

Sons of the American Revolution

Palm Beach Chapter



Florida Society



The Patriot

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



Volume 21

November 2015

Number 07

PLEASE JOIN US ON

TUESDAY, November 17, 2015
AT 12:00 noon
THE EMBASSY SUITES
1601 Belvedere Road,
West Palm Beach

SPECIAL SAR INDUCTION CEREMONY

Lunch is \$28.00 inclusive

For Reservations, please contact:

President - Gary Green (561)-968-5117

Vice President – Don Lanman (561)-315-5073

Reservations must be made by Sunday, Nov. 15th

Guests are always welcome!

Please visit our Website: www.sarpbchapter.org

President's Message:

My fellow Compatriots, I cannot express how important it is for all members to support the Chapter by attending the monthly meetings. You and your guests will enjoy great guest speakers, share events and Revolutionary War patriot ancestor stories, discuss Chapter issues, and enjoy good fellowship.

The fall season is here and your Chapter is off to a great beginning with a calendar full of interesting speakers, special guests, new Compatriot inductions, Committee activities, Revolutionary War battle site dedications, Boy Scout and JROTC awards, Law Enforcement and Firefighter/EMT recognition and special community events.

The October meeting featured Seal Museum Executive Director, Master Chief Rick Kaiser recounting the history and real stories of the six SEAL TEAMS currently serving as the “Tip of the Spear” in our Nations fight against America’s enemies.

Palm Beach Chapter has grown to 173 Compatriots year to date with 10 prospective members pending approval making our Chapter the largest in the State. State Senior Vice President Ray Wess presented the Chapter with a special SAR Flag Streamer for its participation in the State Chapter Challenge and Americanism Contest.

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The Patriot
is the official publication of
the Palm Beach Chapter
Florida Society of
The Sons of the American Revolution



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If you would like to place an advertisement in The Patriot for your business, organization, or any other purpose, the costs for eight consecutive issues are:

Business Card	\$25
Quarter – page	\$50
Half page	\$100
Full page	\$200

PRESIDENT’S BRIGADE

BRONZE \$50 - \$99

Chris Williams

SILVER \$100 - \$199

Dan Shepherd Sr.
Arthur Griswold Jr.
Robert Culpepper
Gary Green
Bruce Long
William Told Jr.

GOLD \$200 - \$499

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Edward Buckley
William Meakin
Marvin Graham

PLATINUM - \$500

Duane Lewis
James Kane
Jack Miller
John Curry
Robert Rewey
Ray Wess
Alexander Dreyfoos Jr.

President’s Message Cont. from page 1

VP, Don Lanman and Sgt. @ Arms, Ben Tidwell represented the Chapter at the fall Board of Management meeting with Ray Wess attending in his new role as State Senior Vice President. The Palm Beach Chapter received the *Partners in Patriotism Certificate* at the BOM. This prestigious certificate is for state chapters working hand-in-hand with Veterans groups in pursuit of a common goal.

The Chapter’s *Rumbaugh Oration* and *Knight Essay* contests are actively looking local students who may be interested in earning cash awards and recognition.

This year the talented *Talia Fradkin* has again entered the competition. Compatriots will recall that Talia honored the Chapter by making it all the way to the

national competition in the Rumbaugh contest. She will be presenting her new Rumbaugh Oration at the December meeting as part of the annual *Kings Academy Holiday Music Program*.

As you can see, the Chapter calendar is full of exciting events. Please support your Chapter this year by attending all of the meetings this year!

Fall meeting dates; **November 17th**, **December 12th**, **Saturday** with Special Guest; **The Kings Academy** Vocal Ensemble Holiday Program, **January 19th**, **February 16th**, Guest: historian **John Stewart** presents a Jeffersonian perspective of George Washington, **March 15th**, **April 19th** and **May 17th**.

2016 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

- a. **Nominate** a candidate or volunteer for the 2016 Officers slate by 11/15. The chapter cannot exist without officers sharing the duties. Please email or call Don Lanman with your suggestions and nominations **for President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Sgt. @ Arms, Chaplain, Historian, Member @ Large**.
- b. **Volunteers** needed to help with the Chapters committees! Pick one or several committees to help with including; **American History Scholarship, Eagle Scout Certificates, Fire Safety/Law Enforcement Commendation, Flag Certificates, JROTC, Knight Essay, Rumbaugh Oration, Liberty Tree, Flag Certificates, Chapter Events, Publicity, Membership, Patriot Bios, Speakers Bureau, Veterans Programs**.

FALL SAR BOM

The third Board of Management (BOM) of the Florida Society and the final one for 2015 met in Orlando on October 23rd. Don Lanman and Ben Tidwell represented the Chapter. The South East Region hosted the BOM registration and hospitality room

with significant help from Chapter Sgt. @ Arms, Ben Tidwell. Thank you Ben!

The major BOM issues included the formal installation of the new State Officers including our own Ray Wess as Senior Vice President and related society business including a change of future BOM meeting venue to the Orlando Embassy Suites.

