

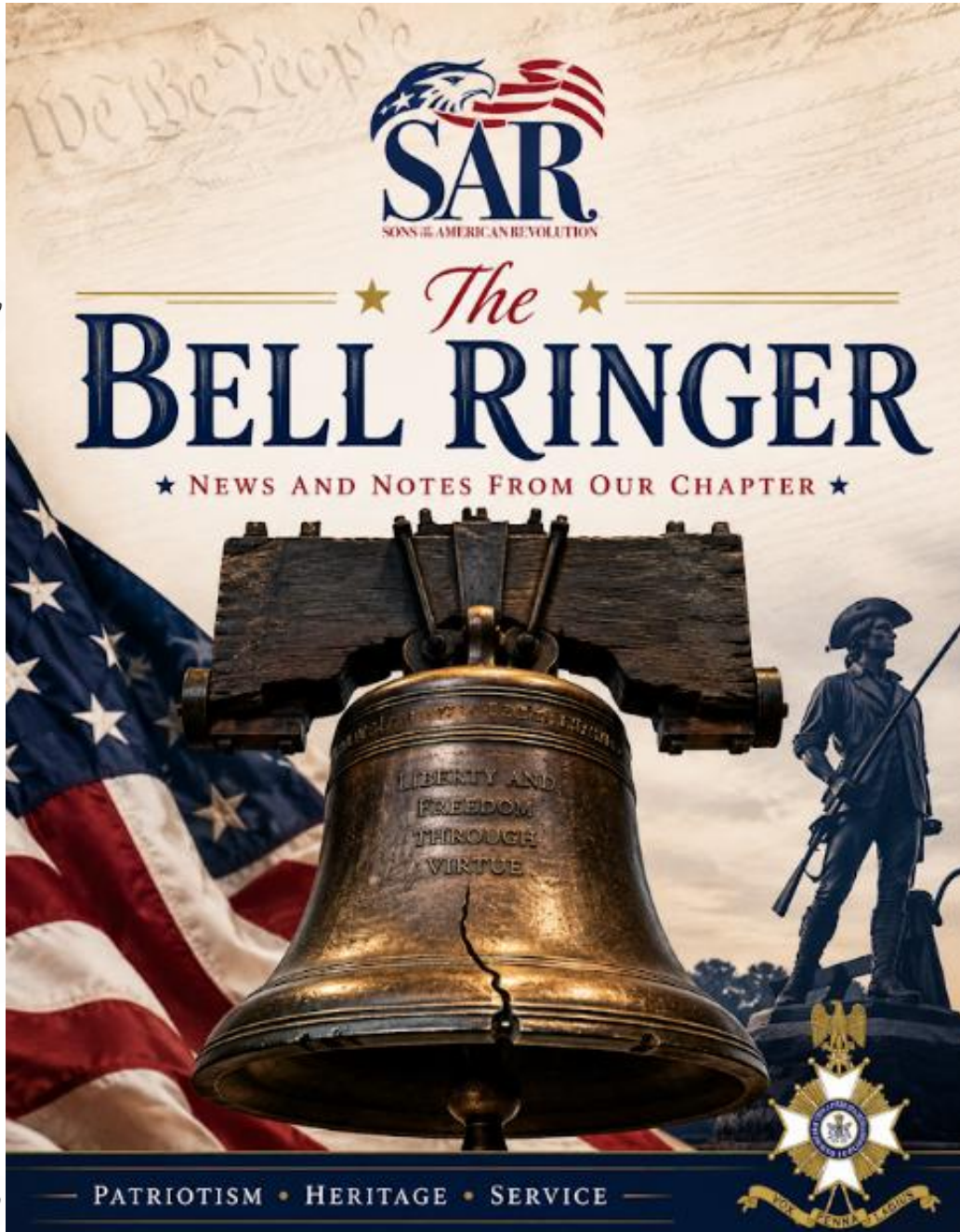


The Bell Ringer

MAY 25, 2026

The Central Florida Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 5





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2025 – 2027 Officers



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Service to our Vets

If you have done something in the service of a veteran or veterans, no matter how small you believe your contribution may have been, please let us know. Small contributions add up to big points by the end of the year. We were the second-ranked chapter in the state in total points. Please email Phil Markoe or Robin Preston and inform them of your actions.

