

Benedict Arnold



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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,
Saturday, October 11**

Second Chapter Meeting of the Year

As we move through October, let us take a moment to reflect on a pivotal milestone in our nation's fight for independence. On October 13, 1775, the Continental Congress authorized the creation of the Continental Navy—a bold step toward organized resistance at sea. This decision not only signaled the colonies' resolve but laid the foundation for naval operations that would disrupt British supply lines and fortify our cause.

In honoring this legacy, we reaffirm our commitment to preserving the memory of those who served with courage and vision. May their example continue to inspire our efforts in education, outreach, and historical stewardship.

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 contact 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 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.



**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

(13.6% of Chapter Membership have medaled)

- Bronze – 12
- Silver – 2
- 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 throughout the year. 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 in the twelve categories for 2024 were 6,060.

As of September 24, we have accumulated 5,845 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, the contributions made by chapter members totaled over 22,000 points. We were the second-ranked chapter in the state in total points. Please send an email to Phil Markoe and inform him of your actions.

2025 Points to date are **13,998**.

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
Burt Fairchild
Milton Mersinger
Robin Preston
Harry Rinker
Gary Smith

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Orlando Naturalization Ceremony

Calendar for the remaining of 2025

- September 25 – 10:00 a.m.
- October 23 – 10:00 a.m.
- 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.



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 because we have Honor Flights arriving at two area airports: Orlando International and Orlando-Sanford International. Below are the scheduled flights for the remainder of the year.

Most flights arrive back from Washington, D.C. at about 9:15 p.m. If you are attending an Honor Flight at Orlando International, Fast Park offers free parking and transportation to and from the airport. If you are attending an Honor Flight at the Sanford Airport, the airport 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 #67 – Wednesday, October 1 – Allegiant

Mission #35 – Saturday, October 18

Mission #68 – Wednesday, October 29 – Allegiant

A WORLD WAR II Veteran will be among the Vets.





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
Thursday 25 SEP 2025	Orlando Naturalization Ceremony	10:00 a.m. - 401 West Central Blvd See page 5 for more information	Yes/No
Wednesday 1 OCT 2025	Villages Honor Flight #67	Sanford Airport – 9:15 See Page 5 for more information	Yes/No
Wednesday 15 OCT 2025	CFLSAR Book Club Mtg – 8:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Meeting is online – via ZOOM <i>March to Independence: The Revolutionary War in the Southern Colonies</i> by Cecere (the first 100 pages). <i>The Snow Campaign, 1775</i> (20-page handout). The <i>Struggle for Sea Power</i> by Willis.	No
Fri. & Sat. 17, 18 OCT 2025	FLSSAR Fall Board of Management Meeting	Orlando Embassy Suites Saturday night banquet – color guard	Yes/No
Saturday 18 OCT 2025	Orlando Honor Flight #35	Sanford Airport - 9:15 p.m. See page 5 for more information	Yes/No
Saturday 18 OCT 2025	NRA Muzzleloader Training	Mayo, Florida - 9:00 a.m.	No
Thursday 23 OCT 2025	Orlando Naturalization Ceremony	10:00 a.m. - 401 West Central Blvd See page 5 for more information	Yes/No
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
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.	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

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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
14 FEB 2026	Liberty Tree Dedication – Jacksonville Chapter	TBD	Yes
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
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
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 – Desota 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
6 JUN 2026	American Revolution Musical	Orlando Garden Club	No
20 JUN 2026	Battle of Alligator Creek Bridge – Commemoration – Jacksonville Chapter	Callahan, FL	Yes
10, 11, 12, 13 SEP 2026	FSSDAR Fall Forum	OMNI Hotel – Championsgate, FL	No
Fall 2026	John Clark Historical Marker Dedication	Panama City, FL	Yes

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IMPORTANT NOTICE



By now, you have likely received an email from Club Express asking for your annual membership renewal. **DON'T WORRY.** It is a legitimate request. You **ARE NOT** being scammed or phished. The CFLSAR Chapter, along with many chapters in Florida and around the nation, uses *Club Express* for dues collection, webpage hosting, and other functions.

