



The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter



website: www.fortlauderdale.sar.org

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July 2024

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Compatriots and Friends,

July 2024! This has been and continues to be a busy month.

The Fort Lauderdale Color Guard was invited to participate with the Miami Color Guard in the Presentation of Colors performed as part of the opening ceremonies at the Fourth of July celebration and fireworks hosted by the City of Coral Gables. Over 30,000 were in attendance. Fort Lauderdale Guardsmen Chuck Adams, Paul Moore, and Kevin Shurte represented the Chapter. The Miami Chapter has done this event for many years and we look forward to being invited back by them for next year's event.

We also have worked with the Broward Chapters of the DAR and the Swamp Fox Society C.A.R. to secure group seating at the Panthers vs. Anaheim Ducks game to be held on January 18, 2025. Initiated by the Fontenada (Pompano Beach) Chapter DAR, this will be an America 250 Event. At this writing, over 170 tickets have been reserved. As we continue through the remainder of 2024, we look forward to the other joint events that are planned with the C.A.R. and DAR.

For SAR, July also is the month for the change in national leadership with the election of the 2024-2025 NSSAR General Officers having taken place at the 134th Annual Congress held mid-July in Lancaster, PA. The Chapter was represented by Steve DePaul and Kevin Shurte. Their full reports will be forthcoming. For now, we will congratulate our new President General, Compatriot Darryl Addington MD, and wish him success over the upcoming year. You can go to the "About Us" tab of www.sar.org to see the full list of newly elected national officers.

I will remind all of you that we do not have a monthly general membership lunch meeting in August. There is, however, on August 31, 2024, a fundraising mixer and buffet benefiting Honor Flight South Florida that will be held at the McIsland, 601 N.E. 3rd Street, Pompano Beach, FL. The cost is \$25 per ticket. Many of us will be there and we hope you will also join us when I send out a reminder in the next few weeks. In keeping with the August break, our next newsletter will not be published until early September.

As of July 15th, our 2024 Chapter membership is 82 having started the year with 75 members. In the pipeline at NSSAR, being processed for approval, is the junior member application for Braeden Ray Shurte.

Candidates for regular membership are Jason Samuel Milgram and, most recently, Michael James Ingram. Finally, we will close July with the probable submission of an application from new prospect, John Robert Trainer.

The most current information on upcoming meetings follows this article. 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



June 15, 2024, Fort Lauderdale SAR Lunch Group

NEXT MEETING - July 27, 2024

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

FUTURE DATES:

Saturday, 09/21/2024
Saturday, 10/19/2024
Saturday, 11/16/2024

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

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 954-345-6276
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**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SUMMARY –
JUNE 15, 2024**

At our June 15, 2024, meeting we had 10 members and 6 guests for a total attendance of 16. Members (10): Chuck Adams ^{ca}, President, Treasurer, Registrar & Genealogist; Steve DePaul, Vice President & Sergeant-at-Arms; Mark Snider ^{ca}, Secretary; Kevin Shurte ^{ca}, Historian; Jim Clark ^{ca}; Tom Carpenter; Ted Duay; Herb Gardner; Barry Moss; and John Sauerwald. Prospective Members / Guests (6): Michael Ingram; Jason Milgram; Ronna Adams; Liana Carpenter; Shelley Gardner; and Ellen Higginbotham. The superscript ^{ca} records compatriots attending in colonial attire and participating in the Color Guard.

Mark Snider gave this month's 250 Minute which reported on the May 20, 1774 passage of the Massachusetts Government Act and the Administration of Justice Act. Color Guardsmen Jim Clark, & Mark Snider led by Kevin Shurte presented the colors with Chuck Adams leading the assembly in the SAR Pledge and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chuck Adams welcomed our newest prospective member, Michael Ingram. He also welcomed our newest applicant, Jason Milgram. He stated that since our last meeting, the dual membership application for Bob Walsh has been approved. Our Chapter began 2024 with 75 members and we are currently at 82 which includes two dual members.

Mark Snider reported that the Executive Committee met on June 11, 2024. The status of funds and the availability of financial resources to carry out remaining year programs was discussed but no actions were taken. Executive Committee members will start reaching out to about twenty of our newer members that do not attend lunch meetings to encourage them to remain active with SAR going into 2025.

