kentucky honors his military service

If you know your Patriots’ story, share it with us. Forward your story to Robin Preston and see it in a future chapter newsletter. Rlpreston0306@gmail.com

Our Last Chapter Meeting – The following photos are from the last CFLSAR Chapter meeting held on October 11. If you weren't there, you should have been. They keep getting better and better.



Don LaJoie and Marlene Lambiaso cut the birthday cake, celebrating the U.S. Navy's 250th Anniversary. Both are Navy Veterans.



Don LaJoie was presented with a Silver America 250 Certificate.



Madelda Thompson was presented with a Silver America 250 Certificate.



Marlene Lambiaso was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for donating a basket for the Board of Management meeting.

Photo from the September 25 Naturalization Ceremony

The following photo is from the Orlando Naturalization Ceremony. We were fortunate enough to welcome just over 100 new American citizens.



L-to-R Robin Preston, Phil Markoe, two new citizens, Harry Rinker, Randal Allen

Photos from the October 1 Honor Flight – The following images are from The Villages Honor Flight reception at the Orlando-Sanford International Airport. Remember, there is another one next Wednesday.



L-to-R Robin Preston, Rob Patton, Randal Allen, Kim Cullars, Phil Markoe



Posing with a World War II Vet

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Photos from the Board of Management Meeting – The following images are from the October 17 and 18 Board of Management Meeting held at the Embassy Suites in Kissimmee.



Color Guard members from Central Florida (on the top row, left to right): Kim Cullars (2nd), Robin Preston (5th). Now on the bottom row, left to right, Randall Allen (3rd), Michael Meyers (8th), Phil Markoe (11th).



Harry Rinker (5th from L) received five bronze oak leaf clusters to add to his gold Liberty medal. To date, Harry has been 1st signer on 341 regular member applications.

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President Chris Washler presented Randal Allen with the 1776 Society – Silver Quill certificate/pin for supporting the SAR Education Center and Museum.



FLSSAR Color Guard Commander Jeff Brunnel presented Linda Rinker with the Molly Pitcher Award. This is given to the lady who, with great dedication, routinely supports the SAR Color Guardsman and the SAR Color Guard.



This is a photo of Robin Preston presenting Randal Allen with a certificate for having contributed to the George Washington Endowment Fund. Randal also contributed to the Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest.

Many more photos from the Fall 2025 Board of Management meeting can be found at this link:
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/FgQ6vhoRvGjULuYA7>