You **DO NOT** have to submit your dues via *Club Express* if you don't want to. You can submit your dues the old-fashioned way, via check.

There is a three-dollar (\$3.00) charge if you pay via *Club Express*. If you think about it, it is really only \$2.22 because you don't have to use a \$0.78 stamp.

Paying via *Club Express* is advantageous to the chapter, State, and National. At the chapter level, the treasurer is bypassed on the front end. The dues are split out and credited to the chapter, State, and National every ten days. If dues are paid via Club Express, the chapter treasurer no longer needs to write checks to the State or National Organization. Like the chapter, they get their money automatically every ten days.

Club Express will track the compatriots who have paid and those who haven't. Regular notices will be sent to those who haven't paid, reminding them to pay their dues.



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CHAPTER MEETINGS

Winter Park Elks Club

4755 Howell Branch Road – Winter Park

- Sat, October 11, 2025 – 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
- 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 September 24)

Average views per day – **45**

Average views per post – **30.1**

Instagram Account Name - centralfloridasar

October 11 Chapter Meeting

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

Meal Cost: \$25 per person (payable at the door)
Topic: Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Warships of the Revolution but Are Afraid to Ask.
Dress Code: Business Casual

If you plan to attend, RSVP to Phil Markoe – by voice or text **407.332.7107** or by email at **markoevikingsfan@aol.com**

American Revolution Musical

Debbie Cook needs three or four more men to be actors in the American Revolution Musical she is producing.

The next practice is this Sunday, September 28, at the Orange County History Center. Practice begins at 2:00

If you are interested in being a star of the stage, please contact Debbie Cook at debbiecDAR@gmail.com or 407-760-1007. The best time to reach her is after 3:00 p.m. because she is at school.

CFLSAR Book Club

The readings to be reviewed during the October meeting of the CFLSAR Book Club are *March to Independence: The Revolutionary War in the Southern Colonies* by Cecere (the first 100 pages). *The Snow Campaign, 1775* (20-page handout). The *Struggle for Sea Power* by Willis. For questions, please contact Randal Allen.

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

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

Newsletter Name

After a vote at the September 13 chapter meeting

The Bell Ringer.

Was the chosen name for the Chapter Newsletter.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY COMPATRIOTS

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

September 26	John Jenkins
September 27	Andrew Showen
September 29	John Poulson
September 30	Mark Buckles
October 1	Peter Gulden
October 1	Harry Rinker
October 2	Michael Meyer
October 2	Eric Worden
October 3	Michael Rose
October 3	Carl King
October 4	Thomas Andrews
October 6	Charles Johnson
October 7	Tyson Roniger
October 15	William Underly
October 22	Chris Meyer
October 23	Taylor Campbell
October 25	Gregory Davis
October 27	Phil Markoe
October 27	Stuart Green

AMERICA 250 Minute SEPTEMBER 2025

SEP 1, 1775 – Richard Penn and Arthur Lee presented the *Olive Branch Petition* to William Legge, the Lord Dartmouth, who served as the colonial secretary.

SEP 2, 1775 – Richard Penn and Arthur Lee were informed that there would be no response from the King regarding the *Olive Branch Petition*.

SEP 6, 1775 – Siege of Fort Saint-Jean

The situation at Fort Saint-Jean has changed since Colonel Benedict Arnold's raid in May. Now, it was defended by up to 750 men under the British Major Charles Preston. Native Americans patrolled outside the fort, while the British patrolled the Richelieu River with an armed schooner.

The Patriots started making forays on Fort Saint-Jean from their location, ten miles away at Île-aux-Noix (which means "Island of Nuts" in French). They landed about a mile upriver from the fort. Major General Philip Schuyler stayed with the boats, while Brigadier General Richard Montgomery led the men through swampy terrain toward the fort.