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 3403 for the Stark Report. Mark also stated that the Chapter has purchased a 40" smart TV and rolling stand for the veterans at the Nininger Home which they will use at their Karaoke events. He will take these and other items to them on June 19, 2024. He advised that the CDCE / VAVS has a Centenarian Recognition Award Program and that, on behalf of the Chapter, he has nominated Isabel Diamond, a 101 year young Navy Veteran who resides at Nininger, for the VA Centenarian Recognition Award.

Chuck Adams gave the financial status of funds reported as of May 31, 2024. He stated that the June 2024 Newsletter has been circulated. It includes the Member Profile of Compatriot Robert M. Walsh and his Patriot Biography on Ebenezer R. Spencer.

Kevin Shurte gave the 250 Anniversary Recognition Report entitled *Washington Appointed Commander of the Continental Army - June 15, 1775*, which is also published in the June 2024 Newsletter. Kevin Shurte stated that The Bill of Rights brochure by Giana Mann, which won first place at Chapter and at State, has been entered into the national contest to be judged at the 134th Congress in mid-July 2024.

Chuck Adams presented medals and awards to the following Compatriots: 1) Tom Carpenter received the 250 Bronze Medal Certificate Award; 2) Jim Clark received his membership certificate to the Samuel Nicholas Camp # 23 Color Guard having joined on May 25, 2024; and 3) Steve DePaul received a Certificate of Appreciation in his capacity as Managing Director of EF5 Builder & Consulting LLC for his company's 2024 donation of \$500 made earlier this year to the Chapter.

Chuck Adams stated that at our May 25, 2024, meeting he had recognized the nine Compatriots who coordinated or represented the Chapter at the 2024 JROTC & Sea Cadet Awards ceremonies held between late April and early June 2024. He presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Tom Carpenter, who was not in attendance last month.

To read the complete set of the minutes of the general members meeting held on June 15, 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.



Bronze 250 Medal Certificate Award from left: Liana Carpenter, Tom Carpenter & Chuck Adams.



Certificate of Color Guard Membership from left: Jim Clark & Chuck Adams.



Corporate Donation Certificate of Appreciation from left: Steve DePaul & Chuck Adams.



2024 JROTC/Sea Cadet Awards Program - Certificate of Appreciation from left: Tom Carpenter & Chuck Adams.

AMERICA 250
THE SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF
INDEPENDENCE – JULY 4th 1776
By Jason Milgram

Imagine it is a hot summer day in Philadelphia, July 4th, 1776. A group of brave men are making history inside the State House, now known as Independence Hall. These men are delegates from the Thirteen Colonies and are about to take a bold step that will change the course of history forever. They are going to declare independence from Great Britain.

These delegates, including famous figures like Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams, have been discussing and debating for days. They believed the colonies should be free to govern themselves and not be ruled by a distant king. So, they write a document explaining why they want to break away.

Thomas Jefferson, known for his excellent writing skills, drafts the Declaration of Independence. The document states that all men are created equal and have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It lists the grievances against King George III, explaining how he mistreated the colonies.

On July 4th, after much discussion and a few changes, the delegates finally agreed on the wording of the Declaration. They bravely sign the document, one by one, knowing that this act of defiance could cost them their lives if the revolution fails.

The signing of the Declaration of Independence was a decisive moment. It is a statement of courage, hope, and the desire for freedom. This document marked the beginning of the United States of America and inspired other countries to fight for their own independence.

Today, we celebrate this moment every year on the 4th of July with fireworks, parades, and barbecues. It is a reminder of the bravery of those who fought for our freedom and the importance of standing up for what you believe in.

The Dunlap Broadside

After the Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776, it needed to be widely distributed to inform the colonists and rally support for the cause. The task of printing the first copies of this historic document fell to John Dunlap, an Irish printer living in Philadelphia.

On the night of July 4th, John Dunlap worked tirelessly to print approximately two hundred copies of the Declaration. These printed copies are known as the "Dunlap Broadside." They were distributed to various colonies, local officials, and the Continental Army. This swift dissemination helped spread the revolutionary message far and wide.

