



The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter

website: www.fortlauderdale-sar.org

FaceBook page: [Fort Lauderdale Chapter Sons of the American Revolution](https://www.facebook.com/FortLauderdaleChapterSonsOfTheAmericanRevolution)

MAY 2025

Fort Lauderdale Chapter Chartered December 8, 1966

Volume 56 Number 05

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Compatriots and Friends,

Whew! The month of May is coming to a close. The busiest part of our annual year is almost over. We can look forward to a couple of slower months (June and July) and our break in August before resuming in the fall.

What have we done so far in 2025?

- We hosted a highly successful S.E. Regional Meeting in January 2025.
- We started (February) and completed (May) the sponsorship and awards program for six SAR Youth Education Contests.
- We started (April) and completed (May) the presentation or delivery of SAR ROTC Medals to 30 qualifying JROTC cadets from the 31 programs offered in Broward County.
- Our Color Guard, in addition to posting colors at our Chapter meetings, has been represented at seven State or National events occurring both locally and in other parts of the State.
- We contributed \$11,075 from Chapter resources (\$3,000) and member donations (\$8,075) to the construction of the first amphibious landing memorial monument.
- We have or will induct as of May 31st four compatriots; we have five applications pending approval at NSSAR with another to be mailed on May 31st; and we have four other applicants in the final stages of completing and submitting their applications.

The FLSSAR semi-annual Board of Management (BOM) Meeting occurred earlier this month (May 16 & 17) at Kissimmee. Attending in addition to myself were Kevin Shurte and Steve DePaul. A full report will be included in the June 2025 Newsletter. I will announce that the Chapter came in second place for a mid-sized chapter in the Americanism / Chapter

Challenge Contest. It is at this spring meeting that the State has annual elections of officers. Congratulations to our 2025-2026 Florida Society President, Chris Washler from the Pensacola Chapter. You can go to FLSSAR.org to view the complete list of current officers. The FLSSAR Sons of Liberty Brigade changed commands. Congratulations to Kevin Shurte for his advancement to State Color Guard Vice Commander.

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 – May 31, 2025

Davie Outback Steak House
2725 South University Dr. Davie, Florida 33328
Time: 11:30 AM social gathering; Lunch at noon.

FUTURE DATES:

Saturday, 06/21/2025
Saturday, 07/19/2025
Saturday, 09/13/2025

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 954-345-6276

or e-mail Chuck Adams at:
chuckadams1808@gmail.com

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SUMMARY – APRIL 19, 2025

At our April 19, 2025 meeting we had 18 members and 6 guests for a total attendance of 24. Members (18): Chuck Adams, President, Treasurer, Registrar & Genealogist; Steve DePaul, Vice President & Sergeant-at-Arms; Mark Snider ^{ca}, Secretary; Kevin Shurte ^{ca}, Historian; Tom Carpenter Jr, Chaplain; Bruce Angier; Jim Clark ^{ca}; Al Evans; Herb Gardner; Rick Kidder Jr; Dave Lohmeyer, Jim Lohmeyer; Barry Moss; Dave Nash; Lincoln Pero; John Sauerwald; Ed Sisson; and Bob Walsh. Prospective Members / Guests (6): Robert Reeder; Gerry Reeder; Patrick Reeder; Ronna Adams; Shelley Gardner; and Kathy Shurte ^{ca}. The superscript ^{ca} records compatriots and guests attending in colonial attire.

Color Guardsmen Jim Clark & Mark Snider led by Kevin Shurte posted the colors. The Invocation was given by Tom Carpenter Jr. Chuck Adams led the participants in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the SAR Pledge. He then led the participants in reciting the SAR Mission Statement. Tom Carpenter Jr gave this month's 250 Minute on Paul Revere's Ride of April 18, 1775 to warn the colonists that the British were coming.

Chuck Adams acknowledged the presence of our newest members and today's inductees, Al Evans and Bruce Angier. He then welcomed our newest applicants, Dr. Robert Reeder and his son Gerry Reeder as well as his son Patrick Reeder who may apply later. Currently being processed by NSSAR are applications from Greg Elder, Paul Little, and Dan McMurtrie. He said that he is working concurrently with four applicants to finish their applications over the next four to six weeks: Dr. Robert Easton Jr., Samuel Frankel Jr, David Pinney and Jason Ramsey. Chuck reported that we started the year with 80 members. We were net neutral with the approval of Al Evans, who was offset by the transfer-out of Martin Hollick. With the approval of Bruce Angier, we are now 81 members.