Outside the fort, about one hundred Native Americans surprised the Patriots, leading to a skirmish. The largely untrained militia did the only sensible thing they could think of—retreating to their boats. Once there, they quickly built breastworks for protection.

People in the fort saw what was happening and started firing on the Patriots. The Patriots retreated another mile and built more breastworks. The Native Americans left because of the lack of support from inside the fort during the initial skirmish.

<p>Trivia Question: What are <i>breastworks</i>? A breastwork is a temporary fortification made of earthwork (mud, dirt, rock, etc.), named because it typically reaches to breast or chest level. It sounds better than chestworks.</p>

SEP 7, 1775 – Siege of Fort Saint-Jean

Based on information from friendly locals, the Patriots decided to pull back to Île-aux-Noix.

SEP 8, 1775 – Siege of Fort Saint-Jean

Eight hundred reinforcements from Connecticut, under the command of Brigadier General David Wooster, arrived. They were joined by militia and artillery from New York. After a war council, the Patriots decided on a nighttime attack on the fort.

SEP 8, 1775 – Quebec Campaign

Major General Philip Schuyler dispatched Colonel Ethan Allen to circulate a proclamation, announcing the arrival of American forces and their intent to liberate the Canadians from British rule.

SEP 10, 1775 – Siege of Fort Saint-Jean

American Major General Richard Montgomery, with about one thousand men, attempted a nighttime raid on the fort from the original landing site. Some troops became separated in the darkness, and upon regrouping, they panicked, mistaking each other for the enemy. Within thirty minutes of leaving, they were back at the landing site.

Montgomery sent them out again, but this time they encountered Native Americans. Once more, they panicked and hurried back to the landing site, with their commander unable to stop their disorganized retreat.

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As the command staff discussed their next move, they spotted the British warship, *HMS Royal Savage*, approaching. You can probably guess what happened next. Yes, the Patriots panicked and quickly retreated to Île-aux-Noix.

SEP 11, 1775 – Quebec Campaign

About eleven hundred Patriot soldiers left Boston, headed for Quebec. Washington placed Colonel Benedict Arnold in charge. When the trek through Maine began, Arnold had two battalions of volunteers, most of whom had served during the siege of Boston. A third battalion, led by Captain Daniel Morgan, had arrived from Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Trivia Alert: Daniel Morgan and Daniel Boone were cousins.

Trivia Question: *What is a **battalion**?* It is a military unit composed of 300 to 1,000 infantry soldiers, typically led by a lieutenant colonel. It's a smaller unit within a regiment consisting of multiple companies.

Washington believed the formidable terrain between Boston and Quebec City could be crossed in about twenty days. The English didn't think it could be crossed at all. Arnold estimated the distance at 180 miles, but it was actually closer to 300. The trek took two months, with Arnold arriving outside Quebec City on November 8. He lost about half of his 1,200 men, not just from starvation and exposure, but also due to desertion. Those who persevered resorted to eating leather goods, such as moccasins, shot pouches, and breeches, as well as candle wax, hair grease, and one of the officers' dogs.

Trivia Question – *Is it really possible to eat **leather**?* Yes, you can eat leather, but you'd want to avoid modern boots or belts due to the chemicals used in processing. If you were with Benedict Arnold's group, at Valley Forge, with the Donner party, or a Native American, you'd boil the leather for several hours before attempting to eat it. As you chew, it might help to close your eyes and imagine "filet mignon." Ketchup would have been useful, but it wasn't invented for another thirty-seven years.

SEP 12, 1775 – John Stuart, Indian Superintendent to the Southern Region, received an order from General Thomas Gage, commander of all British troops in North America. The order was for all Native American allies to attack all disloyal colonists.

SEP 14, 1775 – The transport ship, the *Charming Nancy*, arrived in Plymouth, England, carrying the wounded British survivors of Bunker Hill. Newspapers reported the shocking sight of "some without legs and others without arms, and their loose clothes hanging on them like morning gowns."

