



The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter



website: www.fortlauderdale.sar.org

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Sept 2024

Fort Lauderdale Chapter chartered December 8, 1966

Volume 55 Number 8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Compatriots and Friends,

Our 2024 summer break has come to an end! For those of us most active in carrying out Chapter and SAR programs, the break has afforded time to retool, regroup and press forward on the many initiatives remaining to be accomplished by the end of this calendar year.

The next four months are jam-packed with various activities and events. In addition to the three remaining Chapter lunch meetings, please review the adjacent listing of "Upcoming Events" for remaining 2024 scheduled activities involving the Chapter color guard and that are open to all members. Particularly, the two Honor Flight South Florida home comings and Wreaths Across America are events that all members may wish to participate in.

Our active Chapter committees and their chairman have all been busy since our last meeting working either on current initiatives or planning for next year. See the accompanying article on "In the News" for brief reports and updates.

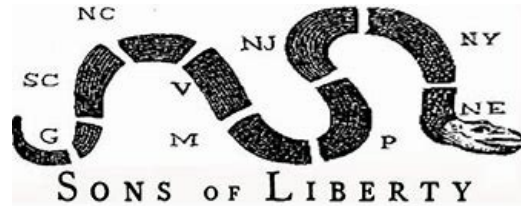
September 1st marks the commencement for 2025 membership renewals. You will shortly receive correspondence from me concerning the amount owed for 2025 dues and our annual request that you also provide a separate donation to the Chapter to help in the funding of our annual \$1776 commitment to the SAR Education Center and Museum until the museum opening in 2026. The Chapter has limited guaranteed annual revenue and we can only fund the expanded programs that we have evolved to undertake and support over the last few years through the generous additional donations made by our general members. You also will receive e-mails from the NSSAR-FLSSAR sanctioned on-line payment center called Club Express. A 3% transaction fee will be added to payments made through this service, or you can buy a postage stamp for 73 cents and mail your dues (and donation) payment to me.

As of September 6th, our 2024 Chapter membership is a net 82 having started the year with 75 members. That number includes the July 2024 addition of Braeden Ray Shurte as our newest junior member. The number has also been adjusted for the July 2024 passing of Compatriot Tom Shepherd. The only candidate for regular membership that is expected to be approved in 2024 is Jason Samuel Milgram. The application submitted in August 2024 to NSSAR for Christopher W.T. Wadsworth is expected to be approved by or before early January 2025.

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Sep 07, 2024 | Honor Flight South FL, FLL International Airport |
| Sep 21, 2024 | SE Florida Honor Flights, WPB International Airport |
| Oct 03-05, 2024 | SAR Fall Leadership, Louisville, KY |
| Oct 11-12, 2024 | FLSSAR Fall BOM, Kissimmee, FL |
| Oct 26, 2024 | Honor Flight South Florida, FLL International Airport |
| Nov 11, 2024 | Florida Merci Train, Holly Hill, FL |
| Nov 11, 2024 | Nininger Veterans Home Parade, Pembroke Pines, FL |
| Dec 05 or 12, 2024 | Fort Lauderdale Yuletide Parade |
| Dec 21, 2024 | Wreaths Across America, Pompano Beach, FL |

NEXT MEETING - September 21, 2024

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

FUTURE DATES:

- Saturday, 10/19/2024
- Saturday, 11/23/2024
- Wreaths Across America 12/21/2024
- Saturday, 01/11/2025
- Saturday, 02/15/2025

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

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

AMERICA 250
BATTLE OF BROOKLYN - AUGUST 27, 1776

By Kevin Shurte

August 27, 1776, witnessed the largest land battle of the American Revolution when 10,000 American and 20,000 British forces clashed in the Battle of Brooklyn, a.k.a. the Battle of Long Island.

Following the forced British evacuation of Boston in March of 1776, General George Washington anticipated the British would next move on New York City. Strategically located in the geographic center of the American Colonies, New York was coveted by both armies not only as an important port of commerce but also as the gateway to the Hudson River-Lake Champlain corridor that connected New England with the rest of the colonies. Determined to deny the Redcoats this tactical gem, Washington began marching his troops to the city in April and May of '76 and began erecting forts and digging defensive trenches along the East River Shoreline.

