The Bell Ringer

OCTOBER 25, 2026
The Central Florida Newsletter
Volume 2, Number 10

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Service to our Vets

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

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.

2025 Points over **43,271**

2026 Points over **11,944**

Americanism Report

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

2025 Points over **10,535**

2026 Points over **12,096**

America 250

Compatriots	*Non-Compatriots*
Bronze – 18	**Bronze – 9**
Silver – 13	**Silver – 7**
Gold – 5	**Gold – 3**

Next Chapter Meeting
NOVEMBER 11

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 or online).

Menu: Turkey and ham, mashed potatoes & gravy, stuffing, green beans, salad, rolls, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie.

Topic: Band of Brothers Tour

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

You can now pay for your meal online!

https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/monthly-chapter-meeting-lunch

Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/cflsar

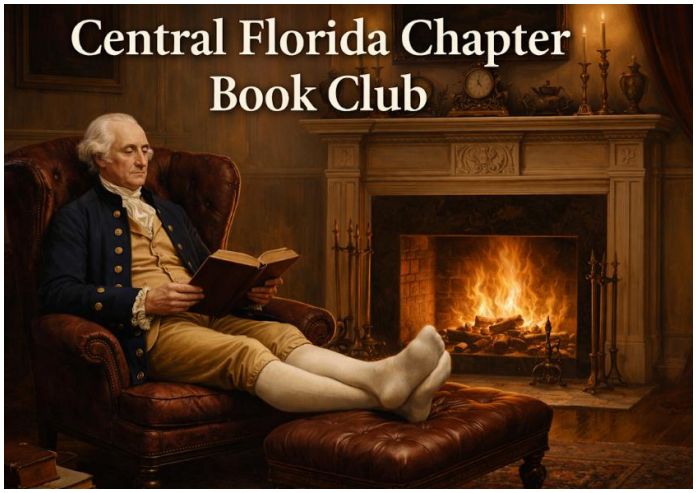
Chapter Website
www.cflsar.org

FLSSAR Website
www.flssar.org

Learn About the SAR at

SAR SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION UNIVERSITY

https://www.sar.org/sar-university/



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

Passcode: **415293**

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83529410287?pwd=fo4TRwmBBoE3mxZWmMvnWi8lGH6YpM.1

NOVEMBER BOOKS

New York Campaign - Battle of Pell's Point
The Indispensables: The Diverse Soldier-Mariners Who Shaped the Country…
by: O'Donnell

YOUR 2027 DUES ARE DUE

That's right! It is time to pay your annual dues.

We began collecting 2027 dues on September 1. We strongly encourage members to pay their dues by the end of November.

If you are a new member and were approved before September 1, those dues were for 2026. You are expected to pay new dues for 2027. If you were approved after September 1, the dues you paid with your membership count for 2026 and 2027.

REGULAR members pay $90 in dues in 2027. That is $50 for National, $20 for State, and $20 for Chapter. LIFE members pay $40 in dues. **E-1** members pay $0. **E-2** and **E-3** members each pay $50. JUNIOR members with a family member in the chapter pay $0 in dues. Other Juniors pay $5. All payments made before December 9 should be payable to the **CFLSAR**. Payments made after December 9 must be made by separate checks, each payable to NSSAR, FLSSAR, and CFLSAR, and, if the member has been dropped, they must be reinstated. There is a form for that, and it is emailed to the state secretary, with a printed copy included with the national and state checks mailed to the secretary.

Mail your Check to:

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

OR

PAY ONLINE

That's right, you can now pay your dues online. It is easy, safe, and free for you and the chapter. To pay online, go to the following link and follow the directions.

https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/central-florida-chapter-sons-of-the-american-revolutions-memberships

Compatriot Grave Marking

On Saturday, September 26, the Central Florida Chapter conducted its fourth Compatriot Grave Marking and the fifth in the state of Florida. The compatriots honored today were Peter Markoe, Richard Markoe, Paul Smith, Daniel Stebbins, and Thomas Steidley, Jr.

Color Guard Members present were Kevin Shurte, State Color Commander from the Fort Lauderdale Chapter, Kelly Crumley from the Daytona-Ormond Chapter, Randal Allen, Kim Cullars, Phil Markoe, Michael Meyer, Robin Preston, Harry Rinker, Andrew Sechler, and Gary Smith, all from Central Florida. Other Central Florida members present were William "Billy" Morgan, Rob Patton, and Ed Sexton.

The Central Florida Chapter, the Daytona-Ormond Chapter, a Michigan Chapter, the Fort Lauderdale Chapter, and the Florida Ladies Auxiliary all presented wreaths.

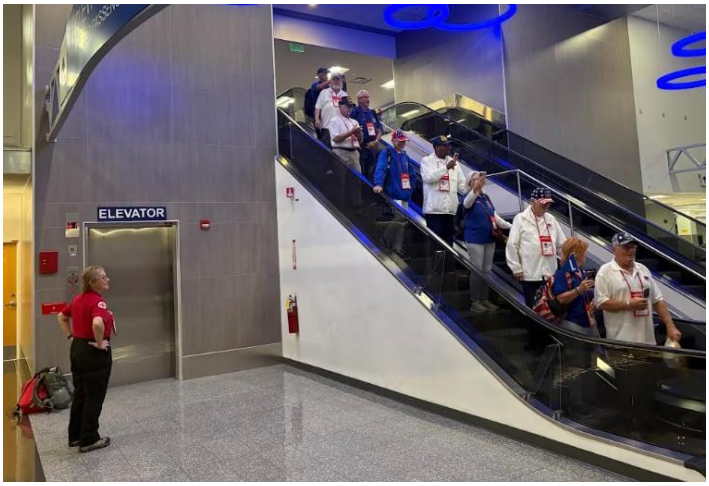
Two of the graves marked (Paul Smith & Richard Markoe) were those of current members Phil Markoe's and Gary Smith's fathers.