The arrival of the *Charming Nancy* was made worse by the presence of sixty widows and children of the men lost at Bunker Hill. The ship itself reeked of squalor and rotting flesh, an aroma so powerful that it could be smelled before the ship docked. The British won the Battle of Bunker Hill, but it came at a steep price.

SEP 15, 1775 – Fearing British ships patrolling Charleston harbor, the Council of Safety ordered Colonel William Moultrie of the South Carolina 2nd Regiment to capture Fort Johnson from the small British garrison. The British, seemingly tipped off, hastily removed their guns and escaped. Colonel Moultrie instructed Captain Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, Captain Bernard Elliot, and Captain Francis Marion—each leading fifty men—to take the fort.

At around 11:00 p.m., the forces gathered at Gadsden's Wharf, boarded the *Carolina and Georgia* packet, and sailed for James Island, landing slightly above the fort. Although a short distance, the trip took over an hour, as the packet had only two small boats, each capable of landing just fifteen

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men at a time. Consequently, the men had to wade through water up to their waists. By dawn, only Captain Pinckney's and Captain Elliott's companies were ashore. Deciding not to wait for Captain Marion's men, they moved eagerly towards the fort. They found the gates open and the cannons dismounted. The British garrison was minimal, with only the gunner Walker and four men taken prisoner.

Colonel Moultrie ordered Lt. Colonel Motte to defend the fort from all threats, unless the British man-of-war, the *HMS Tamar*, attacked. If Motte found defending against the *Tamar* impossible, he was to withdraw to safety.

On the same date, a detachment of Charleston artillery led by Captain Thomas Heyward, Jr., moved to Fort Johnson and mounted three cannons, enabling the fort to be defended against British vessels. Soon, the British sloop-of-war *HMS Cherokee* arrived off Fort Johnson.

The Council of Safety, determined to signal their possession of Fort Sullivan to the British, saw Colonel Moultrie design a flag with a blue field and a silver crescent in the dexter corner. This became the first American flag displayed in South Carolina.

SEP 16, 1775 – Siege of Fort Saint-Jean

Patriot Brigadier General Richard Montgomery assumed command from Major General Philip Schuyler, who claimed he was too ill to continue to lead.

SEP 17, 1775 – At dawn, the British vessels *HMS Tamar* and *HMS Cherokee*, along with the packet *HMS Swallow*, sailed up to within point-blank range of the fort. Though an engagement was anticipated, the vessels merely demonstrated their presence before returning to their anchorage off Charleston harbor. The Council of Safety deemed the small garrison insufficient and ordered Colonel Moultrie to send additional forces to reinforce Fort Sullivan. Moultrie dispatched Captains Benjamin Cattel, Adam McDonald, and John Barnwell, each with fifty men from the South Carolina 1st Regiment, under the command of Major Owen Roberts. On this date, Roberts loaded his troops onto two schooners at Gadsden's Wharf and sailed for James Island, with strict orders to prevent any boats from obstructing their passage.

SEP 17, 1775 – Captain *John Parker*, the militia leader at the Battles of Lexington and Concord, died at the age of 46 in Lexington, Massachusetts. He succumbed to tuberculosis five months after the battles.



Minute Man Statue, Lexington, MA

SEP 17, 1775 – Siege of Fort Saint-Jean

With new reinforcements, Brigadier General Richard Montgomery's men landed south of the fort and captured supplies intended for it. British Major Charles Preston sent men to retake the supplies, but the Patriots had already hidden them. More Patriots arrived and forced the British back inside. Later in the evening, a handful of British soldiers managed to sneak past the Patriots and head to Montreal to report the situation to British Governor Guy Carleton.

SEP 18, 1775 – Siege of Fort Saint-Jean

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Brigadier General Richard Montgomery entrenched his troops around the fort and began constructing a mortar battery on the southern side. Digging trenches in the swampy area proved challenging, as they were constantly filled halfway with water.

