



The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter



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Apr 2024

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Compatriots and Friends,

My message this month is simple and to the point – help make an impact!

We are in the busiest part of our annual program. Between April and June, a Chapter representative attends award ceremonies at 29 Broward County schools to recognize that school's top JROTC cadet or Sea Cadet by presenting the SAR Bronze ROTC Medal or the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal. Thanks to the commitment of Compatriot Joe Motes, the Chapter has successfully administered this program for almost 30 years. It has been quietly done, mostly behind the scenes, because of this one person. This is an important SAR youth education program focused on recognizing outstanding students having an interest in military service. With Joe Motes now residing near Jacksonville, Florida, the Chapters' ability to continue its representation now depends on volunteer members who will spend a few hours to attend one or more ceremonies occurring over the next three months. My request last month for volunteers has added to our pool but we need more of you to lessen the burden on the few that have stepped up. The list of schools will be circulated before our next meeting. Please help us and volunteer to represent us at one of these upcoming award ceremonies. You will not be asked to make any speeches. You should wear a jacket, tie and slacks. You will come up on stage when called on and present the certificate and medal to the recipient and say: "Cadet, congratulations on receipt of this prestigious award." You can leave as soon as you have completed this task. If photos are taken, you will forward them to us for the next newsletter. If you want to help the Chapter continue to make an impact in the community – volunteer for this one.

Participation in our Chapter Color Guard is another high visibility activity that may have some interest to a few of you fence sitters. Our "camp" is now at seven. The word is out and we have now been asked to participate in an upcoming local Memorial Day Parade as well as an end of year Yuletide Parade. We also plan to be at the four scheduled Welcome Home events for returning Honor Flight veterans and volunteers. In addition, at the end of the year, we will present colors at the Pompano Beach Wreaths Across America Ceremony. Some of us are also committed to participating in non-local state-wide events. We can get you into basic militia attire for about \$400. You do not have to participate in everything but having a complement of five at most events makes us a complete unit. Have some fun, help increase our visibility in the community and consider joining us.

In the national pipeline, we have two junior member applications being processed - Matthew David Scott and Braeden Ray Shurte. After more hours spent than I care to publish, I have vetted as many as five new prospects. Sadly, for various reasons, only one is proceeding along with his adult son. Last month, I reported that we began 2024 with 75 members and are now at 80.

One of those joining our rolls as a dual member is Jim Blakeslee. I am pleased that Jim has worked with me to submit a Member Profile which appears on the last page of this newsletter. Jim has several approved patriots. He previously had a patriot biography published on SAR's Patriot Research System (PRS) for his first approval which is reproduced following Jim's profile. Submission of the questionnaire comprising the Member Profile is not just for new members. Participation helps all of use know more about the members that are most active and committed to our growth as a Chapter. If you have not yet participated, let me know so we can get your profile completed and published in an upcoming newsletter. If you wish to prepare a patriot biography for the SAR Patriot Graves and Biographies Program, let me know that also as any new submissions are counted in our annual Americanism and Chapter Challenge Report.

The most current information on upcoming meetings is published on page 5. For links to archival information on previously published newsletters, meeting minutes and other Chapter documents, visit us at www.fortlauderdale.sar.org.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Chuck Adams
President, Treasurer and Registrar/Genealogist
Fort Lauderdale Chapter SAR

NEXT MEETING - April 20, 2024

Davie Outback Steak House
2725 South University Dr. Davie, Florida 33328

Future Dates:

Saturday, 05/25/2024
Saturday, 06/15/2024
Saturday, 07/27/2024
Saturday, 09/21/2024
Saturday, 10/19/2024

Time: 11:30 AM social gathering; Lunch at noon

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 954-345-6276
or e-mail Chuck Adams at: chuckadams1808@gmail.com

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SUMMARY MARCH 16, 2024

At our March 16, 2024, meeting we had 15 members and 5 guests for a total attendance of 20. Members (15): Chuck Adams ^{ca}, President, Treasurer & Registrar/Genealogist; Steve DePaul ^{ca}, Vice President & Sergeant-at-Arms; Mark Snider ^{ca}, Secretary; Kevin Shurte ^{ca}, Historian; Tim McLane ^{ca}, Chaplain; Jim Blakeslee; Tom Carpenter Jr ^{ca}; Jim Clark; Paul DeBold; Herb Gardner; Paul Moore ^{ca}; John Sauerwald; Ed Sisson; Pete Stevenson; and Ken Williams. Prospective Members / Guests (5): Bob Walsh, New Hampshire Society (NHS) SAR; Ronna Adams; Joyce Blakeslee; Liana Carpenter; and Shelley Gardner. The superscript ^{ca} records compatriots attending in colonial attire and participating in the Color Guard.