2025 Points over **43,271**

2026 Points over **4,834**

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

Americanism Report

Every year, we, as a chapter, are required to submit a report to the State and National Societies detailing our activities.

2025 Points over **10,535**

2026 Points over **7,802**



The Sons of the American Revolution promotes patriotism, serves the community, and inspires and educates the public about the American Revolution



America 250

Compatriots
(16.3% of Chapter Membership have medaled)

- Bronze – 11
- Silver – 6
- Gold – 6

Non-Compatriots

- Bronze – 3
- Silver – 2
- Gold – 3



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September 9 Chapter Meeting

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

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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

If you plan to attend, RSVP to Phil Markoe – by voice or text **407.350.8143** or by email at markoevikingsfan@aol.com. It is important for Phil to get an accurate head count to the caterer, otherwise we can be charged more than we should be.

Chapter Website

www.cflsar.org

Social Media

Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/cflsar

The CFLSAR Facebook page has something new every day. Take a look at our page for yourself and encourage your family and friends to do the same.

Date of Inception – **15 NOV 2023**

Numbers of followers – **118**

Consecutive days with a post since inception - **894**

Total Posts since inception - **1331**

Views since inception – **57,165**

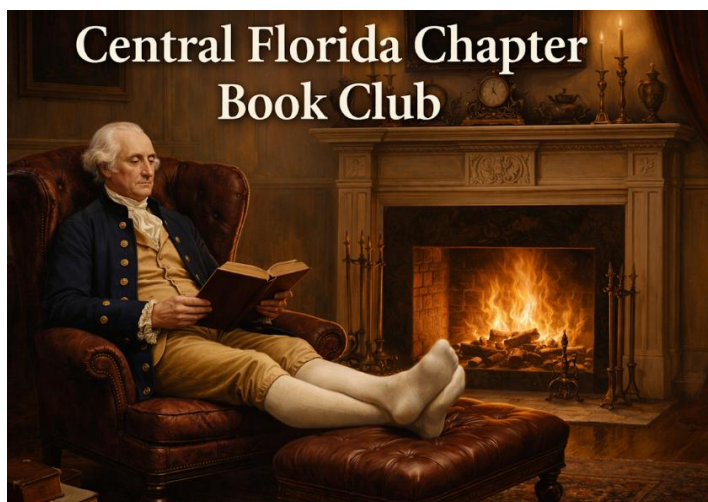
Views in 2026 – **17,895** (as of May 24)

Average views per day – **64**

Average views per post – **42.9**

Most views in one day – **1236** (27 APR 2026)

Book Club Books for 2026



Central Florida Chapter Book Club

The Central Florida Chapter Book Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.

You can earn 3 America 250 points by attending.

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

Join via ZOOM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83529410287?pwd=fo4TRwmBBoE3mxZWmMvnWi8IGH6YpM.1>

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

JUN – *Unsung: William Moultrie and the Battle of Sullivan's Island* – by Rickerman

JUN – *March to Independence: The Revolutionary War in the Southern Colonies* - Cecere



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April 25 Central Florida Honor Flight



It is estimated that over 300 people were present when the Central Florida Honor Flight arrived at the Orlando-Sanford Airport. There to greet the American Heroes were Randal Allen, Gary Smith, Harry Rinker, Rob Patton, Kelly Crumley (Daytona-Ormond Chapter), and Phil Markoe.