Patriot supplies, including food and ammunition, were dwindling as the English continued to hold firm. Within a month, over nine hundred Patriots were sent back to Fort Ticonderoga due to illness or disease.

SEP 18, 1775 – Patriot troops from Fort Moultrie attacked and seized a small vessel carrying supplies from Charleston to two British ships anchored off Sullivan’s Island, capturing 21 casks of water, one case, and two bottles of liquor, and some brown sugar. In response, the British ships *HMS Tamar* and *HMS Scorpion* blockaded Charleston harbor and, five days later, seized the Charleston merchant vessel *Polly*, owned by Benjamin and Isaac Huger.

Captured sailors from the Patriot seizure of Fort Johnson warned that a bomb ketch was being sent to attack Fort Johnson and then burn Charleston. Given that the British had previously burned Charlestown, Massachusetts, this threat was taken seriously. Consequently, the Patriot-led government of South Carolina declared a state of emergency.

Trivia Question – *What is a bomb ketch?* A bomb ketch (or bomb vessel) was a type of wooden sailing ship used primarily for naval bombardment. Its main armament consisted of mortars mounted near the bow, which could fire explosive shells in a high arc at land targets. These ships were designed to bombard fixed land positions, such as fortifications, rather than engage in naval battles.

Bomb ketches were typically rigged as ketches, meaning they had two masts with the mainmast being larger than the mizzenmast. They were sturdy vessels, built to withstand the powerful recoil from firing their mortars.

SEP 25, 1775 – Quebec Campaign

Colonel Ethan Allen launched a surprise attack on Montreal, but the attempt failed. A collaborator inside was supposed to unlock the gates, but was discovered before he could do so. Allen’s forces were intercepted outside the city and defeated by British Major John Campbell, resulting in five American deaths and 34 captures.

Thomas Walker, who made the promise to Allen, was arrested by Governor General Guy Carleton for high treason. His house was burned, and he was placed on a ship bound for Quebec, likely facing execution. However, American forces captured the ship, freeing Walker. He lived for another 13 years before dying in Boston.

SEP 28, 1775 – When 30 Patriots attempted to reach Cumming’s Point, South Carolina, in three canoes, the British man-of-war *HMS Tamar* moved to intercept them. However, the wind died, and the *Tamar* beached on a sandbar. Captain Thornborough used the anchor and kedge to haul the ship into better wind, bringing it within range of the Patriots. He fired 6-pounders with round shot, forcing the Patriots to reverse course.



250th Anniversary Celebration of the U.S. Navy & Marine Corps

Join us for a historic 3-day celebration honoring 250 years of service and sacrifice by the United States Navy and Marine Corps. This event will take place from **October 11-13, 2025**, with a variety of ceremonies, commemorations, and activities in Philadelphia, PA, including grave markings, a Navy-Marines ceremony, a special dinner, a battle commemoration, a parade, and a group tour of the Museum of the American Revolution. Don't miss this opportunity to honor the legacy of these two great military branches.

PHILADELPHIA CONTINENTAL CHAPTER SAR

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
Patriotic – Historical – Educational

3-Patriot Grave Marking – Claxton, GA – 1:00 PM

October 12 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

- Sunday, October 12, 2025 at 1PM
 - 3-Patriot Grave Marking
 - Patriot Henry Holland, SAR P-183527
 - Solomon Yeomans, SAR P-325917
 - Simon Smith, SAR P-293098
- The Button Gwinnett Chapter SAR requesting the honor of your presence at the dedication of a grave marking event to honor these 3 Patriots.
- Location: Trinity Church of the Nazarene located at 3500 SR-169, Claxton (Evans County), Georgia 30417
- The Smith Family Reunion is being held that Sunday afternoon with dinner on the grounds after the grave marking event.
- By October 3, 2025, please contact Don McCarty at donald_mccarty@bellsouth.net or call his cell at (404) 218-6624, if you plan to present a wreath for your organization.

