



*Tampa Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
January 2023*

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Meeting Announcements

January

The January meeting of the Tampa Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will be held on Saturday, January 21st at the Bahama Breeze restaurant just off the Courtney Campbell Causeway. We'll begin to gather at 11:30, and do the usual early meeting events (pledge, invocation etc.) prior to lunch. Then we will break for lunch, followed by the installation of officers, led by our FLSSAR Regional VP, Parks Honeywell.

Chapter officers for 2023 are:

President	Garald (Robbie) Robinson
Vice-President	Roger Roscoe
Secretary & co-newsletter editor	Bob Yarnell
Treasurer	Will Wagner-Hart
Registrar & co-newsletter editor	Dick Young
Chaplain	Matthew Balencie
Sgt at Arms	Darren Acosta
Members-at-large	Terry Doan
	Thomas Spangler

December

Rather than a formal meeting, the Tampa Chapter attended and participated in the Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the American Legion Post #5 USS Tampa in Tampa. See the separate report below.

February

For those of you unable to attend our January meeting at the Bahama Breeze, we'll look forward to seeing you On Feb 18th, back at the University Mall location, for a program on the Revolutionary War submarine Turtle.

Americanary Revolution Note

Brief background: As part of the treaty in 1763 ending the 7 Years' War, Spain ceded East Florida (essentially modern Florida west to the Apalachicola River) and West Florida (a swath of land from the Apalachicola River west to the Mississippi ---excluding New Orleans---from the Gulf coast north to a line running west to east from modern day Vicksburg to the Apalachicola River), to Britain in exchange for getting Cuba back, which England had captured during the war. The Louisiana territory was that vast area of land that Americans know better as the Louisiana purchase.

At the Tampa Chapter's monthly meeting in Sept. 2011, The Hon. E J Salcines gave a wonderful presentation on Spanish aid to the Americans during the War for Independence. More specifically, he talked about the leadership and efforts of Bernardo de Galvez to aid the Americans and his military successes in wresting control of West Florida for Spain.



The Spanish King appointed Galvez Governor of Louisiana in 1777. Upon taking the job, Galvez continued and expanded his predecessor's, Luis de Gonzaga, operation of smuggling arms and supplies to the Americans. He also formed and operated an extensive spy and intelligence network gathering information about

British military resources, men, and equipment in West Florida. The Spanish Government planned to declare war on England but wanted to be as prepared as possible prior to declaring war. Therefore, Galvez organized his forces and planned his assault on British West Florida with the ultimate goal being the capture of Pensacola. With all in readiness, he awaited word from Spain that he could start.

In 1779 Spain signed a treaty with France and declared war on England. It is important to note that Spain never signed a formal agreement with the fledgling Continental Congress, and, unlike French troops, Spanish troops never fought in any of the 13 colonies in rebellion. However, Galvez's smuggling operations and financial support continued. And, when he did begin military operations, he tied down British troops, and most importantly ships, that the British could have used against the Americans.

Once Galvez and his British counterpart learned of the declaration of war, both made final plans for their attacks on the other. Just as Galvez looked to start military operations in 1779, a hurricane struck the Gulf Coast, hitting New Orleans particularly hard. While his forces and supplies had been hit hard by the hurricane, Galvez, through his spy network, learned the British had been hit hard as well. Rather than take the time to rebuild his supply base and regroup, Galvez struck north. This audacious move surprised the British, forced them to retreat, and resulted in Galvez capturing Baton Rouge and Natchez in Sept.1779. *

With his northern flank secured, Galvez returned to New Orleans. He spent the winter of 1779-1780 awaiting reinforcements from Cuba and getting his supplies in readiness for his next move - a campaign east to capture Mobile.

The capture of Mobile would give Galvez an advanced base for his assault on Pensacola. The large herds of cattle raised north of Mobile would provide his army with plenty of meat and the capture of Mobile would cut the British off from their Choctaw and Chickasaw allies.

With all in readiness, Galvez headed east in early February 1780. Despite some scattering of ships due to bad weather, he sailed up Mobile Bay and by the end of February had set up a base camp on the west side of the bay 2000 yards south of Ft. Charlotte, the British fort defending Mobile. While Spanish warships harassed the British, Galvez's men set about digging siege trenches.

In early March he sent an envoy to parlay with the British commander suggesting that the British should honorably surrender due to differences in manpower and firepower. Indeed, the Spanish outnumbered the British in

manpower by almost 3-1 and the British cannons were no match for the powerful Spanish siege guns. Plus, due to the speed of Galvez's advance the British commander had done little to prepare. In particular the British had very little artillery ammunition. Citing honor and duty to King and country, the British commander declined to surrender. On March 12 the Spanish opened up. By the end of the day the British fort had been breached in two locations, several British cannons had been destroyed and the British had used up all their artillery ammunition. The British surrendered Ft Charlotte and Mobile the following day.

Between Sept. 1779 and March 1780, Galvez had retaken all of West Florida except Pensacola. The siege of Pensacola and what happened to Galvez after the war will be the topic of next month's column.

- The 1779 Hurricane on the Gulf Coast should not be confused with the better-known hurricane of 1780 that devastated British, French and Spanish naval forces in the Caribbean.