The Villages Honor Flight

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

L-to-R Michael Meyer, Robin Preston, Kelly Crumley (Daytona-Ormond Chapter), Gary Smith, Art Bullock, Kim Cullars, and Phil Markoe welcomed 68 American Heroes home as they returned from their Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.

L-to-R Phil Markoe, Kathy Markoe (LAFLSSAR Registrar) Maria Preston (LAFLSSAR President), Robin Preston, Louise Markoe, Michael Meyer. Also joining us and not pictured were Jane Bullock and Marlene Lambiaso.



Thank you for your service, gentlemen!

American Revolution Marker Dedication
9 October 2026

From L-to-R – Phil Markoe, Paul Pardee (Lake Sumter Chapter), Robin Preston, Kim Cullars, ?, Burt Fairchild, Matthew Carter (Lake Sumter Chapter), and Kelly Crumley (Daytona-Ormond Chapter). Kneeling – Andrew Sechler and Randal Allen.

Holly Hamilton, Florida Vice State Regent of the DAR, was the guest speaker. The event was hosted by the Adams-Onís Treaty Chapter of the DAR and the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation

After the color guard was dismissed, they gathered at the Hangry Bison for dinner and camaraderie. Three wives of the chapter joined them: Barbara Fairchild, Kathy Markoe, and Maria Preston.

Chapter Awarded Flag Certificates

Michael Meyer presented this flag certificate to Mike and Tracy on July 4th in Greenfield, IN. The couple enhanced their flag presentation. Mike is a veteran and was proud to receive his flag certificate.

Emily and Karter Keefer with their little daughter. Michael Meyer awarded the Flag Certificate in late June after they installed lights around the existing pole to illuminate the flag all night. They also received a tear-resistant flag that should withstand the strong South Dakota winds.

Chapter Meeting – October 10

Rob Patton received an America 250 Silver Certificate.

This chapter meeting focused on the long-overdue punishment of Compatriot Michael Meyer. In April, Michael, who is the chapter Sergeant-at-Arms, forgot to bring needed items to a Compatriot Grave Marking. There was much talk at the time as to what his punishment should be. Suggestions ranged from tar and feathering to flogging, hanging, firing squad, and more. It was finally judgment day.

Marlene Lambiaso discussed some punishment methods originally proposed by compatriots but deemed too brutal for Michael.

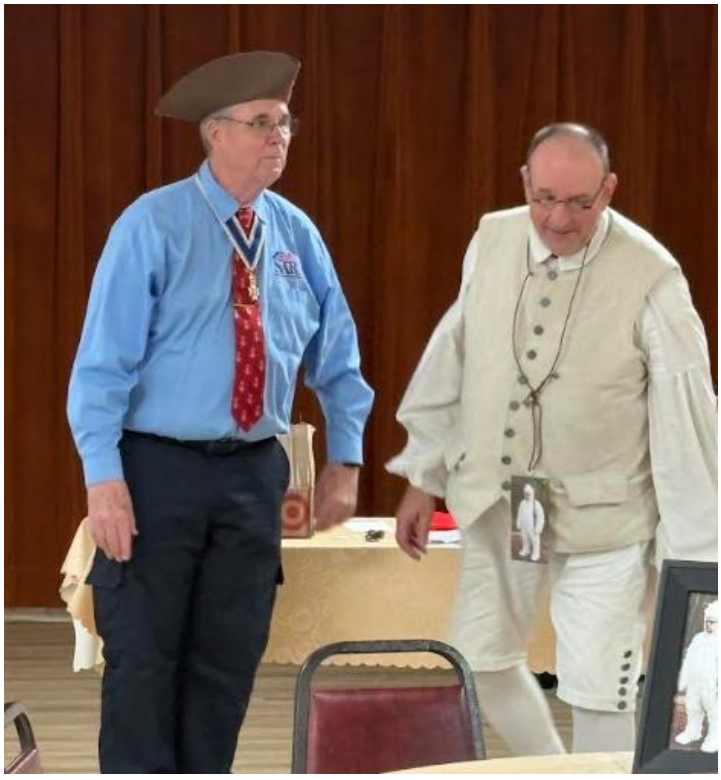
Michael Neal discussed additional punishments, including tarring and feathering. They decided not to use tarring and feathering after learning that Michael had been tarred and feathered twice before.

Jane Bullock discussed the forms of punishment used by the Continental Army. She discussed using lashing, whipping, or flogging as disciplinary measures.

It was determined that Michael would receive lashes for his failures at the Compatriot Grave Marking.

Michael received a homemade cat-o-nine-tails and 180 lashes. Okay, they were eyelashes, but they were still lashes.

Milton Mersinger discussed the next punishment method under consideration: hanging. They decided not to hang Michael for several reasons.



Despite the fact that Michael wasn't hanged, a small photo of the tarred-and-feathered Michael was hung around his neck. So, in a way, Michael was hanged.

Burt focused on the final method of punishment, nerf firing squad.

Lottery tickets were pulled to see who would be the lucky four members of the Nerf firing squad.

Michael is prepared to receive his final judgment.

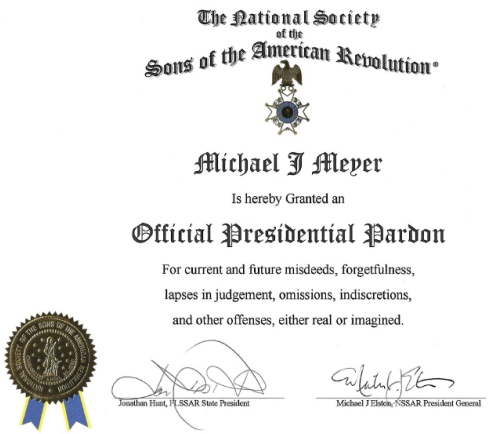
Then it happened. The chapter parliamentarian, Randal Allen, said Michael should be allowed to give a final statement.