Orange County History Center America 250 Celebration ~ May 2



L-to-R Kim Cullars, William Rivers, Michael Meyer, Phil Markoe, Harry Rinker, and Randal Allen



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Orangewood Christian School – America 250 Celebration Parade

4 May 2026



L-to-R Phil Markoe, Kim Cullars, Harry Rinker, Gary Smith, Katie Campbell, Linda Rinker, and Madelda Thompson.



On May 8, Phil Markoe and Robin Preston participated in the 245th anniversary of the Battle of Pensacola. Phil was the color guard commander.

There were color guard members from Florida, Louisiana, Tennessee, Alabama, and South Carolina.



Two of our Ladies Auxiliary members, Maria Preston and Kathy Markoe, joined the state president of the Ladies Auxiliary in laying a wreath in honor of the Patriots who fought at Pensacola.





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CFLSAR Chapter Meeting – May 13, 2026



Ms. Adalyn Gilbert joined us tonight as the winner of the Americanism Poster contest. She received a certificate and a \$100 check.

The 3rd grader also led the chapter in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Congratulations Adalyn



In the spirit of the evening, Michael Meyer was granted a temporary stay of execution for wrongs committed against the chapter.



Linda Rinker, Marlene Lambiaso, and Kathy Markoe were all awarded the Lucy Knox medal.

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Kim Collars and Gary Smith were awarded the America 250 Certificate.



Gary Smith, Don LaJoie, Burt Fairchild, Randal Allen & Phil Markoe were awarded Certificates of Appreciation



Harry Rinker, Milton Mersinger, Phil Markoe, Randal Allen, and Michael Meyer were awarded Certificates of Appreciation.



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CFLSAR Chapter Meeting – May 13, 2026



William "Bill" Thompson received the Bronze Good Citizenship award for his service to veterans.



Harry Rinker received the Meritorious Service Medal.



Don Lajoie, Gary Smith, and Phil Markoe received the Roger Sherman Medal.



Robin Preston received the Meritorious Service Medal.



Randal Allen received the Distinguished Service Award



Maria Preston received the Lydia Darragh and the America 250 Gold Medals.



To finish off a great evening of camaraderie, Philip Markoe was presented with the chapter's highest award, the Liberty Bell Award.

He is photographed with previous winners. Harry Rinker, Burt Fairchild, Gary Smith, and Randal Allen.

The criteria for earning the award were strengthened in 2024. Among the criteria, the recipient must have been in the chapter for seven years, received a unanimous vote from the award committee, and have a record of service to the Florida Society.



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Da Bomb – aka Board of Management Meeting

May 15-16, 2026



Members of CFLSAR had an amazing two days at the FLSSAR Spring Board of Management meeting. Compatriots winning medals and awards were Randal Allen, Phil Markoe, Michael Meyer,



Robin Preston, Harry Rinker, and Gary Smith.

Those not in attendance receiving awards were Scott Cook, William "Billy" Morgan, and William "Bill" Thompson



A special shout-out to Randal Allen, who received the Gold Good Citizenship Medal, which is the third-highest-ranked medal in the SAR.

Randal Allen was inducted as FLSSAR Recording Secretary, Phil Markoe was re-inducted as Sergeant at Arms, and Robin Preston was re-inducted as Regional Vice President of the East Central Region



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Da BOM – aka Board of Management Meeting

May 15-16, 2026



Congratulations to two of the ladies from our Chapter. Kathy Markoe (2nd from left), and Maria Preston (fourth from left) received the silver, Martha Washington Medal. In case you're curious, the 3rd person from the left is receiving the award on behalf of a lady in his chapter. CONGRATULATIONS, Ladies.



More congratulations to two of the ladies from our Chapter. Kathy Markoe (1st from left) and Maria Preston (fifth from left) were installed as officers in the Ladies Auxiliary of the Florida Society Sons of the American Revolution. Kathy is the state registrar, and Maria is now the state President. CONGRATULATIONS, Ladies.