Today, only twenty-six known copies of the Dunlap Broadside exist. They are considered extremely rare and valuable, with one copy selling for over \$8 million at auction in 2000. The Dunlap Broadside story underscores the press's importance in the American Revolution. It highlights how vital communication was in uniting the colonies and galvanizing support for independence.

This fact adds an intriguing layer to the story of the Declaration of Independence, illustrating the urgency and dedication behind its distribution and the critical role played by early American printers.

Works Cited:

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7. Bidwell, John. "American History in Image and Text." *The Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*, vol. 83, no. 4, 1989, pp. 297-320.

BATTLE OF ALLIGATOR CREEK
COMMEMORATIVE EVENT – JUNE 29, 2024
By Kevin Shurte

The Battle of Alligator Creek took place on June 30, 1778. Under the command of General James Screven, Colonel Elijah Clark led a Georgia militia unit of approximately 1,300 men in the attack against Major Mark Prevost's 500 British Regulars and Brown's 200 East Florida Rangers and Seminole Indians defending the bridge at Alligator Creek. Clarke's mounted militia attacked the entrenched British but was unable to dislodge them from their fortified position. With Clarke wounded in the skirmish and his assault force nearly captured, Screven ordered the retreat of the main reserve force thus ending the third and final American invasion of East Florida.

On Saturday, June 29, 2024, compatriots from the Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina Societies of SAR, along with members of DAR and C.A.R., gathered in Callahan, Florida to commemorate the 246th anniversary of this battle. National Color Guard Commander Scott Collins and Florida State Color Guard Commander Scott Breckenridge led a troop of about two dozen guardsmen in the posting of colors at this State Color Guard event. Members of the various societies presented wreaths to honor the memories of the men who fought and perished in this battle. Compatriot Kevin Shurte presented a wreath on behalf of the Fort Lauderdale Chapter of the SAR. Following the presentation of wreaths, Commander Collins led a three-musket-volley salute. Notable guest speakers included FLSSAR President Jim Gaskins, City of Callahan Mayor Randy Knagge, and Mr. Peter Mullen of the West Nassau Historical Society. After the commemoration, attendees enjoyed a delicious BBQ luncheon of chicken, pulled pork, beans, and coleslaw.



IN THE NEWS

NININGER STATE VETERANS NURSING HOME

On June 19, 2024, Mark Snider and his wife, Carmen, went to the Alexander Nininger State Veterans Nursing Home in Pembroke Pines, FL to deliver a 40” smart TV and rolling cart that the Chapter purchased and donated to the facility. The TV and cart will be used by the residents for their karaoke events.



JULY 4th AT THE BILTMORE HOTEL

On July 4, 2024, the Fort Lauderdale Color Guard joined the Miami Color Guard in the Presentation of Colors at the opening ceremonies for the annual July 4th celebration and fireworks held at the historic Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, FL. There were over 30,000 in attendance this year.



Color Guardsmen from the Miami and Fort Lauderdale chapters at the Biltmore Hotel Lobby

BATTLE OF ALLIGATOR CREEK

On June 29, 2024, Kevin Shurte with his wife, Kathy, represented the Chapter at the commemorative ceremony of the Battle of Alligator Creek held in Callahan, FL. Fought in 1778, this was the last major land battle in Washington’s failed attempt to seize control of east Florida. For more information see the separate report submitted by Kevin Shurte on this important historical event of significance to Floridians.



Fort Lauderdale Color Guard from left: Chuck Adams, Paul Moore & Kevin Shurte.

134th NATIONAL CONGRESS

The 134th National Congress was held between July 10 – 16, 2024, in Lancaster, PA. Both Steve DePaul and Kevin Shurte attended for the Chapter. Also attending was Kevin’s wife, Kathy.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug 31, 2024 McIsland Fundraiser*, Pompano Beach, FL
 - Sep 07, 2024 Honor Flights of South Florida, FLL Int Airport
 - Oct 03-05, 2024 SAR Fall Leadership, Louisville, KY
 - Oct 11-12, 2024 FLSSAR Fall BOM, Kissimmee, FL
 - Oct 26, 2024 Honor Flights of South Florida, FLL Int Airport
 - Nov 11, 2024 Florida Merci Train, Holly Hill, FL
 - Dec 05, 2024 Fort Lauderdale Yuletide Parade
 - Dec 21, 2024 Wreaths Across America, Pompano Beach, FL
- *This is a fundraiser benefiting Honor Flight South Florida, Inc.