Against his better judgment, the chapter President allowed Michael his final statement. HUGE MISTAKE.

Michael produced a full pardon signed by Jonathan Hunt, President of the Florida Society, and Mike Elston, former President of the National Society.

The pardon had been signed during Congress this past summer when Elston was the Society President.

In light of the new development, the chapter President had no other option but to stand down.



The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Michael J Meyer

Is hereby Granted an

Official Presidential Pardon

For current and future misdeeds, forgetfulness, lapses in judgement, omissions, indiscretions, and other offenses, either real or imagined.

Jonathan Hunt, FL SSAR State President

Michael J Elston, NSSAR President General

Thanks, Michael! You're a GREAT Sport!

Black Powder Training
October 15

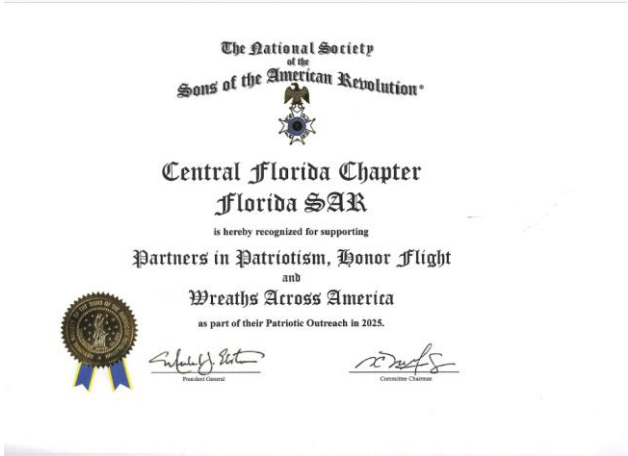
Michael Meyer and Robin Preston were joined by 9 other compatriots from around the state in earning their black powder certification. The certification allows Michael and Robin to fire muskets at events in Florida. During training, they were the only two to hit the bullseye.

The next Black Powder Training, conducted by Compatriot Mark Johnson, is scheduled for May 13. The class is already filling up fast. If you are interested in attending, please contact Robin Preston for details on how to register.

Fall Board of Management Mtg.
October 16 & 17
aka Da BOM

Randal Allen, Kim Cullars, Phil Markoe, Michael Meyer, Robin Preston, and Gary Smith participated in the color guard at the Fall Board of Management meeting.

The BOM voting members in attendance were Randal Allen, Phil Markoe, Michael Meyer, Robin Preston, and Gary Smith. James Hamilton and Harry Rinker also attended the BOM.



CFLSAR was awarded the certificate above at the Congress this past summer, and we received it during the BOM.

7 of our members participated in the color guard before the Saturday night banquet. From L-to-R, Robin Preston, Phil Markoe, James Hamilton, Randal Allen, and Michael Meyer. Not pictured are Kim Cullars and Gary Smith.

Michael Meyer, Phil Markoe, and Robin Preston are receiving awards for the chapter for participating in various Education Outreach Programs

LEFT: Randal Allen posing with Scott Breckenridge, Phil Markoe, Jeff Brunel, and Kevin Shurte, holding his Silver Color Guard Medal.

SPOTLIGHT ON A COMPATRIOT
HONORING SERVICE AND LINEAGE

This Month's Compatriot Spotlight is on Michael Neal

Month 2: Highlighting a CFLSAR Chapter Compatriot. In October, we're spotlighting ***Michael Neal.***

When did you become a member of the SAR? I became a member in early May of 2024. It should have been much, much earlier, but better late than never!

What first inspired you to join the SAR, and what part of the mission resonates most with you today? I would have to say my grandmother who passed back in 2004. My grandmother and great-aunts were all active DAR members and big into genealogy and our family history. I remember my grandmother telling me about some notable members of our shared ancestry and encouraging me to join CAR, but to my lament, I never did. I had to pass through my 20s and into my 30s to start to take it seriously as I kept recalling her stories and her own active DAR life. I finally came across some of her many documents in a cardboard "research box" and decided to finally pull the trigger and make it official. Something she would be elated to know. The part of the mission that resonates most with me today is honoring and preserving the legacies and memory of our country's founding generation, especially through my personal lineage. Participating in the activities that our organization does, big and small, ensures their collective legacy and memory live on through the ages. Cliché but true!

What Revolutionary War figure or event have you always found especially interesting? Well, we all love our "big name" heroes and founders like Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, Adams, etc., and for good reason! I'm also partial to my patriot and the other patriots in my family tree, but I'm also very fond of the lesser-known heroes and patriots of the Revolution. Patriots like Samuel Whittemore, Francis Marion, Deborah Sampson, Mary Ludwig Hays, Margaret Corbin, Ethan Allen, Peter Francisco, and Daniel Morgan. Real action-hero type characters. If I had to pick one, I think I would pick Samuel Whittemore. His story is quite unique and interesting, to say the least. Briefly, he was born in 1694, fought in King George's War AND the French and Indian War, and then, as an 80-year-old active farmer, he attacked the retreating British forces after the Battle of Lexington and Concord, sustaining gunshots and bayonet wounds, made a full recovery, and lived an additional 17 years and 9 months, dying of natural causes at the age of 96. For modern context, that would be like an American man born in 1896, fighting in WWII as a 48-year-old and also in the beginning of the Vietnam War as a 66-year-old, and then again at the end of the Vietnam War in the mid-1970s at 80 years old! WILD!