Jonathan Hunt and James Hamilton



Congratulations to our new Florida Society President, Jonathan Hunt. Jonathan was installed as president on Saturday, May 16.

Following his induction, Jonathan presented James Hamilton with a sword, as Jonathan put it, "from a current president to a future president."

Compatriot Hamilton exemplifies what the Children of the American Revolution offers the SAR. James is the current C.A.R. National Treasurer, a member of FLSSAR, and the Sons of the Liberty Color Guard Brigade. James will be attending Florida Institute of Technology, majoring in Aerospace Engineering with a concentration in Aeronautics and a possible minor in Physics.

On Sunday, May 16, James officially transferred to the Central Florida Chapter. We are happy to have him, and he will be a GREAT addition to our Color Guard.

WELCOME JAMES!

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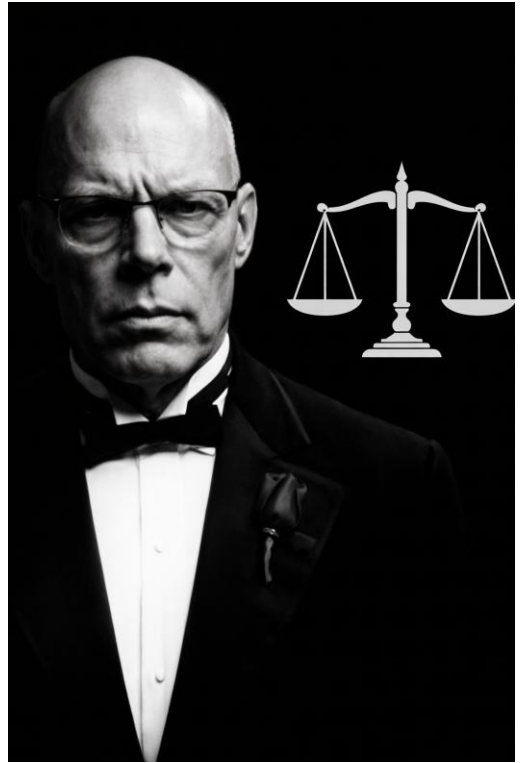
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National has a new Parliamentarian

CONGRATULATIONS to our very own Randal Allen, who has been appointed **Parliamentarian** for the NSSAR.

That is just to go along with all of the other things he does for the SAR as a whole.

- Color Guard Drummer – Extraordinaire
- Chapter Chaplain
- Chapter Member-at-Large
- Chapter Parliamentarian
- Chapter Committee Chairman – Flag Committee
- State Recording Secretary
- State Committee Chairman – Patriotic Activities
- State Committee Member – multiple
- Gold Good Citizenship Award Winner
- National Committee Member - multiple
- National Parliamentarian
- All Around Good Guy



On May 19, a Liberty Tree was planted at the Lake Nona Veterans Hospital. Those in attendance were members from the Orlando, Mary Virginia Cabell, and William P. Duval Chapters of the DAR, members of the Central Florida Chapter SAR, people from the Veterans Hospital, and people from Lukas Nursery. The dedication is scheduled for August 6.



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New FLSSAR President Jonathan Hunt stopped by the FPEA Conference on Saturday, May 24, to visit the Compatriots working the event.

Working the conference from the Central Florida Chapter were Phil Markoe and Michael Meyer. From the Ft Lauderdale chapter was Kevin Shurte.

The estimated attendance for the three-day event was between 20,000 and 24,000. It was the largest attendance since COVID.



On Memorial Day, seven members of the CFLSAR Color Guard participated in a flag-raising ceremony at the New Dimension High School Memorial Day program. Those present from left to right were Michael Meyer, Kim Cullars, Randal Allen, Robin Preston, Andrew Sechler, Rich Lester, and Phil Markoe.