In late June, Washington received intelligence that the British were coming. By early July, the British had indeed come. Sailing from Halifax, Nova Scotia, 130 ships carrying British General Sir William Howe and twenty thousand British troops passed through the Narrows between Long Island and Staten Island. Anchoring off Staten Island on July 3, Howe began "landing the largest British expeditionary force" to date in the history of the world (MountVernon.org). Awestruck by the immensity of the flotilla, one witness is said to have commented that it appeared as "all London afloat" (Battlefields.org).

Although Washington knew that British naval superiority made the defense of New York untenable, he refused to abandon the city without a fight. Having gathered no intelligence on the British plan of attack, Washington opted to divide his forces between Brooklyn and Manhattan, a decision that would fatefully make easy reinforcement or escape across the Hudson and East Rivers nearly impossible. When Howe moved 10,000 troops to Long Island, Washington did not react or reconsolidate his forces as he believed this deployment to be a diversionary tactic.

On August 27, the combined forces under British generals James Grant and William Howe, along with Hessian General Leopold Philip von Heister, launched their attack on the American positions on Long Island. Learning from Tory supporters that the Continentals' deployment did not extend beyond Gowanus Heights, Howe led his troops to Jamaica Pass where he outflanked the American left. Fighting raged throughout the morning with the British and Hessians eventually breaking through and encircling the American lines. The most intense fighting occurred near Battle Pass where Americans and Hessians engaged in hand-to-hand combat.

While their southern defenses collapsed and the Continentals began frantically retreating northward to reform their lines at Brooklyn Heights, a small group of Maryland and Delaware defenders under the command of General Lord Stirling valiantly covered the retreat. These men, now referred to as the Maryland 400, served as the rear guard protecting the fleeing Continentals and preventing their capture. Two hundred fifty-six of the four hundred lost their lives in defense of their countrymen. Washington himself is said to have exclaimed, "Good, God! What brave fellows I must this day lose!"

As daylight waned, Washington found his army exhausted, defeated, and surrounded on three sides – their backs against the East River. Faced with the certainty of siege and surrender, Washington somehow managed the impossible. In the dark of night, while Howe and his army were lying in bivouac, Washington stealthily removed his force across the river to safety. The next morning, British forces scouting the American lines at Brooklyn Heights discovered them abandoned.

The Battle of Brooklyn was a costly engagement that took three hundred American lives with an additional eight hundred wounded and over one thousand soldiers missing or captured. British forces suffered only sixty-four casualties, 293 wounded, and thirty-one missing or captured. While Washington lost the Battle of Brooklyn and the British would go on to occupy New York City for the remainder of the war, his victory was in keeping his army intact and sustaining its ability to continue the fight for freedom.

Works Cited:

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July 27, 2024, Fort Lauderdale SAR Lunch Group

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SUMMARY – JULY 27, 2024

At our July 27, 2024, meeting we had 15 members and 3 guests for a total attendance of 18. Members (15): Chuck Adams, President, Treasurer, Registrar & Genealogist; Mark Snider, Secretary; Kevin Shurte^{ca}, Historian; Tim McLane, Chaplain; Jim Clark; Paul DeBold; Ronald Goodale; Martin Hollick; James Lohmeyer; Jim McHugh; Paul Moore; Barry Moss; Lincoln Pero; John Sauerwald; and Pete Stevenson. Prospective Members / Guests (3): Jason Milgram; Ellen Higginbotham; and Ceta McDonald. The superscript^{ca} records compatriots attending in colonial attire and participating in the Color Guard.

Tim McLane gave this month's 250 Minute which reported on the Purple Heart, which was established by George Washington on August 7, 1782, and is the oldest award still presented by the US Military. Chuck Adams lead the assembly in the SAR Pledge and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chuck Adams welcomed one of our newest applicants, Jason Milgram. He reported that the junior application for Braeden R. Shurte was approved on July 26, 2024. He stated that our Chapter began 2024 with 75 members and we are currently at 83, which includes two dual and three junior members.