What's a hobby or interest you enjoy outside of SAR activities? If you regularly attend the chapter meetings, you'll likely to have heard that I'm a movie lover. I yearn to watch as many movies as possible from all kinds of genres, I'm even trying my hand at screenplay writing. I also love to travel with my family. Before COVID, we would travel several times a year. These days, traveling is a little more sparse than before, but we still manage to roam a bit. The only downside is my family is not as into history as I am, so I kinda have to drag them to historical sites wherever we go. But I will admit they are very good sports about it and afterwards they usually concede that they enjoy the tours or detours more than they thought they would.

SPOTLIGHT ON A COMPATRIOT
HONORING SERVICE AND LINEAGE

This Month's Compatriot Spotlight is on Michael Neal

What's a favorite place you've visited (historical or otherwise) that left a lasting impression on you? Well, as I mentioned before I love to travel, and each place I travel to has had some sort of lasting impression on me. But the place that left the biggest lasting impression on me was Gettysburg. I was a young man of about 12 or 13, my grandmother took me there as we stopped from place to place along a long road trip. Spent two days there and stayed at a hotel SUPER close to the historical center of it all. I knew the history of the place and its significance in the Civil War from school and whatnot, and in visiting it left me with a lot of profound thoughts and feelings that I had never felt till then. I also felt an inexplicable strange, different, or uneasy feeling at times. At the time, I did not know any of the lore or some of the "alternate stories" about Gettysburg, and I never saw or heard anything unexplainable at all, but I definitely left the place changed and moved.

What's something you appreciate about being part of our chapter community? I love being a part of a group of men (and women) that share this common background of having a patriot who either fought in or helped with the American cause in the Revolution and have a zeal for our country's past and honoring our patriot ancestors. I think it's really cool to look at my fellow compatriots, and meet new compatriots, and think to myself, "Wow, we share in the fact that we come from an unbroken line of descent that goes between 5-9 generations straight back to our country's founding - or earlier!". I also enjoy the education aspect. Taking it upoun ourselves to help enlighten young minds. In this day and age, most take our country's founding - and the ardent fight it took - for granted. Or, sadly for some, it's outright nullified or despised by some sort of perceived or contrived notion of moral or ethical superiority that only requires the hindsight of today's modern zeitgeist. We combat that with the flame of truth

28 OCT – The Villages Honor Flight
Sanford Airport – Sanford, FL
9:00 p.m. – Muster: 8:30 p.m.

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

6 NOV – Veteran Appreciation Luncheon
5421 Diplomat Circle – Orlando, FL
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Muster at 10:00 a.m.

11 NOV – Leonard James McNeill – WWII MIA Funeral Service – 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Carey Hand Colonial Funeral Home
2811 Curry Ford Road – Orlando, FL

11 NOV – Veterans Day Program
Mission BBQ – Lake Mary
Muster – 11:00 a.m. Ceremony begins at 11:30

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

14 NOV – Joshua Stevens Chapter Marker Dedication
1200 14th Street – Veterans Park – St. Cloud
Muster at 9:00 – Ceremony at 10:00

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

9 DEC – CFLSAR Chapter Meeting
4755 Howell Branch Rd. – Winter Park
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

19 DEC – Wreaths Across America
Multiple Cemeteries
Time - TBD

13 JAN – CFLSAR Chapter Meeting
4755 Howell Branch Rd. – Winter Park
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

15 JAN – Naturalization Ceremony
401 W. Central Blvd – Orlando, FL
10:00 a.m.

12 FEB – Naturalization Ceremony
401 W. Central Blvd – Orlando, FL
10:00 a.m.

13 FEB – CFLSAR Chapter Meeting
4755 Howell Branch Rd. – Winter Park
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

6 MAR – 251st Anniversary Battle of Nassau
Fisher Family Pier – Pompano Beach, FL
Time - TBD

10 MAR – CFLSAR Chapter Meeting
4755 Howell Branch Rd. – Winter Park
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

13 MAR – 244th Anniversary of the Last Naval Battle
Merritt Island, FL
11:00 a.m. – Muster at 10:00 a.m.

19 MAR – Naturalization Ceremony
401 W. Central Blvd – Orlando, FL
10:00 a.m.

3 APR – 250th Anniversary Battle of Thomas Creek
Jacksonville, FL
11:00 a.m. – Muster at 10:00 a.m.

14 APR – CFLSAR Chapter Meeting
4755 Howell Branch Rd. – Winter Park
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

16 APR – Naturalization Ceremony
401 W. Central Blvd – Orlando, FL
10:00 a.m.

7 MAY – 245th Anniversary Battle of Pensacola
Pensacola, FL
11:00 a.m. – Muster at 10:00 a.m.

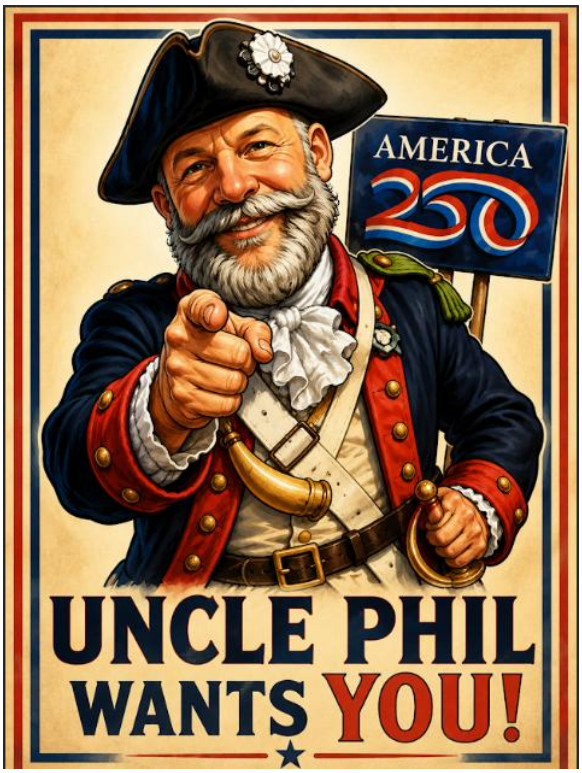
7 MAY – Naturalization Ceremony
401 W. Central Blvd – Orlando, FL
10:00 a.m.