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National Events are in
White letters, on a Blue
field

27 MAY 2026
The Villages Honor Flt
Sanford Airport

Sanford, FL

6 JUN 2026
Am Revolution Musical
Orlando Garden Club
Orlando, FL

11 JUN 2026
Naturalization Ceremony
401 West Central Blvd –
Orlando, FL
10:00 a.m.

20 JUN 2026
**Battle of Alligator
Creek Bridge
Commemoration**
10:00 a.m.
Callahan, FL

27 JUN 2026
Liberty Tree Dedication
Reiter Park
Longwood, FL
6:00 p.m.

9 JUL 2026
Naturalization Ceremony
401 West Central Blvd –
Orlando, FL
10:00 a.m.

6 AUG 2026
**Liberty Tree
Dedication**
Lake Nona VA Hospital
Lake Nona, FL

13 AUG 2026
Naturalization Ceremony
401 West Central Blvd –
Orlando, FL
10:00 a.m.

9 SEP 2026
CFLSAR Chapter Meeting
4755 Howell Branch Rd.
Winter Park, FL
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

10 - 13 SEP 2026
FSSDAR Fall Forum
OMNI Hotel
Championsgate, FL

17 SEP 2026
Naturalization Ceremony
401 West Central Blvd –
Orlando, FL
10:00 a.m.

30 SEP 2026
The Villages Honor Flt
Sanford Airport
Sanford, FL
9:00 p.m.

10 OCT 2026
CFLSAR Chapter Meeting
4755 Howell Branch Rd.
Winter Park, FL
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

15 OCT 2026
Naturalization Ceremony
401 West Central Blvd –
Orlando, FL
10:00 a.m.

17 OCT 2026
Orlando Honor Flight
Orlando Airport
Orlando, FL
9:00 p.m.

28 OCT 2026
The Villages Honor Flt
Sanford Airport
Sanford, FL
9:00 p.m.

5 NOV 2026
Naturalization Ceremony
401 West Central Blvd –
Orlando, FL
10:00 a.m.

11 NOV 2026
CFLSAR Chapter Meeting
4755 Howell Branch Rd.
Winter Park, FL
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

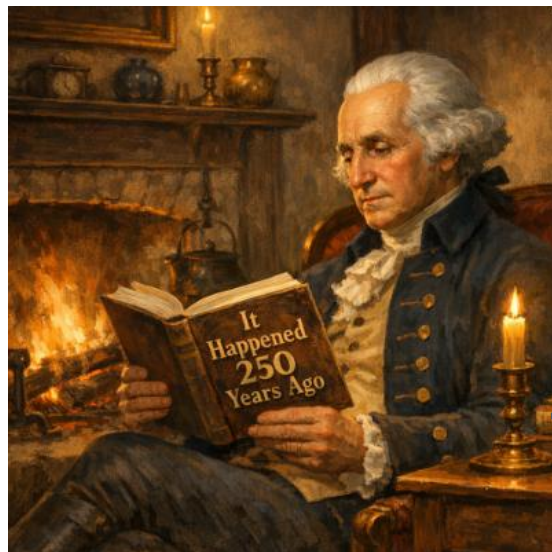
10 DEC 2026
Naturalization Ceremony
401 West Central Blvd –
Orlando, FL
10:00 a.m.



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It Happened 250 Years Ago



MAY 1, 1776 – Following the death of Major General Richard Montgomery, Major General John Thomas was assigned to take his place. Thomas assessed the situation and stopped the siege of Quebec. When he arrived, there were about one thousand Patriots, three hundred of whom were past the expiration of their enlistment. Including Thomas's troops, there were about 5,200 soldiers in the Patriot army throughout upstate New York.

MAY 1, 1776 – Maj. Gen. Henry Clinton ordered the destruction of Fort Johnson, North Carolina, because American riflemen had used it to fire on the nearby British naval fleet for days. Despite moving to within 200 yards of the shore, the fleet continued to be fired upon by the militia.