5 Patriot Grave Marking Dedication – Sugar Hill Historic Cemetery – 11:00 AM

November 1 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

- Saturday, November 1, 2025 at 11AM
 - 5-Patriot Grave Marking
 - Patriot Thomas Cox, P-348804
 - Patriot Joseph Curbow, P-348805
 - Patriot Lewis Dishon, P-331778
 - Stephen Harris, P-176032
 - Patriot Jesse Herring, P-343664
- The Button Gwinnett Chapter, Blue Ridge Chapter, Joseph Habersham Chapter, Piedmont Chapter, Robert Forsyth Chapter, and Lyman Hall Chapter SAR requesting the honor of your presence at the dedication of grave marking event to honor these 5 Patriots.
- Location: City of Sugar Hill Historic Cemetery, which is across the street at the Sugar Hill City Hall at Sugar Hill City Hall, 5039 West Broad Street, Sugar Hill, GA 30518
- By October 25, 2025, please contact Don McCarty at donald_mccarty@bellsouth.net or call his cell at (404) 218-6624, if you plan to present a wreath for your organization.

4 Patriot Grave Marker Dedication – Elberton, GA – 10:00 AM

November 8 @ 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Samuel Elbert Chapter of the Georgia Society SAR is hosting Grave Marking Ceremonies for Patriots,

1. Patriot John Johnston, P-225768
2. Patriot Thomas Carter, P-129704
3. Patriot Moses Hunt, P-188254
4. Patriot John Cunningham, P-142299

Ceremonies to be held for all 4 at 1884 Coldwater Rd. Elberton, Ga 30635

Due to the accessibility of Carter, Hunt and Cunningham we will place the Patriot markers for these, photo the markers and unveil these at the appropriate time in the ceremony.

Location: 1884 Coldwater Rd. Elberton, Ga 30635 GPS 34.22477, -82.83081

Date and Time: November 8, 2025 10:00 AM

Please contact Russell B. Terrell at rterrell58@gmail.com, if you plan to present a wreath for your organization.

Samuel Chase Grave Marking

In last month's newsletter, there was a story about our own Randal Allen bringing attention to the grave of Declaration of Independence signer, Samuel Chase. The grave was just like any other grave in the cemetery. There was nothing, except the inscription, to distinguish it from any other. That situation will be remedied on October 5, thanks to Randal taking the initiative of contacting the local SAR chapter.

Please join the Maryland Society, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), as we honor the following soldiers at Old St. Paul Cemetery in Baltimore City:

Samuel Chase	P-131939
John Eager Howard	P-186035
Thomas Peters	P-269083
Hercules Courtenay	P-139518
Tench Tilghman	P-305163
Edward Biddle	Not in PSR
George Armistead	Not in PRS
Lewis Armistead	Not in PRS

Please invite family and friends, but be aware that the terrain is uneven and there are no benches/chairs. Please use caution while in the cemetery and bring your own chairs.

If you're unable to attend but would still like credit toward the grave-marking medal, please contribute a minimum of \$60:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/oct-5-2025-grave-marking-at-old-st-paul-cemetery>

When

Sunday, Oct 5, 2025 · 10:30 am – 12 pm (Eastern Time - New York)

Location

Old Saint Paul's Cemetery, 733 W Redwood St, Baltimore, MD 21201, USA

[View map](#)



**The National Park Service in
partnership with
the Daniel Morgan Chapter,
SCSSAR
announces**

***245th
Anniversary of the
Battle of Kings
Mountain***

**Tuesday, October 7, 2025
11 AM**

**Kings Mountain National Battlefield Park
2625 Park Road
Blacksburg, SC 29702**

**RSVP for Wreath Ceremony by September 26th
stapler1@comcast.net or (540)255-3428**



The 1779 Battle of Baton Rouge

The Control of the Gulf and Mississippi

by General Bernardo Galvez

for the cause of the American Revolution



Mark your calendar!