12 MAY – CFLSAR Chapter Meeting
4755 Howell Branch Rd. – Winter Park
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

14, 15 MAY – FLSSAR BOM Meeting
Embassy Suite – Kissimmee, FL
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

19 JUN – 249th Anniversary Battle of Alligator Creek Bridge – Callahan, FL
11:00 a.m. – Muster at 10:00 a.m.

9 JUL – 137th SAR Annual Congress – New Orleans, LA



That's Right, Chapter Color Guard Commander Phil Markoe wants you to join probably the largest but definitely the **BEST** color guard in the state.

Join Today and Make Your Patriot PROUD!

Chapter Color Guard Commander
Phil Markoe
Email: markoevikingsfan@aol.com
Phone: (407) 350-8143

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

Wreaths Across America

Saturday, December 19, 2026

Help honor Veterans this Christmas by donating to Wreaths Across America

Orlando VA Fisher House Donation Drive

The Fisher House is a facility located at the Orlando VA Hospital that houses families of veterans, free of charge, while their loved one is receiving care.

Items Requested

Most Needed Items

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

Cleaning/Laundry Supplies

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

Food & Miscellaneous Items

- Ensure (various flavors)
- Pop-Tarts
- Clorox or Lysol wipes
- Tea Bags
- Gatorade (different flavors)
- Pastries (individually wrapped
- Snacks/Chips/Cookies (individually wrapped)
- Belvita breakfast snacks
- Napkins/Paper towels
- Microwavable soups, chili, etc.

IF YOU ARE MAKING A DONATION PLEASE ITEMIZE BY NUMBER OF ITEMS AND COST PER ITEM on paper

They Served the Nation. Now It's Our Turn to Serve Them.

Orlando FDVA Alwyn C. Cashe State Veterans Nursing Home

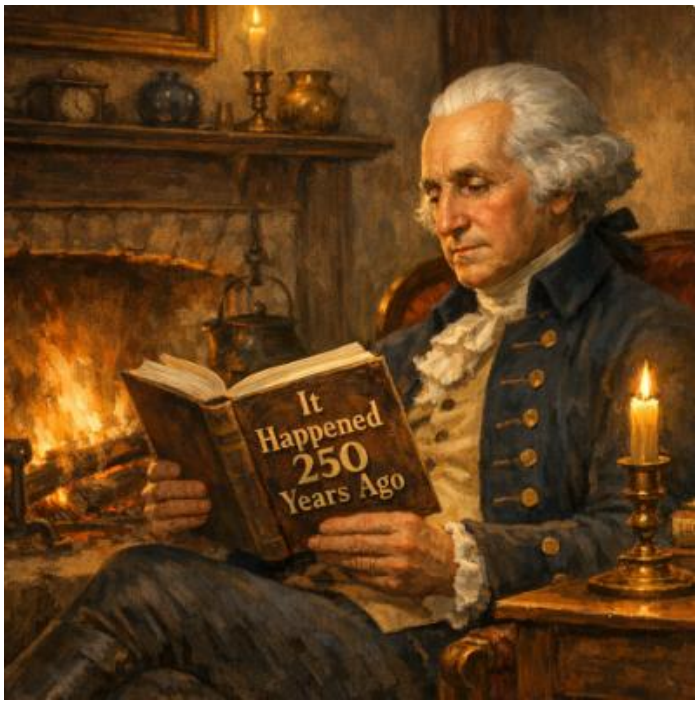
The Orlando FDVA Home is a 112-bed facility that offers skilled nursing care to eligible veterans. The veterans' home features a 32-bed memory care neighborhood.

The best way to support the Home is through gift cards, e.g., Publix, Walmart, or any restaurant. The amount of food needed depends on the event and participation. (Speaking of which, Phil met an ornery vet who asked Phil if he would convince Kat to show more "blood and guts" movies.)

Needs:

- A sno-cone machine
- Rental of a dunk tank
- Gift cards for food
- Disney / Universal / SeaWorld passes (outings)
- Visits: music, games, trivia

It Happened 250 Years Ago



OCT 1776 – Following his victory at Quebec City, Governor General Guy Carleton set his sights on the Hudson River and the separation of the southern colonies from New England. Once the British seized control of New York City on the south end and held Quebec City on the north end, there wasn't much in their way. Between the two cities was Lake Champlain, a series of forts, and the Hudson River.

Control of Lake Champlain was necessary to split the colonies. The lake is 120 miles long and 12 miles wide at its widest point. On one side is the Adirondack Mountains of New York, and on the other side is the Green Mountains of Vermont. It occupies 435 square miles and has an average depth of 64 feet. Depending on water levels, the lake can have as many as 70 islands. It flows south to north and empties into the Richelieu River.