MAY 2, 1776 – Clinton landed 10 companies near Fort Johnson to eliminate the snipers. However, upon landing, the snipers were nowhere to be found. The British searched four miles inland but came up empty-handed.

MAY 3, 1776 – In the morning, the American snipers returned to their positions. They fired on the *HMS Cruiser*, and the *Cruiser* fired back. This silenced the snipers clearing the area of the militia at Fort Johnson.

MAY 3, 1776 – British Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis arrived in Cape Fear, North Carolina. Cornwallis, Commodore Peter Parker, and Lt General Henry Clinton concluded that Cape Fear was not a suitable base for launching operations. They decided that Charleston would be a more suitable location.

MAY 4, 1776 – Rhode Island declared itself free from England.

MAY 6, 1776 – The British fleet reached Quebec, where General Guy Carleton, learning that the Americans were preparing to retreat from the Plains of Abraham, led a reconnaissance force of 900 men and four guns—including the first 200 troops to disembark—to probe their position. Major General John Thomas could muster only 250 men in response, and his panicked troops fled west, abandoning 200 sick comrades, weapons, and artillery. Carleton chose not to pursue, waiting instead for reinforcements under General John Burgoyne, which soon swelled the British strength at Quebec to a formidable 13,000 men.

MAY 11, 1776 – In May 1776, after two months of stalemate with the British fleet anchored offshore awaiting Irish reinforcements, Lt. Gen. Sir Henry Clinton drilled his troops daily around North Carolina—stationing four companies on Battery Island, four regiments on Bald Head Island, and the rest near Fort Johnson—while preparing for an eventual assault on Charleston. To break the monotony, Clinton personally led a night raid on the bridge at Orton Mill, rowing 15 miles upriver with muffled oars to strike the home of Patriot Brig. Gen. Robert Howe, but the noisy landing alerted sentries, who killed one British soldier and drove off livestock. Clinton's men, finding no troops, nonetheless assaulted the women in the house—wounding three before Clinton later compensated them; several British soldiers were wounded in the darkness, and one sergeant was captured. After searching the property, the British marched to Orton Mill, prompting Major William Davis and his ninety Continentals to withdraw with their baggage and swivel guns; the British burned the mill, plundered nearby homes, and returned to their boats with only three horses and three cows to show for the raid.



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It Happened 250 Years Ago

MAY 12, 1776 — British Captain George Forster left Fort Oswegatchie, located on the St. Lawrence River, with about 40 regular troops, 10 British and French-speaking Canadian militia, and 160 Haudenosaunee warriors.

MAY 14, 1776 — Forster picked up 44 more Haudenosaunee warriors at Saint Francis.

MAY 15, 1776 — American Colonel Timothy Bedel left Cedars, leaving Lieutenant Isaac Butterfield in charge of the fort.

MAY 15, 1776 — Virginia voted for a resolution declaring its independence and also proclaimed "The United Colonies free and independent states, absolved from allegiance to, or dependence upon, the crown, or the parliament of Great Britain."

MAY 17, 1776 — British Captain George Forster received scouting reports about the troop strength at the Cedars. The Haudenosaunee warriors were initially concerned about the size of the American force, but news of the American retreat from Quebec emboldened them to act.

MAY 18, 1776 — Forster's force landed near the American-occupied fort and demanded its surrender. Lieutenant Butterfield countered with a request to withdraw under arms, which Forster refused. The parties exchanged fire. During the skirmish, Forster received word that Major Henry Sherburne had crossed the Ottawa River from Montreal to Quinze-Chenes. However, believing the Cedars had already fallen, Sherburne retreated across the river.

MAY 19, 1776 — The British increased their efforts. About 40 Canadiens under Jean-Baptiste Testard de Montigny arrived to help. Forster sent them to harass Sherburne. Butterfield surrendered the fort.

MAY 20, 1776 — With John Adams providing encouragement, 4,000 people gathered to pressure the Pennsylvania congressional delegation to vote for independence.