Color Guardsmen Tom Carpenter Jr, Tim McLane, Paul Moore, Kevin Shurte, & Mark Snider presented the colors with Chuck Adams leading the assembly in the SAR Pledge and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chuck Adams welcomed to the meeting our newest member, Jim Blakeslee, and his wife Joyce. Jim's primary affiliation is with the Delaware Society SAR, Ceasar Rodney Chapter where he serves as Treasurer so he is joining us as a dual member. Chuck also welcomed to the meeting our SAR compatriot visitor from the New Hampshire Society, Bob Walsh who serves as Chancellor for the NHS Society. Currently, in SAR is a junior application for Matthew D. Scott. Shortly, we will mail a junior application for Braeden Shurte who is Kevin Shurte's grandson. Chuck said that we began 2024 with 75 members. We are now at 80 having added three new member approvals, one reinstatement, and one dual member approval.

Chuck Adams stated that he along with Steve DePaul and Kevin Shurte will attend the Fall BOM being held May 17-18, 2024, at Kissimmee, Florida. He stated that all 2024 upcoming events are routinely updated and published in the monthly newsletter.

Steve DePaul reported on the Liberty Tree Dedication Project. Currently, the verbiage for the dedication plaque is being finalized, and he will then get pricing and start setting dates.

Mark Snider stated that 386 points have currently been accumulated by the Chapter for the 2024 Stark Awards Program. He asked that members who are performing or participating in events to support veterans to let him know so that it can be recorded in our report score sheet. He said that the Vietnam Veterans 50th Commemorative Committee has designated March 29th as National Vietnam War Veterans Day (NVWVD). On March 29, 2024, at 12pm, a Vietnam Veterans' Commemoration Day Event will be held at the Miami Vet Center. Also March 29, 2024, at West Palm Beach, the Quilts of Valor Group 59635 will be recognizing Vietnam War Veterans residing at the West Palm Beach VAMC's Community Living Center & Hospice Unit. On the Honor Flight South Florida Program, he said that the next two flights from Fort Lauderdale are scheduled for April 13 and June 1, 2024, and that the Chapter Color Guard plans to attend the welcome home. Other members are welcome to attend, and further details will be forthcoming. Mark said that an upcoming special event in support of the Honor Flight South Florida Program is a patriotic concert, "An American Celebration," performed by the Fort Lauderdale Symphonic Winds at 3:00 pm on May 19, 2024, at the Kings Point (Tamarac) Palace Theater. Tickets are free, and donations will be welcomed onsite. Tickets can be obtained directly through the Kings Point office.

Mark Snider reported that the JROTC / Sea Cadets bronze medal awards program was kicking off for award programs being scheduled at local high schools. The first four presentations will be held on: 1) April 8th, 6:30 pm at Western High; 2) April 16th, 6:30 pm at NOVA; 3) and April 23rd, 6:00 pm at Hollywood Hills High Academy; and 4) April 25th, 6:00 pm at Hollywood Hills High. Mark stated that we really need someone to represent us at the April 8th meeting as he will be out of the country. The duties consist of presenting the certificate / award, congratulating the cadet, and having a photo taken. Chuck Adams stated that, with the relocation of Joe Motes to the Jacksonville area, for us to continue this program, members must step up to represent the chapter at these 31-32 different award ceremonies.

Chuck Adams gave the Status of Fund Report as of February 29, 2024. He stated that the March 2024 Newsletter includes the Member Profile for Paul R. Moore. It also includes a patriot biography on Hopley Yeaton submitted by Martin Hollick. Hopley Yeaton is recognized as the Father of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Kevin Shurte gave the 250 Anniversary Recognition Report on the *Boston Massacre – March 5, 1770*, which is also published in the March 2024 Newsletter.

On the Middle School Brochure Contest, Kevin Shurte said that the middle schoolers at Ramblewood Middle School were given a list of founding documents and some unique events for them to choose a topic. There were 359 entries submitted. Six teachers participated in selecting the top 25, and then he ranked the top 10 for the Chapter's consideration. Chuck Adams said that the judging will be conducted by the available Executive Committee members that are present to look at the original submissions that Kevin has brought to this meeting. He asked whether there were any other members that wanted to participate. Paul Moore and Ed Sisson volunteered. Chuck said that the judges will receive a .pdf of the 10 entries later today and that a final decision will be made by March 18, 2024.