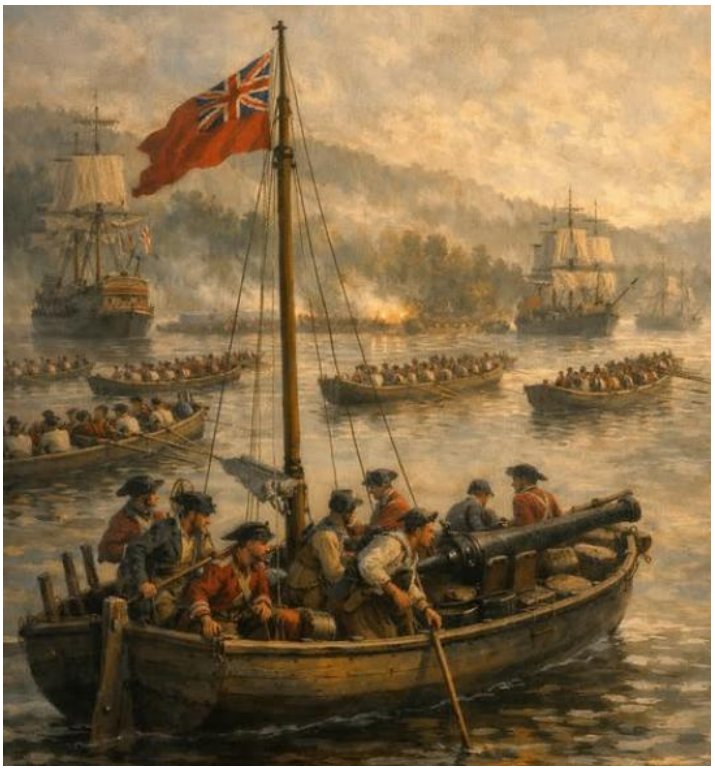
While they were retreating from Quebec, the Americans sank or burned boats on the Lake they couldn't use. When they abandoned Fort Saint-Jean, on the north end of the lake, they burned the fort.

The next task for both sides was to begin building fleets for Lake Champlain. When Carleton reached Saint-Jean, ten prefabricated ships were there waiting for him. They only had to be assembled.

When completed, the British fleet consisted of 700 bateaux (thirty-six feet long, six feet wide, and tapered at both ends), twenty-five larger armed vessels with eighty guns, and twenty-two smaller gunboats with one gun each. A standard British gunboat was 37 feet long. It had a mast in the middle and was normally manned with eleven sailors to manage the vessel and eleven artillerymen to fire the cannon. The American fleet had twenty vessels with seventy-four guns.

American Major General Horatio Gates put Brigadier General Benedict Arnold in charge of the American fleet. Arnold expected the British to sail south soon. He retreated from near Fort Saint-Jean to Valcour Island.

Arnold chose to make his stand in an area that was not out in the open water. He chose a narrow body of water between the western shore of Lake Champlain and Valcour Island. Arnold felt that from this position, he might not win the battle, but he could achieve the main goal of delaying the British advance on Ticonderoga and Crown Point until the following year.



OCT 9, 1776 - The *Turtle*, the world's first submarine, sank when the ship carrying it capsized. David Bushnell, the inventor, swam to safety.

It Happened 250 Years Ago

OCT 11, 1776 - The British passed the northern tip of Valcour Island. Brigadier General Benedict Arnold sent out two ships to draw the British attention. The ships drew the British attention, and the two sides exchanged non-damaging fire. The American ships then attempted to return to the American line. One of the ships was not able to fight the headwinds and ended up running aground on the southern tip of Valcour Island. The British boarded the grounded ship and captured twenty sailors, who were unable to get off the ship in time. After the ship came under fire from the Americans, it was burned by the British.

The British were able to maneuver into position, and the firing between the two fleets began at about 12:30 p.m. Both sides fired broadsides at one another for most of the afternoon. Near sunset, most of the American guns were silenced. In order to deny the Americans the opportunity to retreat over land, the British landed Indians on Valcour Island and on the mainland. Once darkness fell, the British called off the attack and the Americans retreated.

Knowing that he could not defeat the English, Arnold figured it might be a good idea to head for the protection of Fort Crown Point about 35 miles south. Under the cover of darkness, fog, and minimum ship lighting, Arnold was able to slip through an almost mile-wide gap between the British line and the Indians on the western shore. By morning, he was eight miles south in the vicinity of Schuyler Island. Mad that the Americans had gotten away, Governor General Guy Carleton sent out scouts to find them.

OCT 12, 1776 - About 2 p.m., Brigadier General Benedict Arnold's fleet headed south. Before departing, the Americans burned a couple of ships and made temporary repairs on others. Wind was not in their favor.

OCT 13, 1776 - In the morning, masts from the British fleet were spotted on the horizon. The Americans were still about twenty miles from Fort Crown Point. Winds shifted, giving the British an advantage. They opened fire on two ships in the rear of the American fleet. One of the two ships, *Washington*, was too slow and too damaged, and was forced to surrender. Over one hundred men on board were taken prisoner.

American Brigadier General Benedict Arnold was able to maneuver the remaining smaller ships into a bay on the Vermont side of the lake. The water in the bay was too shallow for the British ships to follow. After burning their ships, Arnold and about two hundred remaining men traveled overland to Fort Crown Point and safety.

Once at the fort, Arnold didn't believe it was of any further use. He abandoned and burned the fort before moving the forces stationed there to Fort Ticonderoga.

Governor General Guy Carleton didn't want to take his prisoners back to Quebec. Instead, he returned them to Fort Ticonderoga. The released prisoners talked so highly of Carleton that they were released to go home. The fear was that if they didn't shut the hell up, they would cause other men to desert.