Chuck Adams gave the financial status of funds reported as of June 30, 2024. He stated that the July 2024 Newsletter has been circulated. It includes the Member Profile of Jason S. Milgram.

Mark Snider provided the status on Veteran Support and Recognition Activities as part of the annual Stark Awards Program Report. He said that our total points to date is 3,645 for the Stark Report. As reported in the July Newsletter, Mark and his wife, Carmen, delivered the items donated by the Chapter to the Nininger State Veterans' Nursing Home on June 19, 2024. The items donated included a 40-inch smart TV and a Rolling TV stand, which they requested for their karaoke nights, and a resupply of Hershey chocolate bars.

Kevin Shurte reported that he and Steve DePaul represented the Chapter at the 134th National Congress which was held in Lancaster, PA from July 10-16, 2024. Kevin noted that while no Florida entry won at National, that the Florida Society was one of only 6 states that participated in all seven Education Outreach Programs. He concluded by reporting on the approved National fee increase for new and supplemental applications from \$100 to \$150 effective September 1, 2024.

Jason Milgram gave the 250 Anniversary Recognition Report entitled *The Signing of the Declaration of Independence – July 4, 1776*, which is also published in the July 2024 Newsletter.

Chuck Adams presented the 250 Bronze Medal Certificate Award to Compatriots Martin Hollick and James Lohmeyer as well as to prospective member Jason Milgram. He also presented Certificates of Appreciation to Jim McHugh and Paul Moore for their assistance in representing the Chapter at the 2024 JROTC & Sea Cadet Awards ceremonies held between late April and early June 2024. They are among the nine members that assisted but were not at the May 2024 meeting when the awards were originally made.

Chuck Adams said that our currently scheduled meeting for November conflicts with the 75th Anniversary of the Mayflower Society's John Alden Colony. This affects four of our members so he will ask the Executive Committee to move this meeting to November 23, 2024.

To read the complete set of the minutes of the general members meeting held on July 27, 2024, open the document sent to you by e-mail, or review it at the archive's subpage for minutes and agendas which are maintained at the Chapter website: www.fortlauderdale.sar.org.



250 Minute Presentation by Tim McLane



250 Minute America by Jason Milgram



Bronze 250 Medal Certificate Award from left: Jim Lohmeyer, Martin Hollick, Jason Milgram & Chuck Adams.



2024 JROTC/Sea Cadet Awards Program - Certificate of Appreciation from left: Jim McHugh, Chuck Adams & Paul Moore.

IN THE NEWS

134th NATIONAL CONGRESS

As previously reported, the 134th National Congress was held between July 10 – 16, 2024, in Lancaster, PA. Both Steve DePaul and Kevin Shurte attended and represented the Chapter. Also attending was Kevin's wife, Kathy. The photo below shows most Florida Society members and spouses who were in attendance.



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Kevin Shurte is the Chapter Chairman of the Youth Education Committee and is gearing up to administer the SAR Middle School Brochure Contest at Ramblewood Middle School and possibly other schools. He is also seeking a candidate for the Dr. Tom and Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Award in our area. In his capacity as FLSSAR Chairman of the Society's Education Committee, he led the committee's efforts creating brochures promoting and describing all seven SAR youth contests. During August 2024 Kevin sent these and other information to all 32 Chapter presidents or representatives. The goal is to increase the level of participation from each of the chapters.

Also, on August 31, 2024, Kevin and his wife, Kathy, represented the Chapter at the Honor Flight South Florida fundraiser held at the McMahon House in Pompano Beach, Florida. In addition to enjoying the food, drink, and entertainment, Kevin and Kathy also served as Honor Flight volunteers helping with the charitable raffles.

