

Sons of the American Revolution

Palm Beach Chapter



Florida Society



The Patriot

P.O. Box 16735
West Palm Beach, FL 33416



Volume 22

February 2016

Number 02

Compatriots bring a Friend & Join Us...

TUESDAY, February 16, 2016 @ 12:00 noon
THE EMBASSY SUITES
1601 Belvedere Road,
West Palm Beach

FEBRUARY MEETING FEATURES:

- ✓ ***JROTC Color Guard Ceremony honoring George Washington's Birthday!***
 - ✓ ***Guest Speaker: Thomas Jefferson, 3rd President of the United States!***
 - ✓ ***Two Winning "Knight Essay" Orations!***
 - ✓ ***Visit by SAR State President: Larry Fehrenbaker Sr.!***
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- Enjoy a delicious Buffet Lunch, Deserts & Beverages at just \$28 per person.
 - **Reservations** required so please **RSVP by Sunday, Feb. 14th**. Call/email: Don Lanman (561)-315-5073 or Ben Tidwell (561)-704-9918.
 - **Remember...Guests** are always welcome.

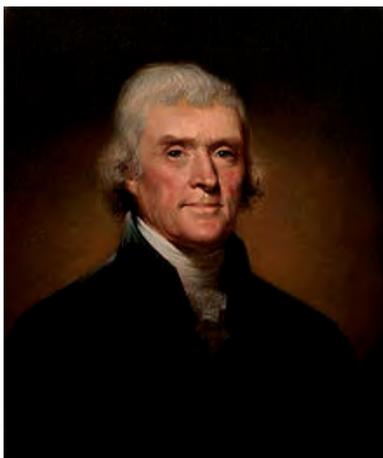
NEWSLETTER CONTENT:

1. President's Message
 2. 2016 Chapter Meeting Dates & Topics
 3. 2016 Officers & Board
 4. President's Brigade Financial Supporters
 5. Committees, Chair & Members
 6. State/National News
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 - *George Washington's Birthday*
 8. Keep Your SAR Membership Active
 9. Chapter Meeting Pictures
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1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Fellow Compatriots, as we honor and celebrate his Excellency, President George Washington's Birthday, the February meeting will open with an impressive Color Guard ceremony by the Forrest Hill High School JROTC commanded by Army First Sargent Correa.

Following the Honor Guard is an insightful presentation by special guest speaker *President, Thomas Jefferson*, as portrayed by John Stewart.



Appearing in period costume, John (PB *Chapter President '97-'98*) will deliver his insightful, colorful, and popular interpretation of our nation's 3rd President. You will learn, first hand, many interesting facts about the principal author of the *Declaration of Independence* and remarkable *American Founding Father*.

In addition, the Palm Beach Chapter is being honored with a personal visit by *State President Larry Fehrenbaker Sr.* and his wife Jeanne. Larry is visiting the largest Chapter in the State to congratulate its new Officers and meet fellow Compatriots.

Our heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Talia Fradkin for again winning this year's *Rumbaugh Oration* contest. A three-time winner, Talia will represent the Chapter at the winter Board of Management meeting in Orlando on 2/5-6. A win at State would qualify Talia for the National contest at the SAR National conference in Boston.

Talia, the winner of this year's Chapter Knight Essay contest, will represent the Chapter in the State Knight Essay contest in Orlando on 2/5 & 6. Talia and second place essay contest winner, Ms. Samantha Lovely, will read their award-winning essay's at the February Chapter meeting.

As your President, I need the help of every Compatriot to build our membership with like-minded individuals interested in good fellowship, honoring our community's first responders and supporting our many youth programs.

We are seeking new members who honor our country, its founding virtues, and our patriot ancestors who risked life and fortune for a new vision of a free and independent nation *of the people, by the people and for the people*.

Your Officers need your help by:

- ✓ **Attending Chapter meetings**
- ✓ **Serving on committees**
- ✓ **Giving financial support for youth/community programs**
- ✓ **Spreading the word about the SAR & our community services**

I encourage each of us to enroll Sons and Grandsons in SAR, invite friends and neighbors to join you in the SAR and encourage your wives, daughters, and granddaughters to become involved in the SAR *Women's Auxiliary* and the *DAR*.

Let's continue to grow as a civic, social and community family with shared American values that enjoys exploring our genealogy and honoring our patriot ancestors.

Finally, I respectfully remind all Compatriots, to Remember our dear departed Compatriots, Honor your fellow Compatriots, and God Bless the *United States of America*.