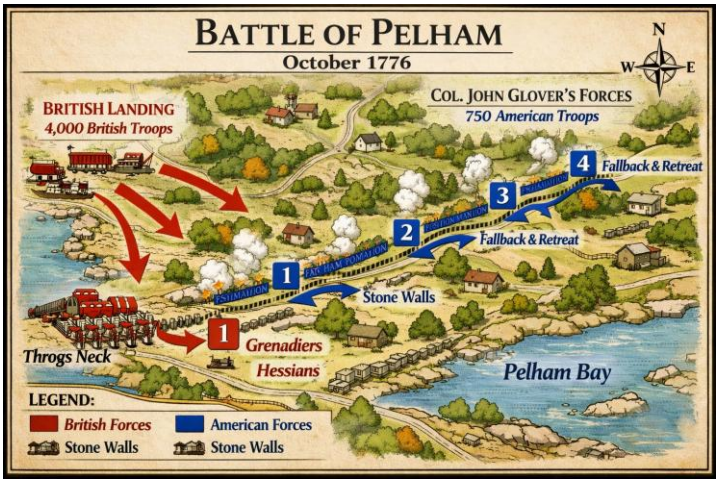
Carleton returned to Fort Crown Point. He conducted scouting parties from there, but with winter soon approaching, he figured it better to move further north to winter camp. Considering the abandonment of any further action against Fort Ticonderoga, in 1776, Arnold had achieved his goal. For the most part, Carleton owned the lake, but Arnold owned the clock, at least for the rest of the year.

Captain Thomas Pringle was criticized for failing to set up a proper blockade of Arnold's fleet and allowing him to leave. The criticism had no real impact since Pringle was later promoted to admiral. Carleton was awarded the Order of the Bath by King George III for the victory at Valcour Island.

It Happened 250 Years Ago

OCT 14, 1776 - Governor General Guy Carleton wrote a letter to Lord George Germain stating that "the rebel fleet upon Lake Champlain has been entirely defeated."

OCT 18, 1776 - One hundred twenty Royal Navy vessels entered New York Harbor with eight thousand reinforcements on board.



OCT 18, 1776 - It has also been called the Battle of Pelham, but whatever you call it, it was really more of a skirmish. A skirmish that was fought between the British and American troops in the Bronx, Pelham Manor, and Pelham in Westchester County, New York.

On October 12, the British landed on Throgs Neck in order to conduct a flanking maneuver around General Washington. If pulled off correctly, Washington's forces would be trapped on Manhattan. Those nasty Americans ruined the landing, and Major General William Howe was forced to come up with another landing site along the Long Island Sound.

On October 18, Howe landed 4,000 men at Pelham, located three miles north of Throgs Neck. American Colonel John Glover positioned his 750 men behind stone walls and attacked the British advance units. The superior British force would soon overrun the American position. After the British overran them, the Americans fell back and set up again behind a different stone wall. This continued until the British broke off and the Americans retreated.

Glover's actions delayed the British long enough for Washington to move his main army to White Plains and avoid being surrounded on Manhattan.

OCT 20, 1776 - General Washington sent out a reconnaissance mission from the Harlem Heights. Most of the nearby locations of the British were discovered, and the danger to Washington's forces was identified. He decided it might be wise to withdraw to White Plains, New York. Washington left 1,200 men behind with Major General Nathanael Greene to help defend Fort Washington, which was located on Manhattan.

Major General William Howe moved toward White Plains from New Rochelle.

OCT 22, 1776– Eight thousand British troops arrived in New Rochelle. They were under the command of Hessian Lt. General Wilhelm von Knyphausen and were there to provide reinforcements to Howe.

OCT 22, 1776 – British Major General William Howe ordered Major Robert Rogers to take the village of Mamaroneck, which the Americans had recently abandoned. On this date, American Colonel John Haslet

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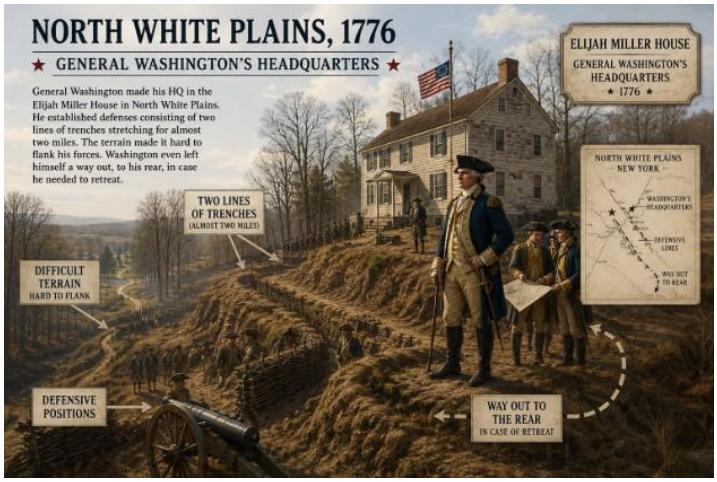
attacked the British encampment with 750 men. The attack came as a complete surprise to Rogers and his 400 rangers, but they were able to fight off the attack.

OCT 23, 1776 – General Washington made his HQ in the Elijah Miller House in North White Plains. He established defenses with two lines of trenches stretching almost two miles. The terrain made it hard to flank his forces. Washington even left himself a way out to his rear, in case he needed to retreat.



OCT 27, 1776 - Fort Washington, which was located on the highest point of Manhattan, came under attack from British Lt. General Hugh Percy, his troops, and two frigates sailing up the Hudson. The fort sat across the Hudson River from Fort Lee, atop the New Jersey Palisades. The two forts were intended to protect the lower Hudson from British warships. There were three lines of defenses protecting the area south of the fort. The lines consisted of foxholes and trenches.

American Colonel Robert Magaw and twelve hundred men were stationed at Fort Washington on the morning of the 27th. The force General Washington left behind at the fort when he retreated to White Plains was inadequate to man both the fort and the defenses around the fort.

The two British frigates couldn't elevate their guns high enough to fire on the American positions. Magaw didn't have the same issue. Fort Washington and Fort Lee opened fire on the two frigates and badly damaged them. The British ultimately towed them away.

OCT 28, 1776 - British Major General William Howe marched from his headquarters in Scarsdale towards White Plains. On his left were mainly Hessian troops under General Leopold Philip von Heister. On his right, the troops were under the command of the newly promoted Lt. Gen. Henry Clinton.