SAR MEMBER PROFILE - JASON S. MILGARM

Interview by Chuck Adams



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

A. I was born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1970. As a child I was principal cellist in three youth orchestras, got to play (once) with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and even meet Yo-Yo Ma in 1985 (famous cellist). I graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1993 with a BA in Political Science. Upon graduating I started a small tech company which lasted for a year (it was a year or two too early). As I was shutting it down in the summer of 1994, I remember discussing with colleagues about this “world wide web” being written about. Later in life I started two other tech companies, one of which was merged and the other acquired (not a life changing event, but nice enough). I have been lucky enough to have traveled through almost every State in the US, driven across the country multiple times, and visited sixteen countries, including living in Nigeria, Africa for nine months.

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

A. I am a Army Reserve veteran, E5 Sergeant, having served from February 1990 to February 1996 in the Active Reserve, and until February 1998 in the Inactive Ready Reserve (IRR). My primary Military Occupational Skill (MOS) was 54B, or Chemical Operations Specialist, and also known as a Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Warfare specialist. My secondary MOS was a 12B, or Combat Engineer which involves building bridges and roads as well as blowing them up. I was assigned to the 478th Engineer Battalion at the Brooks-Lawler U.S. Army Reserve Center USARC in Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Q. What is/was your occupation?

A. The first half of my career I worked with the IBM technical stack, and the second half I have been focused on the Microsoft tech-stack. I am currently a SVP at OZ Digital, running their Azure (Cloud computing) and AI (Artificial Intelligence) Practice. We are about 300 people, with our primary offices in Fort Lauderdale, FL and Rosario, Argentina. I run the Practice and am responsible for its P&L (Profit and Loss), participate in Pre-Sales, sometimes do hands-on keyboard tech work, and focus on our business strategy. I also manage our partnership with Microsoft. I have been lucky enough to win the Microsoft Azure MVP award every year since 2010, and I have co-authored three books on Azure.

Q. Tell us about some of your recreational interests?

A. I enjoy grilling and smoking meat in my outdoor well-equipped kitchen. I feel I have gained an entry-level mastery with brisket, burnt ends, and ribs, and flank, ribeye, filet, and NY strip steaks. Ribs took me the longest time to get them to where I wanted them to be. I’ve even made pastrami a few times. My favorite cut of meat is Ribeye Cap. What is Ribeye Cap? It is the best part of the Ribeye. I also enjoy writing. I have two young adult books published and have a completed first draft of a modern international thriller that I need to finish up. I have also been designing a non-lethal self-defense gun for a few years which I eventually plan to bring to market.

Q. How about your family?

A. I am happily remarried. My wife, Shelly, born in Israel, moved to the US when she was eight years old. We met in November 2014. She runs her own Interior Design firm, which means she will never ask me what color I think a wall should be painted, which is nice. Between my wife and myself, we have four grown children.

My son Benjamin starts his 3rd and final year of Law School at University of San Diego this fall. My daughter Julia is a full-time employee at University of Florida (UF) in Gainesville, where she will be starting her Masters in Education this fall. My stepdaughter Gabriella graduated from Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) as an Industrial Designer and works for a lighting company, and my other stepdaughter Alexa is enrolled in a Master of Interior Architecture program at Florida Internal University (FIU) and upon graduating will join her mother’s firm.

Q. Who is your Patriot ancestor?

A. My Patriot ancestor is Rufus Chase (1746-1815). He achieved the rank of corporal serving in the Rhode Island militia in 1776 and 1777.

Q. Tell us about why you want to join SAR and whether you have plans on how you may want to get more involved with carrying out the mission and programs of the SAR.

A. I grew up listening to many family stories about our relatives and family history and was aware from a young age of the Daughters of the American Revolution, as well as the Sons of the American Revolution. A few years ago, I started putting more time into learning about my family tree, and a few months ago decided to look-up and read about SAR. I appreciated the educational focus of the organization, as well as the patriotic and historic goals, and the non-partisan directive. I look forward to contributing to the organization as I am able. I also am working on a historical-technical idea that I think could be fun and beneficial which I will discuss at a later date.

Thanks, Jason, for sharing.



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