Chuck Adams, assisted by Steve DePaul, inducted Compatriot Paul R. Moore.

Chuck Adams, assisted by Steve DePaul, presented the 250 Anniversary Program Recognition Silver Certificate and Medal to Tim McLane.

Chuck Adams presented Certificates of Appreciations to the 2023 prior year officer's and executive committee members who were not present last month: Steve DePaul, Kevin Shurte and Pete Stevenson.

To read the complete set of the minutes of general members meeting held on March 16, 2024, open the document sent to you by e-mail, or review it at the archives subpage for minutes and agendas which are maintained at the Chapter website: www.fortlauderdale.sar.org.





250 Silver Medal Award, Left: Steve DePaul, Tim McLane, & Chuck Adams



Fort Lauderdale Color Guard, Left: Kevin Shurte, Tom Carpenter Jr, Tim McLane, Mark Snider, Paul Moore, Steve DePaul; Knelling: Chuck Adams



Prior Year Officers Recognition, Left: Kevin Shurte, Pete Stevenson, Steve DePaul, & Chuck Adams. Separately shown: below Joe Motes



Induction Ceremony, Left: Steve DePaul, Paul Moore, & Chuck Adams



AMERICA 250
THE MIDNIGHT RIDE OF WILLIAM DAWES -
APRIL 18, 1775
By Kevin Shurte

“Listen, my children, and you shall hear of the midnight ride of’.....William Dawes” (New England Historical Society). In his 1861 epic, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow immortalized Paul Revere’s nighttime ride. But history soon forgot the ride of fellow patriot William Dawes, and his name faded into obscurity.

On the night of April 18, 1775, Dr. Joseph Warren, physician, patriot, and soon-to-be martyr of the Battle of Bunker Hill, sent two riders into the night to warn John Hancock and Samuel Adams that the British Army was marching on Lexington seeking their arrest. To ensure the news got out, Warren sent two riders – Revere by the shorter and safer water route, Dawes by the longer, more dangerous land route that required passage through the British checkpoint exiting Boston. Whereas soldiers knew Revere as an infamous firebrand, they knew Dawes as a respectable local tanner who frequently traveled outside of Boston on business.

Warren dispatched Dawes to ride just past 9 o’clock – one hour earlier than Revere who would row across the Charles River to Cambridge. Sources offer various explanations as to how Dawes crossed through the checkpoint at Boston Neck without harassment. Some sources say he pretended to be drunk – others that he blended in with a British troop. Whichever method he employed; Dawes successfully navigated the checkpoint just moments before British authorities suspended all travel leaving the city.

Having cleared Boston Neck, Dawes rode hard through the towns of Roxbury, Brookline, Brighton, and Cambridge on his way to the Hancock-Clarke House in Lexington where Hancock and Adams were guests. Having traveled the longer land route, Dawes arrived in Lexington 30 minutes after Revere. After alerting Adams and Hancock of the approaching danger, Dawes and Revere continued riding west toward Concord to alert residents that “The regulars are coming out” (Revere). On their way to Concord the pair came across Dr. Samuel Prescott who joined in the effort to spread the alarm.

Around 1:30 A.M., the trio encountered a British patrol. Revere was cornered and captured. Dawes fooled his pursuers into believing they were riding into a patriot ambush. After shouting toward an empty farmhouse, “Halloo, boys, I’ve got two of ‘em!” his would-be captors galloped quickly away. Unfortunately for Dawes, in his exuberance he fell from his horse and was forced to flee afoot into the night without ever having reached Concord. Prescott did manage to escape, hurtling his horse over a stone wall, continuing to Concord, and delivering the news.

Before the sun would rise again, members of the local militia would confront British regulars at Lexington Green triggering “the shot heard ‘round the world” – the catalyst of the coming revolution.

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DAR SPRING FORUM – MARCH 7-10, 2024

The Florida State Society Daughters of the America Revolution (FSSDAR) held their annual state conference March 7-10, 2024, at the Omni Orlando Resort at Championsgate. As has become tradition, FSSDAR invited Florida SAR State President Steven Fields and members of the Florida Sons of Liberty Color Guard Brigade to attend. On March 8, Color Guard Vice-Commander Jeffrey Brunelle of the Caloosa Chapter led nine SAR color guardsmen from across the state in the posting of colors for the Friday evening banquet. FSSDAR’s next statewide conference is scheduled for September 5-8, 2024, at the same location. The date for the FLSSAR posting of colors for this event has not yet been decided.