VETERANS COMMITTEE

Mark Snider is the Chapter Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, and the Chapter's representative to the VA's Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) and Voluntary Service (VAVS) Committee. In June 2024, Mark Snider submitted, on behalf of the Chapter, an application for Isabel Diamond to be considered for the VA's Centenarian Recognition Award. At the August 2, 2024, Zoom meeting of the Veterans Affairs Volunteer Service (VAVS) Committee attended by Mark Snider and Chuck Adams, we were informed that the application had been approved by the VA. Ms. Diamond, a 101 year young Navy Veteran, is a resident at the Alexander Nining State Veterans Nursing Home in Pembroke Pines, Florida. Mark has worked with Jill Rutenberg, the Activities Coordinator, and Mernie Williams, the VAVS coordinator for South Florida to organize the award. Ms. Diamond will be presented the award on November 11, 2024, at the Veterans Day celebration to be held at the Nining Home. The day will kick-off around 10:00 a.m. with a small parade on the property that will include the Fort Lauderdale Color Guard.

LIBERTY TREE DEDICATION PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Steve DePaul as Liberty Tree Dedication Program Chairman continues to work with the City of Dania Beach to find a date in the first quarter of 2025 for ceremony to be held. A meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2024, to narrow down the alternatives.

Also, in his capacity as FLSSAR Chairman of the First Amphibious Assault Memorial Committee work continues with Pompano Beach officials in finalizing conceptual feasibility for the construction of an obelisk type monument commemorating the raid of the British Port at Nassau fought about 190 miles off of the Florida southeast shores on March 3, 1776. A meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2024, with the Pompano Tourism Board where Steve will update the committee on the progress of the architects and civil engineer.

C.A.R. AND DAR RELATIONS & OTHER COMMITTEES

The Chapter's C.A.R. and DAR Relations Committee is co-chaired by Chuck Adams and Kevin Shurte who are both, along with Joe Motes, senior advisors to the local Swamp Fox Society C.A.R. The C.A.R.'s 2024-2025 year is from Oct 2024 to Apr / May 2025. Kevin advises that the date for the Oct 2024 kickoff meeting has not yet been decided, but anyone who wishes to be a senior advisor is welcomed and encouraged to attend once it is announced. Chuck Adams has established a good working relationship with both the Fontenada (Pompano Beach) Chapter DAR and the Himmarshee (Fort Lauderdale) Chapter DAR. This has opened the doors for invitations to do coordinated local events with the DAR's. The Florida Panthers vs Anaheim Ducks hockey game scheduled for January 18, 2025 is an example where over 170 attendees from the five local DAR's, C.A.R. and our Chapter will participate together. Ten of our Chapter members bought 44 tickets for this event.

As the Chapter's Eagle Scout Committee Chairman, Chuck Adams is reaching out to the Southeast Council Scout's America to advertise the opportunity to qualifying Eagle Scouts to participate in this year's Eagle Scout Essay Contest. As the Chapter's JROTC / Sea Cadet Committee Chairman, he is also reaching out to the JROTC senior instructors at the 31 participating schools to promote the opportunity for cadets to also participate in the JROTC Enhanced Essay Contest. Both of these additional essay contests fall under the youth education program overseen by Kevin Shurte, and will be our 2024-2025 new initiatives to expand youth education contests administered by the Chapter.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee conducted a Zoom meeting on August 25, 2024. Members present: Chuck Adams, Steve DePaul, Mark Snider, Kevin Shurte, Tim McLane and Paul Moore. The formal action taken was unanimous approval of the 2024 remaining year calendar changing the November meeting from the 16th to the 23rd.

ANNIVERSARIES

The following Compatriots will be recognized at the September 21, 2024, General Membership Meeting for achieving milestone anniversaries in 2024 as members of SAR:

- 5 Years – Mark Randall Snider, Compatriot since 07 Jul 2019.
- 5 Years – Zackary Robert Snider, Compatriot since 07 Jul 2019.
- 5 Years – Charles Austin Adams II, Compatriot since 02 Aug 2019.
- 5 Years – Christopher Nicholas Williams, Compatriot since 19 Aug 2019.
- 20 Years – James Warner Lohmeyer, Compatriot since 09 Sep 2024.
- 30 Years – Joseph Mark Motes, Compatriot since 06 Sep 1994.
- 30 Years – Martin Edward Hollick, Compatriot since 31 Oct 1994.