2. 2016 CHAPTER MEETING DATES/TOPICS:

Visit our Chapter web site @ www.sarpbchapter.org for meeting calendar, special events, articles, pictures, and general information.

- **Feb. 16**-Guest Speaker: **Thomas Jefferson** by Historian **John Stewart**
- **March 15**-Guest Speaker: **Col. Robert Ames**, New Member installation
- **April 19**-Special Guests: **Law Enforcement Awards**
- **May 17**-Special Guests: **Firefighters/EMT Awards**
- **Summer Break-Key Events**; Memorial Day, Flag Day, Bunker Hill Day, July 4th, Labor Day, American Eagle Day, Patriot Day, Constitution Day
- **Oct. 18** Special Guests:
- **Nov. 15** Special Guests, 2017 Officer Nominations
- **Dec. 10** Annual Holiday Event: **Kings Academy Musical**

BRONZE \$50 - \$99

SILVER \$100 - \$199

G. Green
J. Harper
J. Curry
A. Griswold
T. Friend
H. Wynns
R. Culpepper
A. Dreyfoss
D. Coldwell
D. Shepherd

GOLD \$200 - \$499

R. Banta
W. Meakin
R. Beck
E. Buckley

PLATINUM - \$500

3. 2016 OFFICERS AND BOARD:

Donald Lanman President	561-315-5073 dlanman258@aol.com
Benjamin Tidwell III Vice President	561-737-0230 ndtidwell@aol.com
Gary T. Green Membership Secretary	561-968-5117 garytgreen@gmail.com
Peter Johnson Treasurer	561-729-6667 palmtrat@aol.com
Robert Boggs Registrar/Genealogist	51-241-3128 6 bobboggs1@gmail.com
Father Sanford Sears Chaplain	272-259-1413 fathersears@yahoo.com
Byrd Wenman Sergeant-at-Arms	561-385-3481 capt.byrd@yahoo.com
Donald Lanman Editor, The Patriot	561-315-5073 dlanman258@aol.com
Samuel A. Miller Chapter Historian	561-793-1780 sammiller2@comcast.net

4. PRESIDENT'S BRIGADE:

The Chapter recognizes and expresses its sincere appreciation to those Compatriots, of the *President's Brigade*, who donated "extra dollars" in support of the Chapter's many youth programs, civic activities, award certificates, police/firefighter medals, veterans' projects, and related civic programs.

5. COMMITTEES, CHAIRS & MEMBERS:

Fellow Compatriots...The Chapter expresses its sincere appreciation to those members who have volunteered to help with the many civic committees and projects.

- **JROTC** -Ben Tidwell-Paul Chasteen
- **Law Enforcement-Fire Safety**-Keith Davis
- **Veterans Affairs** - Byrd Wenman-Don Lanman
- **Newsletter/Publicity** - Don Lanman
- **Boy Scouts** - Ben Tidwell
- **Knight Essay/Rumbaugh Oration** - Bob Boggs
- **American History Scholarship** - Bob Boggs
- **DAR Liaison** - Don Lanman
- **Speakers Bureau** - Bob Beck
- **Audit** - David Coldwell-Peter Johnston
- **Flag Certificates** - Open
- **Membership** - Open
- **Liberty Tree** - Open
- **Patriot Bios** - Open

6. STATE & NATIONAL SOCIETY NEWS:

a. New SAR Lapel Pin!



You can make a Membership Statement with the new SAR pin for your lapel or shirt. The new Pin is part of an S.A.R. Branding plan to help promote the S.A.R. and stimulate new membership

The classy lapel pin is designed to be a recognizable symbol of the SAR for the public, give immediate recognition to you as a member, and spark a conversation about SAR that leads to a new member.

The new pin may be worn with the SAR rosette creating a very professional image that will improve overall SAR name recognition. The Chapter will order a supply from the SAR Foundation and offer them at the monthly meetings for the group price of just \$10. Get yours today!

b. State Society Events:

- i. **Last RW Naval Battle Ceremony** on 3/5/16, 9:30AM @ 400 South Sykes Creek Parkway, Merritt Island, FL featuring color guards, wreaths, and special guests. **PB Chapter Officers** scheduled to present a wreath at the event. More info contact Steve Williams @ Swilliams16@cfl.rr.com. Compatriots & guests invited.
- ii. **Southernmost RW Battle of Thomas Creek Ceremony** on 3/19/16, 9:30AM @ Seaton Creek Historic Preserve, Jacksonville, FL featuring color guards, wreaths, choral group and special guests. **PB Chapter Officers** scheduled to present a wreath at the event. More info contact David Ramseur @ davidramseur12@gmail.com. Compatriots & guests invited.