DAR Spring Forum Florida Color Guard: President Steve Fields, Center; and Kevin Shute, Left of Center

BATTLE OF THOMAS CREEK

247TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION - MARCH 23, 2024

The Battle of Thomas Creek occurred on May 17, 1777, when British regulars, Loyalist militia, and Creek Indians launched a dawn attack on a small troop of 109 Georgia militiamen camped on the southern bank of Thomas Creek. Awaiting reinforcement from 400 Continentals, the Georgians were outnumbered and outgunned and were forced to retreat after suffering heavy losses including eight killed, nine injured, and 39 captured.



Battle of Thomas Creek Ceremony
FLSSAR President Steve Fields



Battle of Thomas Creek Ceremony
Wreath Presentation: Kevin and Braeden Shurte

On Saturday, March 23, 2024, members of the Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina Societies Sons of the American Revolution gathered in Jacksonville to commemorate the 247th anniversary of this battle. The ceremony began with Scott Collins, NSSAR Color Guard Commander, leading the National Color Guard in the posting of the colors. Attending the event were NSSAR Vice President General of the South Atlantic District, James Wyrosdick, and FLSSAR State President, Steven Fields, both of whom addressed the assemblage. Also in attendance were FSSDAR Vice Regent, Kim Zeman, and FS.C.A.R. State President, Sydney Wagnstrom. This year the Fort Lauderdale Chapter SAR joined in the traditional presentation of wreaths to honor the memory of those patriots who fought and fell on the banks of Thomas Creek.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Apr 13, 2024 Honor Flights of South Florida, FLL International Airport
- Apr 13-14, 2024 Patriots Day Celebration at Live Oak Tree, Fort Basinger, FL
- Apr 21, 2024 Swamp Fox Society C.A.R., Boca Raton, FL
- May 08, 2024 Battle of Pensacola Commemoration, Pensacola, FL
- May 17-18, 2024 Spring BOM, Kissimmee, FL
- May 27, 2024 Pompano Beach Memorial Day Parade
- Jun 01, 2024 Honor Flights of South Florida, FLL International Airport
- Jun 29, 2024 Battle of Alligator Creek, Callahan, FL
- Jul 10-16, 2024 134th National Congress, Lancaster, PA
- Sep 07, 2024 Honor Flights of South Florida, FLL International Airport
- Oct 11-12, 2024 Fall BOM, Kissimmee, FL
- Oct 26, 2024 Honor Flights of South Florida, FLL International Airport
- Dec 05, 2025 Fort Lauderdale Yuletide Parade
- Dec 21, 2024 Wreaths Across America, Pompano Beach, FL



**SERGEANT MOSES ADAMS MEMORIAL
MIDDLE SCHOOL BROCHURE CONTEST:
FORT LAUDERDALE CHAPTER WINNERS -
MARCH 18, 2024**

Congratulations to the three Ramblewood Middle School brochure contest winners: Giana Mann, 1st Place; Alicia York, 2nd Place; and Kailani Quintana, 3rd Place. They were selected on March 18, 2024, by the Chapter's judging panel who reviewed the top ten entries submitted by the Chapter's Education Committee Chairman, Kevin Shurte. There were 359 middle schoolers who participated. Their classroom teachers graded and selected their top entries with Kevin reviewing and ranking the top twenty-five submissions to narrow the finalists to ten. The Chapter's judging panel was comprised of: Chuck Adams, Steve DePaul, Tim McLane, Paul Moore, Mark Snider and Ed Sisson.

Each participating student prepared a brochure addressing one of eleven topics ranging from a pertinent Revolutionary War era document to a key event. The ten top entries for our contest covered the: Boston Tea Party; Declaration of Independence; U.S. Constitution; and Bill of Rights.

Giana Mann's first place entry was on the Bill of Rights. The Boston Tea Party was the subject of both Alicia York and Kailani Quintana.