MAY 21, 1776 — The arrival of fresh British troops in Quebec convinced Continental Major General John Thomas that he had to withdraw, and at a war council in Sorel—driven more by political pressure from congressional delegates than military logic—the decision was made to make a stand at Deschambault between Quebec City and Trois-Rivières. That same day, Thomas contracted smallpox and died within two weeks, leaving temporary command to Brigadier General William Thompson until Brigadier General John Sullivan arrived.

MAY 25, 1776 — Congress ordered the formation of a German regiment. Eastern Pennsylvania was to contribute five companies, and four were to come from Maryland.

MAY 26, 1776 — Following the burning of Norfolk, Virginia, Lord Dunmore departed with his fleet of nearly 100 vessels and sailed 30 miles north to Gwynn's Island. Dunmore believed that the four-square-mile island would be a place where the loyalists, living in unhealthy conditions aboard his ships, could recover. Fort Hamond was built on the small island at the point closest to the Virginia mainland. Dunmore's forces included 100 British regulars and loyalist forces estimated to number 500 soldiers, both white and black.

MAY 29, 1776 — Guy Carleton's new deputy commander, Major General John Burgoyne, disembarked at Quebec City with eight thousand reinforcements consisting of regulars and German auxiliaries. Along with the additional troops, Burgoyne also brought 125,000 gallons of rum and forty tons of baggage. Soon he was heading west in a cabriolet.



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It Happened 250 Years Ago

MAY 31, 1776 — Lt General Henry Clinton and his army set sail for Charleston, South Carolina. His armada consisted of fifty ships.