7. FEATURE ARTICLES:

WASHINGTON'S "BADGE OF MILITARY MERIT" By Don Lanman, PB Chapter President

Following victory of the Continental Army over the British at Yorktown, Washington established his headquarters at Newburgh, NY where he could observe the English army in New York.

Continuing his tireless efforts to improve the condition of his troops and insure a high state of morale, Washington decided to create an honor to recognize enlisted men who had performed bravely on the field of battle. He called this award, the *Badge of Military Merit*.

Washington designed the distinctive badge in the form of a purple cloth heart with the word *Merit* inscribed in the center. The merit badge was conceived as a military order for soldiers who exhibited, "not only instances of unusual gallantry in battle, but also extraordinary fidelity and essential service in any way."

General Washington announced the *Badge of Military Merit* to the Continental Army on August 7, 1782 from his headquarters in Newburgh. The following is Washington's statement regarding the *Badge of Military Merit* (see picture):

"The General ever desirous to cherish virtuous ambition in his soldiers, as well as to foster and encourage every species of Military merit, directs that whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings over the left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth, or silk, edged with narrow lace or binding.

Not only instances of unusual gallantry in battle, but also of extraordinary fidelity and essential service in any way shall meet with a due reward.

Before this favor can be conferred on any man, the particular fact, or facts, on which it is to be grounded must be set forth to the Commander in chief accompanied with certificates from the Commanding officers of the regiment and brigade to which the Candidate for reward belonged, or other incontestable proofs, and upon granting it, the name and regiment of the person with the action so certified are to be enrolled in the book of merit which will be kept at the orderly office.

Men who have merited this last distinction to be suffered to pass all guards and sentinels which officers are permitted to do. The road to glory in a patriot army and a free country is thus open to all. This order is also to have retrospect to the earliest stages of the war, and to be considered as a permanent one.” - G. Washington, Commander-in-Chief Continental Army.

Historians tend to agree that only three soldiers actually received the medal. Two men selected by a board of officers to receive this award were Sergeant Elijah Churchill of the 2nd Continental Light Dragoons and Sergeant William Brown, a member of the 5th Connecticut Regiment, Continental Line.

Brown had won praise for his bravery in the storming of Stony Point in 1779 and for gallantry in the trenches at Yorktown. Churchill distinguished himself during attacks against two forts on Long Island.

On 3 May 1783, these men traveled from the Continental encampment at New Windsor to Washington’s headquarters at the Hasbrouck House in Newburgh. There, before an honor Guard Mount of the 1st New York Regiment, Commander-in-Chief Washington awarded Sergeant Churchill and Sergeant Brown the first *Badges of Military Merit*. (See pictures)

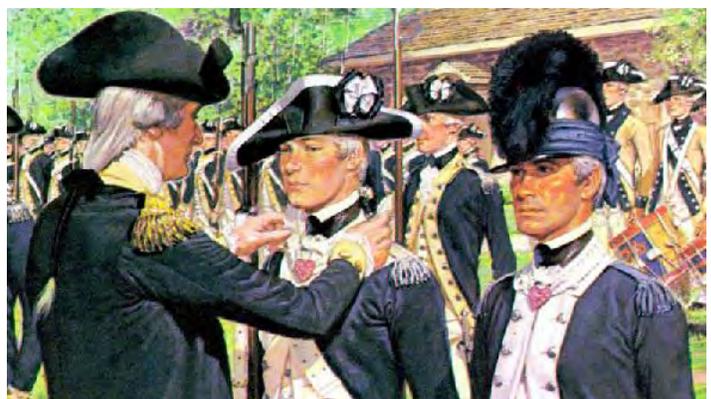
Surviving records for the period confirm the presentation of only one other *Badge of Military Merit* to Sergeant Daniel Bissell of the 2nd Connecticut Regiment on June 10 1783.

Following the Revolutionary War, the *Badge of Military Merit* fell into disuse although it was never officially abolished.

In 1932, the United States War Department authorized the new *Purple Heart Medal* for soldiers wounded in battle or previously awarded either a *Wound Chevron* or the *Army War Ribbon*. It was also mandated that the *Purple Heart Medal* would be considered the official "successor decoration" to the *Badge of Military Merit*.