The 248th Anniversary Remembrance of the Battle
will be held on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025, 8:00am at

Galvez Plaza

Downtown Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Hosted by

General Philemon Thomas Chapter Louisiana Society
Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)

In association with

South Central Louisiana Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution
and
Granaderos y Damas de Galvez La Luisiana Chapter

This is a National SAR Event! SAR Color Guard & Granadero Performance!



Battle of Baton Rouge Challenge Coins are available for purchase now!

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our country.

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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/>

Patriot of the Month

Our Patriot for September is **Colonel Benedict Arnold**.

YES, before he was a traitor, Benedict Arnold was one of the best officers in the Continental Army. In this version of Patriot of the Month, we'll look at his military service in 1775.

Early Life - Before Benedict Arnold became one of the most infamous figures of American history, his early life was marked by both promise and adversity. Born in Norwich, Connecticut, in 1741, Arnold was the son of a prosperous merchant and received a respectable education. However, tragedy struck early—three of his siblings died from yellow fever, and his father's descent into alcoholism led to financial ruin and social disgrace. Forced to abandon formal schooling, Arnold apprenticed as an apothecary and later built a successful business in New Haven, trading along the Atlantic coast. His growing resentment of British trade restrictions and taxation led him to join the Sons of Liberty, aligning himself with the Patriot cause well before taking up arms. These formative experiences—loss, hardship, ambition, and early defiance—laid the foundation for a man whose brilliance and bravery would later be eclipsed by betrayal.

Ticonderoga Expedition - In May 1775, just weeks after the battles of Lexington and Concord ignited the Revolutionary War, Benedict Arnold emerged as a bold and ambitious leader in the Patriot cause. Acting on intelligence about the vulnerable state of Fort Ticonderoga—a British stronghold on Lake Champlain—Arnold secured a commission from the Massachusetts Committee of Safety. It raced north to seize the fort's valuable artillery.

However, he soon discovered that Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys, along with a separate Connecticut militia, were already en route with similar intentions. Despite initial tensions over command, Arnold and Allen agreed to a joint assault. At dawn on May 10, their combined force surprised the sleeping garrison and captured the fort without bloodshed. The victory provided the Continental Army with desperately needed cannons and supplies, which were later used to break the British siege of Boston. Though overshadowed by Allen's flamboyant leadership, Arnold's strategic foresight and daring helped secure one of the Revolution's earliest and most important triumphs.

Journey to Canada - In the fall of 1775, Benedict Arnold led one of the most daring and punishing expeditions of the Revolutionary War—a 350-mile trek through the uncharted wilderness of Maine en route to Quebec. Commissioned by George Washington, Arnold's force of over 1,100 men set out to support a two-pronged invasion of Canada, hoping to rally French-speaking Canadiens to the Patriot cause. The journey quickly devolved into a test of endurance: leaky boats ruined supplies, inaccurate maps led to treacherous detours, and freezing rains turned portages into swamps. Starvation and illness thinned their ranks, with nearly half the men turning back before reaching the Chaudière River. By November, Arnold arrived at the outskirts of Quebec with just 600 ragged survivors—emaciated but resolute. Though the subsequent siege failed, the expedition earned Arnold a promotion to brigadier general and cemented his reputation as a fearless, if controversial, commander.

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 September 13. If you weren't there, you should have been. They keep getting better and better.



Randal Allen spoke about his quest to visit the graves of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence.



Carl King was presented with a Bronze America 250 Certificate.



William "Billy" Morgan was presented with a Bronze America 250 Certificate.



Gary Smith was presented with the Silver America 250 Certificate.

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Randal Allen was presented with a Gold America 250 Certificate, a Silver Certificate, and a Lapel Pin for the Liberty Tree Campaign, for outstanding support of the SAR Education Center and Museum.



Three new members were inducted into the SAR at the meeting. They were Mark Dunaway, Dylan Gallagher, and Kim Cullars. Congratulations, fellow Compatriots.