The Palm Beach Chapter distinguished itself by receiving the *Partners in Patriotism Certificate* for working hand-in-hand with Veterans groups in pursuit of a common goal.

AMERICA'S FIRST VETERANS, by Don Lanman, Palm Beach Chapter Vice President

This *Veterans Day*, it is altogether appropriate to recognize our honored Revolutionary War ancestors as the nation's *First Veterans!*

By 1783, 230,000 men had served in the Colonial Army plus the provincial Militia. These Patriots of every faith, color, and national origin served selflessly in the birth of our nation risking their fortunes and often paying the ultimate sacrifice at the *Altar of Freedom*.

Given their remarkable courage, were our nation's first veterans honored and adequately rewarded for their sacrifice or were they treated with indifference and disdain?

It seems clear from many sources that the new government did not fully appreciate, recognize, or compensate our Revolutionary War Veterans for their service due to a combination of indifference, a lack money, and daunting war debts. As a result, most veterans never received compensation for the loss of property, fortunes, or even their back pay.

While General Washington lobbied tirelessly for the pensions and compensation, especially for Officers, he recognized that Congress could not afford to pay

pension annuities given the state of the government's budget.

In protest, one New York garrison refused to disband until paid for their service, creating fears of a possible coup against the young government. General Washington interceded and the officers received full pay for five years in the form of a bond but there was no provision for the enlisted soldiers.

Enlisted veterans had to lobby for their own service related pensions but, because of the negative connotation of the word pension, emphasized that they were only seeking the back pay that the government had stopped paying in 1777.

With the support of veteran presidents, including Monroe and Jackson, Congress finally passed pension legislation for veterans in 1818 and service pensions for all veterans in 1832.

However, due to the long delays between the end of the war and the legislation authorizing service pensions very few veterans were able to take advantage of those pensions.

Additionally, the government denied many veteran claims because of missing discharge papers, documentation or service related questions. Moreover, given the legislative delay, the average age for pensioners was sixty-seven, hence minimizing payments.

The government also rejected widows' claims for those who could not provide proof of the marriage date. As the result the only women to benefit from widows' pensions were the younger women who married older veterans.

In addition, the government denied benefits for women who served in the Revolutionary War as "camp followers" providing cooking, laundering, and nursing services in return for rations or the women who served as paid couriers.

Of particular interest, were two women who were subsequently awarded veteran pensions for their service during the war.

On November 16, 1776, *Margaret Corbin* and her husband, along with 600 American soldiers, were defending Fort Washington from 4,000 Hessian troops. The Corbin's crewed one of two cannons.

When her husband fell, Margaret took his place and continued firing the cannons. Nicknamed '*Molly Pitcher*' for her proficiency at swabbing down the hot cannons, Margaret continued to fire against the enemy until seriously wounded.



Margaret Corbin

Deborah Sampson disguised herself as a man in order to serve in the Continental Army. She served 17 months as "Robert Shurtliff", was wounded in 1782 and honorably discharged at West Point in 1783.



Deborah Sampson

Both women received pensions in part through supportive male sponsorship. Corbin benefited from the lobbying efforts of her superior officers and Sampson aided by her close acquaintance with Paul Revere.

Given the level of recognition and related compensation for Revolutionary Veterans following the war some have suggested that society did not place a high value on the men and women who served, and won America's fight for Independence.

At the *National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution*, however, we do not forget the service of our Honored Veterans regardless of the time, the war, or the era. We simply say...**"Thank You for Your Service"**!

THANK YOU NOTE

Senior President of the West Palm Beach *Fifer George Wessenfels Society of the Children of the American Revolution* Lori Matyskiel sent a letter of appreciation to our Chapter for its continuing financial support of the CAR award winning Newsletter *"The Valley Forge Fifer"*! Compatriots will note that two of Lori's loved ones are members of our Chapter.

CHAPTER MEETING OCTOBER 2015



State SVP Ray Wess presents SAR Flag Streamer to VP Don Lanman.



Chapter VP Lanman presents appreciation certificate to Navy Seals Kaiser & Corona.



VP Lanman presents Vietnam Brigade Certificate to Compatriot Chasteen & wife.

IMPORTANT

Membership Renewal Due by November 30!

Don't lose your membership in SAR!

By now, you should have received your annual Dues Notice in the mail asking you to renew your membership and continue your generous support of the Society of the *Sons of the American Revolution* in Honor of the Vision of our *Founding Fathers* for a ***Free Nation of the People, by the People and for the People.***

Our vision of America, however, continues to be under attack from enemies both foreign and domestic and as a *21st Century Patriot* your support of the SAR activities sends a critical message to our Nations detractors and enemies that **"We won't allow it!"**

Thanks to your membership and donations, the *Palm Beach SAR Chapter* continues to promote the values of our *Founding Fathers* through important activities including; ***Boy Scout and JROTC recognition, Rumbaugh and Knight Essay Youth contests, Police, Firefighter and EMT acknowledgement, and related community programs!***

The Chapter and your fellow Compatriots are counting on you to answer the call once again by renewing your support of your Palm Beach Chapter Today.