General Washington received word that the British were advancing. He sent out a regiment, under the command of Major General Joseph Spencer, to slow the British advance. Spencer met up with the head of the British column and exchanged fire with Hessian Colonel Johann Rall. A series of engagements between Rall, Spencer, and American Colonel John Haslet's troops brought the British advance to a stop.

While most of the British army waited, Howe ordered a detachment of Hessian and British troops to take Chatterton Hill, which the Americans were occupying. Hessians under Rall were to attack the American right. Hessians under Colonel Carl von Donop were to attack the center, and British forces under Major General Alexander Leslie were to attack the American left. The attack was close to a stalemate until Major General William Howe sent in cavalry. Cavalry was used for the first time during the American Revolution. The cavalry forced the Americans to retreat.

Total casualties on both sides are a little sketchy, as with most battles of the American Revolution. The numbers vary greatly depending on who is counting/reporting. During the Battle of White Plains, the number on the British side appears to be 458 killed, wounded, or captured British and Hessians. On the American side, the number appears to be about fifty killed or wounded. That sounds pretty good until you learn how many Americans were captured. That number appears to be about 2,800.

Washington retreated further north, following the short battle. Dense fog aided the retreat, preventing the British from seeing what he was up to. Thank goodness for fog. It saved Washington's bacon on a few occasions.

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SEP 26, 1776 – Colonel Andrew Williamson met up with Brigadier General Griffith Rutherford at what is today Murphy, North Carolina, creating a combined force of 4,500 Patriots to take further action against the Cherokee. However, this never happened.

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

Oct 25 – Gregory Davis
Oct 27 – Philip Markoe
Oct 27 – Stuart Green
Oct 30 – Noah Devolve
Nov 3 – John Rose
Nov 11 – Ian Rinker
Nov 12 – Paul Hughes
Nov 13 – Garrett Gastfield
Nov 17 – Alan Clark
Nov 19 – Eldon Wade
Nov 20 – Colson Short
Nov 21 – Rich Lester
Nov 22 – Steven Petty
Nov 30 – Samuel Jones
Nov 30 – Louis Lovestrand

It's time to party. This Compatriot is celebrating an anniversary next month.

Oct 29 – John Jenkins – Five Years
Nov 1 – Robert Smither – Fifteen Years
Nov 8 – Steven Atwood – Fifteen Years
Nov 30 – John Pittendreigh – Ten Years
Nov 30 – Ryan Pittendreigh – Ten Years
Nov 30 – William Pittendreigh – Ten Years

New Members Corner

Facial Hair for the Color Guard

Naturally, it is entirely left up to the Compatriot, but in case you're wondering. It appears facial hair wasn't common in the Continental Army.

According to an article by Brian S. Barrett that appeared in the October 2023 National Color Guard Newsletter, while serving at Valley Forge, Captain John Davis recorded in his journal that Washington ordered, "...the soldier may always shave his beard...." This implied that even during their worst suffering, the Continental Army did not allow beards.

Officers set the example. Look closely at the portrait of General Washington and his generals shown below. How many had beards, sideburns, or mustaches? None of them. Why? There are several probable reasons, but the main one was style. Simply put, it was not in style at the time.

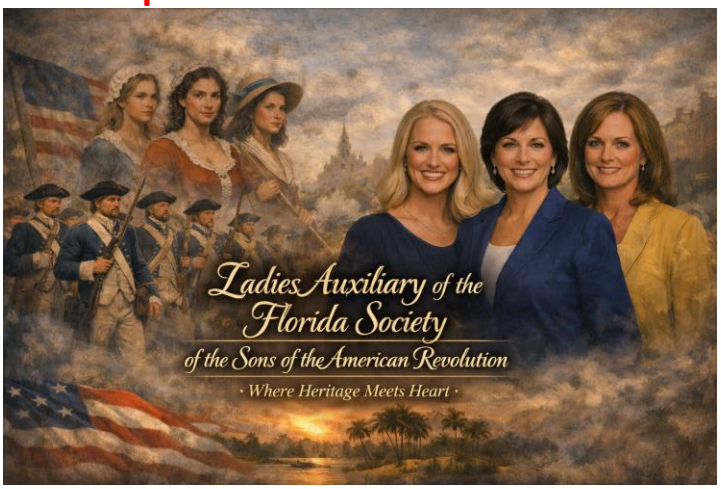
Only a few renderings or sketches depict facial hair during the Revolutionary War. In those rare examples, the subjects were destitute, clergymen, or mentally ill. Prisoners on the hulk, Jersey, wore beards but not by choice. These condemned souls were denied all comforts, the least of which were razors or shears.

Some religious leaders wore beards out of tradition. Society's forgotten, and the poor generally suffered from all forms of neglect, including shaved facial hair. Recall that many continental soldiers were young and couldn't even grow facial hair, so its absence on them comes as no surprise.

Today, 18th-century movies, television, and video games still depict beards and facial hair. Some reenactors even have facial hair. But then, the main objective in these venues is to entertain. Historical accuracy is secondary.

What does this mean for our modern-day color guards? It's up to the individuals.

Here is an organization for the Ladies of our Chapter



The **Ladies Auxiliary of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (LAFLSSAR)** is a nonprofit association of women organized to assist, support, and advance the objectives of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (FLSSAR).

Membership Highlights:

- $10 Annual Dues
- Automatic membership in the National Ladies Auxiliary 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 lineage requirements
- No age limit.
- Entitled to wear the Florida and National Ladies Auxiliary SAR pins.
- Opportunities to earn certain SAR medals and awards for service to the Society.
- Fun and fellowship!

Scan for Membership Application

Join Today
Scan the QR Code or email the LAFLSSAR Registrar. Her email is daydreamr613@aol.com