Program Schedule

Dates and tentative programs for the meeting year are below. As always, feel free to pass along any program/speaker suggestions to President Robbie Robinson, VP Roger Roscoe or Sec. Bob Yarnell

2023

Jan. 21	Officer Installation
Feb. 18	The "Turtle" by Wm Atkins (SAR member South Shore)
Mar. 18	EMT/Fire Fighter recognition + "The Alamo of the Revolution" by Jerry Hurwitz
April 15	JROTC recognition + "Washington's Spies; the Story of America's First Spy Ring" by Alexander Rose (via Zoom)
May 20	tentative: program/speaker from a local history museum.

Other Important Dates

Feb 22	Birth date of George Washington
Mar 3-4	National SAR Spring Leadership Conference, Louisville
Apr 13	Birth date of Thomas Jefferson
Apr 19	Patriots Day
May 19-20	Florida SAR Spring BOM & Annual Meeting, Kissimmee
May 29	Memorial Day
July 13-20	133 rd National Congress, Orlando

December meeting: Supporting "Wreaths Across America"

"Wreaths Across America" was held on Saturday, December 17th at numerous locations in the US. Several of our Tampa SAR members supported the ceremony at the American Legion Post 5 located on Kennedy Boulevard where they have a cemetery which is the final resting place for more than 700 veterans. Tampa SAR Member-at-Large Terry Doan was the American Legion Master-of-ceremony. Members of the Tampa SAR color guard included Tampa SAR immediate past president Dave Bryant, Tampa SAR president-elect Robbie Robinson, FLSSAR state treasurer Dick Young, and Tampa SAR member Joe Dato. Other Tampa SAR members who attended were Tampa SAR president Charles Klug, Tampa SAR vice president Roger Roscoe, Tampa SAR treasurer Will Wagner-Hart, and Tampa SAR members Bud Werner and Bill Floyd. Your Color Guard was part of a contingent of Color Guards from the JROTC units of Jefferson HS and Middleton HS and American Legion Post #5.



Will Wagner-Hart, Dave Bryant, Robbie Robinson, Charles Klug, Dick Young, Joe Dato, Roger Roscoe, and Terry Doan



Charles Klug, Dave Bryant, Robbie Robinson, Bud Werner, Dick Young, Joe Dato



2023 Congress Volunteers

Some of you have volunteered to work at Congress and have asked what is expected. There will be a myriad of possibilities each day ranging from a few hours to all day, with some days going 10-12 hours. The Congress Planning Committee has uploaded a list of volunteer activities, by day on the FLSSAR website, which will give you an opportunity to select your preferences. Also, please understand this is a **volunteer** activity; you will not be reimbursed for any travel, meal or lodging expenses.

Color Guard Events & Opportunities

As reported above your chapter Color Guard participated in the December 18 Wreaths Across America Ceremony in Tampa. Upcoming opportunities for Color Guard Participation in Florida are below:

- Feb 18 Florida Society C.A.R. Annual Conference - Orlando
- Mar 4 Florida Society DAR State Conference - Orlando
- Mar 11 Last Naval Battle Commemoration - Merritt Island
- Mar 25 Battle of Thomas Creek Commemoration - Jacksonville
- Apr 15-16 Patriots Day Celebration - Pearce Homestead, Highlands County
- Apr 25 Honor Flight Welcome Home - St. Pete/Clearwater Airport
- May 7-8 Galvez Day and Battle of Pensacola Commemoration - Pensacola
- May 19-20 Florida SAR BOM & Annual Meeting - Kissimmee
- May 29 Memorial Day (we will try to find something)
- Jun 13 Honor Flight Welcome Home - St. Pete/Clearwater Airport
- Jul 16-19 National SAR Congress Events - Orlando

We can never have enough Color Guardsmen. If you have any interest in joining the Color Guard, please contact Dick Young, Chapter Commander or any of the members of the Tampa Chapter Color Guard. If you do not want to start with the full Continental Line uniform, we can show you how to get started with a militia "uniform" for much less cost.

250th Anniversary Celebration



A few National President General's back, the SAR committed to celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution, not only on July 4, 2026, but for the duration of the struggle for American Independence, starting in 2014 (the beginning of the punitive Parliamentary Acts against the British Colonies in North America) through 2033 (signing of the Treaty of Paris). Immediate Past President General Davis Wright emphasized the SAR commitment to this extended celebration by asking each compatriot, chapter and state society to recognize the 250th Anniversary whenever possible with at least one commemoration of some kind each year. An SAR 250th Anniversary flag has been designed and manufactured. The Tampa Chapter has one and it has been present at each meeting since September. Every compatriot is eligible for a 250th Anniversary Recognition Medal as described in the PDF attached to the email that sent you this Newsletter. Simply attending an event in which the 250th Anniversary Flag is displayed earns you 3 of the 25 points needed to earn the bronze medal. Please read all the details in that PDF.

Miscellaneous Reminders

- The face book page for the Tampa Sons of the American Revolution is Tampa Sar. The password to add anything is American1776. Please feel free to upload pictures or comments. Invite all your friends to look.
- Chapter Website—remember you can find information about the chapter and programs on the chapter website. <http://www.tampasar.org/> Please do not use the www.tampasar.com site since it is not being updated.
- One of the duties of the Chapter Chaplain is to send cards to our members that are sick. Another is to send a sympathy card to the family of a member who has passed away. If you know of anyone that should be the recipient of these cards, please mention it to Chaplain Balance or one of the other officers at our next meeting.