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

June 7 — Lamar Coughlin

June 8 — Jamie Adams

June 12 — Andrew Sechler

June 12 — Robert Fisher

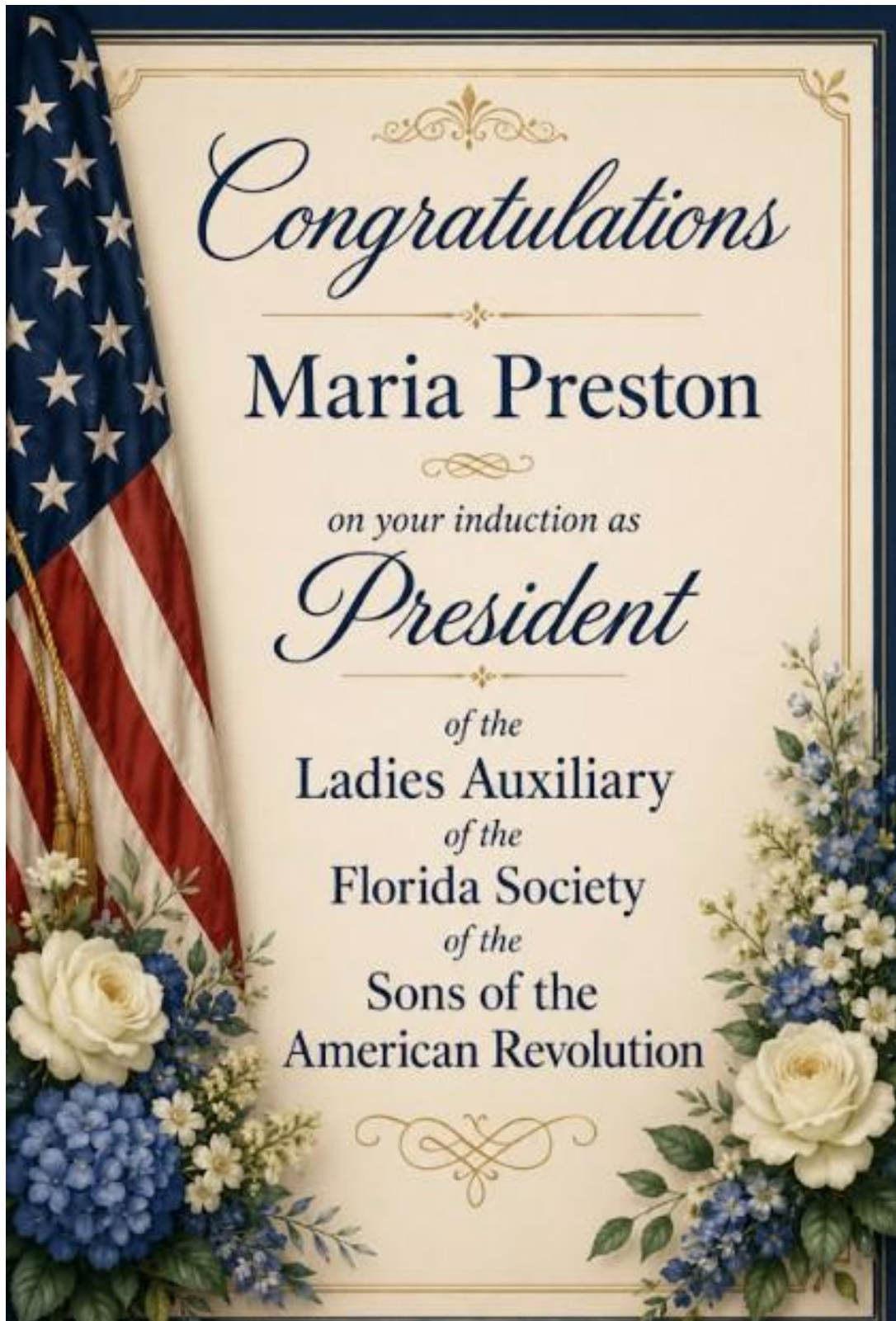
June 21 — James Holton

June 22 — Lincoln Hall



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Here is an organization for the Ladies of our Chapter



Ladies Auxiliary of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (LAFSSAR) is a nonprofit association of women organized to assist, support and further the objectives of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (FLSSAR) - promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations. At the state level, we proudly support our FLSSAR Compatriots by encouraging SAR membership and by raising funds to further the Society's objectives.

The Auxiliary consists of members from all over the state. We host a luncheon meeting twice yearly (Spring and Fall) during the Florida SAR Board of Managers (BOM) meetings, and usually have speakers and other small service projects of interest. Fundraising activities during BOM weekends usually include drawings for baskets and silent auction items donated by SAR chapters or members. Some members wear Revolutionary era clothing to SAR events and in support of SAR color guard activities.

Members are invited to attend the National SAR Spring and Fall Leadership meetings in Louisville, KY and the annual National Congress held each summer in various locations. Special events are also planned at each Congress for the Auxiliary members. We encourage our members to do whatever they can to help with their local SAR Chapter activities. The auxiliary members can help with the youth programs, service projects, grave markings, chapter banquets, fund-raisers, school programs, etc.

Membership Highlights:

- ☛ \$10 annual dues
- ☛ Automatic membership in the National Ladies Auxiliary SAR without additional dues
- ☛ Membership and fundraising efforts support important Florida and National SAR projects
- ☛ Dual and out-of-state members are welcome
- ☛ No meeting attendance requirements
- ☛ No Revolutionary Period lineage requirements
- ☛ No age limit
- ☛ Entitled to wear the official Florida and National Ladies Auxiliary SAR pins
- ☛ Opportunities to earn certain SAR medals and awards for service to the Society
- ☛ Fun and friendships!

Scan for Membership
Application



SAR Ladies Auxiliary History:

1984: The first Ladies Auxiliary of the Sons of the American Revolution was founded in California

1998: The Ladies Auxiliary of Florida was organized

2003: The National Ladies Auxiliary of the Sons of the American Revolution was formed

Today the Florida Ladies Auxiliary is among 24 state organizations in Alabama, California, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin and a group of members at large who live in States without a Ladies Auxiliary.

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