IN MEMORIAM COMPATRIOT THOMAS CHARLES SHEPHERD

Compatriot Thomas Charles Shepherd passed away on July 19, 2024. He had been in declining health for several months before his passing. Compatriot Shepherd was first registered with SAR on November 2, 2018, and he was presented his five year service award on November 11, 2023. Tom served as the Fort Lauderdale Chapter SAR Chaplain in 2019 and then served as President in 2020 and 2021. He was a recipient of the SAR America 250 Bronze Medal Award which was presented on September 16, 2023, and he was awarded the SAR Henry Knox Bronze Medal on November 11, 2023. His obituary, published on August 4, 2024 in the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel, is re-printed verbatim below.

Fr. Thomas C. Shepherd



“Fr. Thomas C. Shepherd, age 86, a retired Episcopal priest, passed from this earthly life to the next, on Friday, July 19, 2024. Thomas was born on May 8, 1938 in Toledo, Ohio where he spent his early years, then attending the University of Toledo and graduating in 1960. He received his Master of Divinity degree in 1963 from Bexley Hall seminary and entered the priesthood six months later. He has worked as a parish priest in Ohio, as a chaplain/teacher at Trinity Pawling

School (Dutchess County, NY), then at St. Stephen’s Episcopal School in Rome, Italy. In 1970, he returned stateside to Walden, NY as a parish priest and public school teacher.

In 1982, Fr. Tom accepted the call to Christ Church, Harwich Port, MA. There, he was instrumental in forming the “Friends of Prisoners” where over 1000 ex-offenders had passed through the program by his retirement in 2000. He then relocated to Fort Lauderdale and helped form the Episcopal Church’s local chapter program known as “Integrity” to support the gay and lesbian population of this city at All Saints Episcopal Church. He was very active in the Sons of the American Revolution, serving as president at one time. Liturgically, he took on interim priest roles for the Diocese of Southeast Florida at St. Paul’s (Key West), St. Margaret’s (Miami Lakes) and St. Columba’s (Marathon). Fr. Tom was part of a ministry for those in assisted living facilities thru St. Mark’s Episcopal Church where he attended worship services prior to COVID. He has been a priest/pastor to the underserved population of any community where he resided. He was generous of his time and talents to and for others. He was “God’s gift to me,” says a friend from MA. A funeral mass, (it will be live streamed), will take place at All Saints Episcopal Church in early fall. He will be interred at Trinity Cathedral, Miami. Fr. Shepherd is survived by his brother, William, a niece Elizabeth, and a nephew David, all of whom reside in the Columbus, Ohio area.”

Postscript: The funeral mass and celebration of life for Compatriot Thomas Shepherd will be held on Saturday, September 14, 2024, starting 11:00 a.m. at the All Saints Episcopal Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

JUNIOR MEMBER PROFILE - BRAEDEN RAY SHURTE

Interview by Chuck Adams



I was born in 2010, at Boca Raton, FL. I currently reside in West Palm Beach where I attend Western Pines Middle School. My favorite subjects are algebra and band. As for school activities, I am part of the National Junior Honor Society, Chess Club, and Symphonic Band. When I graduate from high school, I plan to attend a college in Florida.

Outside of school, my hobbies and interests include playing catcher on my baseball team, playing baritone sax for the volunteer marching band at the South Florida Fair, and attending SAR color guard events with my grandpa, Kevin Shurte. I am active in the Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) currently serving as treasurer of the Swamp Fox Society and as the State Chairman for the Flag of the United States Committee. I have also been admitted as a junior member into the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), Fort Lauderdale Chapter. Over the last year I have participated in multiple SAR Color Guard events and am now a member of Fort Lauderdale’s Samuel Nicolas Camp #23 Color Guard.

My patriot ancestor is Charles Hobson. He is recognized for his patriotic service in providing supplies to North Carolinian troops.

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