Ramblewood Middle School is located in Coral Springs. Because Compatriot Kevin Shurte teaches at this school, he was able to discuss the SAR brochure contest program with Principal Andrew Kirk who enthusiastically approved making it available to the school's students. On April 9, 2024, at a ceremony conducted at Ramblewood Middle School, the three winners were awarded their cash prizes – \$150 for 1st Place, \$100 for 2nd Place & \$50 for 3rd Place. The entry for the first-place winner, Giana Mann, will be submitted at the May 2024 BOM for the State contest whose winner will be selected at that event. The winner of the State contest will be submitted for judging at the 134th National Congress being held in July 2024 at Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

This is the first time in over a decade, maybe two, that the Chapter has sponsored this SAR youth education program. Expanding youth education outreach and programs is an important SAR objective. The Fort Lauderdale Chapter is pleased to have reinstated this program, and we plan to continue it next year and perhaps offer it at other middle schools located in Broward County.



Left: Principal, Andrew Kirk; Kevin Shurte; Alicia York, 2nd Place; Kailani Quintana, 3rd Place; Giana Mann, 1st Place; & Chuck Adams



Left: Alicia York, Kailani Quintana, & Giana Mann



Left: Principal, Andrew Kirk, Kevin Shurte, 1st Place Winner, Giana Mann; & Chuck Adams

SAR MEMBER PROFILE - James K. Blakeslee

Interview by Chuck Adams



Q. Ok Jim, tell us a little bit about yourself.

A. I was born in 1945 and raised in Greene, New York - a small village in upstate New York. I received an accounting degree from Southern Illinois University in 1968.

Q. Did you serve in a branch of the military?

A. After college I received a job offer from US Army Audit Agency. I took the job with the hope that I would be a military auditor when drafted. After a 6-month deferment, I was drafted for two years and assigned to Viet Nam as an Infantry soldier. My Viet Nam tour was short and I was awarded a purple heart. After a hospital stay, I did get assigned as a military auditor and achieved the rank of Spec 5.

Q. What was my occupation?

A. I continued working for the Army Audit Agency spending five years in Germany. Returning to the States, I worked for a number of Federal agencies as an auditor in their Office of Inspectors General, retiring in 2002 with 35 years of Government Service as a senior audit manager. During tax season I still do returns for my Delaware clients.

Q. Tell us about some of your recreational interests?

A. I enjoy playing golf and working on my family genealogy. In addition to the SAR, I am a member of the Mayflower Society and the War of 1812 Society, and I currently hold positions in these societies.

Q. How about your family?

A. My wife Joyce and I met in Germany and we will have been married 50 years in September 2024. We have two children Krista and Jimmy, and four grandchildren Noah, Elijah, Roman and Gianna. Jimmy is also a member of SAR.

Q. Who is your Patriot ancestor?

A. My Patriot ancestor is David Potter. He served as an infantry private in the Connecticut Lines. I also have proven my lineage to patriots: Luther Holcomb (Pvt : CT); John Bower (Pvt : CT); John Holcomb (CS : CT); and Nanning Ephraim Bogardus (Pvt : NY).

Q. Do you plan to help in Chapter development, retain and attract members, or recognize others consistent with SAR programs?

A. I have been member of SAR since 2006. In Delaware, I continue to serve as the treasurer for the Ceasar Rodney Chapter. I have just established dual membership in Florida, and I look forward to participating in Fort Lauderdale Chapter events as I am able.

Thanks Jim for sharing.

PATRIOT BIOGRAPHY – DAVID POTTER (SAR P-327426)

By James King Blakeslee

David Holbrook Potter was born on November 10, 1764, in Woodbury, Litchfield, Connecticut. He is the son of Phineas Potter and Dorcas Hinman. He enlisted in May 1781 in Captain John Wrights Company of Infantry in the Colonel Samuel Webb's Regiment of the Connecticut Lines. On January 6, 1789, David married Rebecca Cruttendon who was born 20 Dec 1770, and they had five children.

Lucy Potter – Born 21 Nov 1792; Married George W. Plumber
 Clarissa Potter – Born 31 Jan 1795; Married Eli King
 Easter Potter – Born 14 Feb 1797; Married Roswell Prentice
 Hiram Potter – Born 14 Jul 1799; Married Miranda (Unknown)
 Electa Potter – Born 3 Sep 1801; Married James Smith

In 1818, David was awarded a pension of \$8 per month for his service rendered during Revolutionary War. David died on September 1, 1832, at the age of 67, in Sanford, Broome, New York. His wife, Rebecca, died on June 8, 1839, at the age of 68, in Sanford, Broome, New York.

Note: This patriot biography is currently published by SAR on its Patriot Research System (PRS):

[Display Patriot - P-327426 - David POTTER \(sar.org\)](#) . A few punctuation enhancements were made.

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