The original *Military Badge of Merit*, with the related pomp, and ceremony, however, symbolized much more than recognition of brave men. The badge represented the climax of the molding of a citizen army of volunteers and militia into a force that had fought on equal terms with one of the world's best armies, and in doing so, had played a vital role securing freedom and independence for their fellow citizens.

Both the *Badge of Military Merit* and the *Purple Heart* have become symbols of pride in our Country and Military and Patriots from all walks-of-life as a tribute to all those who served and sacrificed at the *Altar of Freedom! ####*



Washington Presenting First Military Badges of Merit to Churchill & Brown



United States of America Medals of Merit & Heroism

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY? *By Samuel A. (Buddy) Miller, PB Chapter Historian*

February 22, marks the 284th anniversary of George Washington's birthday. That date was February 22, 1732...Or was it? Had there been a calendar on the wall at Washington's birthplace in Pope's Creek, Virginia, one would have noted that date was February 11, 1731.

So why the confusion? For centuries, the *Julian* calendar, introduced in 45 B.C. and in use at the time of Washington's birth, was not entirely accurate and required constant adjustments. This weakness in the *Julian* calendar led to the adoption of the more stable *Gregorian* calendar, named for Pope Gregory XIII, which had been in use since 1582.

The Gregorian calendar, also called the Western or Christian calendar, was adopted in 1752 by act of the British Parliament, and became the most widely recognized civil calendar to this day.

Following the adoption of the new Gregorian calendar in 1752, Parliament mandated that September 2 would be changed and reflect a new date of September 14. Parliament also declared that New Year's Day be changed from March 25 to January 1 for both Great Britain and its Colonies.

Thus, February 11, 1731, Washington's actual birthday, became February 22, 1732. However, Washington continued to observe and celebrate his birthday on February 11. Following Washington's death, Americans chose to celebrate his birthday with parades and festivities long before Congress took action to declare it a federal holiday.

During the Centennial of Washington's Birthday, a national movement prompted Congress to establish a special Joint Committee to make recommendations and arrange for a national observance of the president's birthday

At the recommendation of this special committee, chaired by Senator Henry Clay and Representative Philemon Thomas, Congress voted to adjourn on February 22 1832 out of respect for Washington's memory and in commemoration of his birth.

Washington's Birthday, however, did not become a legal holiday until January 31, 1879 when Congress added February 22 to the list of official holidays observed by federal employees in the District of Columbia.

This Congressional act, however, did not stipulate a paid holiday for federal employees, so in 1885 Congress resolved this discrepancy with legislation that mandated all federal employees receive pay for federal holidays.

In 1971, President Nixon signed an Executive Order establishing a federal holiday schedule, which moved Washington's Birthday observance to the third Monday in February. Colloquially, the holiday is widely known as "Presidents Day" and is used as an occasion to honor all the presidents, not just Washington or Lincoln, whose birthdays fall in February.

Contrary to popular belief, however, the term "Presidents Day" was coined in a deliberate attempt to change the holiday into an observance honoring all presidents but Congress never stipulated that the name

of the holiday be changed to “President’s Day.
So...Happy Birthday George Washington!



Happy Birthday Your Excellency

8. KEEP YOUR SAR MEMBERSHIP ACTIVE!

Support your Chapter and Keep your SAR membership active...For Compatriots who forgot to pay the annual SAR dues your membership in the SAR is no longer active.**Note:** To reinstate your SAR membership, mail your \$75 annual membership dues to SAR PB Chapter, PO Box 16735 West Palm Beach, FL 33416-6735 as soon as possible.

Thank You....Your membership and additional donations to the *Palm Beach SAR Chapter* promotes the values of our *Founding Fathers* through important civic activities including *Boy Scout & JROTC medals, Rumbaugh & Knight Essay Youth contests, Police-Firefighter-EMT awards, Americanism & community programs!*

9. CHAPTER MEETING PICTURES



2016 Officers: Wenman, Miller, Sears, Boggs, Johnston, Green, Tidwell, Lanman.





State SVP Wess (R) inducts Lanman as Chapter President for 2016



President Lanman presents Rumbaugh Award to Talia Fradkin



Spouse Karen places President's neck ribbon on President Lanman



President Lanman, SVP & Past President Wess, Past President Green with Talia Fradkin, Chapter Rumbaugh Oration Winner



President Lanman presents Past Presidents Award to Gary Green



President Lanman receives Chapter Distinguished Service Award from Past President Green



Father Sears presents role of Chaplains in the RW