Chuck Adams gave the Financial Status Report as of March 31, 2025. He stated that the April 2025 Newsletter has been circulated. It includes the Member Profile of Gregory R. Elder whose application is expected to be approved by NSSAR in May 2025. He said that the newsletter also has a list of all currently known 2025 events of Chapter

interest.

Steve DePaul provided an update on the FLSSAR First Amphibious Landing Memorial Project. He said that in addition to donations raised through the \$250 for the 250th chapter challenge that they were recently awarded \$14,500 from the George Washington Endowment Fund. He said that they plan to apply again to this national funding source on January 2, 2026. He expects that a couple of other Florida chapters such as Saramana and Withlacoochee will step up at a level comparative to Fort Lauderdale. The Fontenada DAR Chapter has also committed to funding the plaque for the monument. Steve said that the Committee has been working on a website to explain the project and seek donations nationwide. Compatriot Rick Kidder Jr is working with the Committee on this, and Rick answered a few questions from membership that were posed to him.

Chuck Adams presented Steve DePaul the Chapter's check for \$7,075 representing the donations received from membership. He noted that with Steve's separate donation of \$1,000 and the Chapter's earlier contribution of \$3,000 that, to date, the Chapter and membership has contributed \$11,075 to the Monument Project.

Mark Snider stated that the Executive Committee did not meet over the last month. Chuck Adams announced that he has filled the vacant member-at-large position with Herb Gardner

Mark Snider reported that for 2025, we currently have 2482 points for US Stark Memorial Report. Recent activities included the Honor Flight Welcome Home on April 5, 2025, and the donation of Hershey chocolate bars to residents at Nininger. Mark said that he has also discussed with Nininger administrative staff their equipment needs, identification of wounded warrior candidates, and participation at memorial ceremonies for deceased residents. During his most recent visit to Nininger, he learned of the passing of WW II Veteran Isabel Diamond on March 1, 2025. She was nominated by the Chapter for the 2024 VA Centenarian Award, which she received at the Veterans' Day ceremony on November 11, 2024, at Nininger. An "In Memoriam" on her is published in the April 2025 newsletter.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (cont'd)

Mark Snider gave a listing of dates when Mission BBQ is offering free sandwiches to Veterans during Military Appreciation Days in May. He said that Vietnam Veterans 50th Commemorative Committee Activities will officially end on May 15, 2025.

Kevin Shurte gave the 250 Anniversary Recognition Report and power point presentation entitled, *Lexington Green -Who Fired the Shot" – April 19, 1775*, which is also published in the April 2025 Newsletter.

Youth Education Programs: Kevin Shurte used a power point presentation to report on the status of the several youth education contests that the Chapter is administering this year.

The first slide focused on the status of the Middle School Brochure Contest and Kevin's presentation on April 10, 2025 of certificates and cash awards to the top winners. He said that we received 711 entries from Ramblewood Middle School, Sawgrass Middle School, and the Swamp Fox Society C.A.R. Twenty-nine students received certificates of appreciation for their entries which included first place winner Madeline Maragh along with second place winner, Dana Anduquia, and third place winner, Giana Manns. The winning teacher for number and quality of student entries is Annejeanett Washington-Collins.

Kevin Shurte showed a slide of the Chapter's participation in the eight SAR youth education contests. The slide showed that in 2023 the Chapter had no participation in SAR youth education programs. In 2024, the Chapter only participated in the Middle School Brochure Contest. In 2025, the Chapter participate in six of the eight contests, having not offered the Elementary School Poster Contest or the High School Essay Contest. The slide showed that our first place high school American History Teacher, Hannah Lea Levitt, placed first at State and second at National. Our high school Historical Oration Contest winner, Chloe Cave, placed second in the State contest. Our Video Contest winner, Dana Anduquia, placed first at State and has been submitted to National. Our Middle School Brochure Contest winner, Madeline Maragh, has been entered into the State contest. Administered by Chuck Adams, our winner of the Eagle Scout Essay Contest, Michael Perez, placed third in State. Recently announced, our winner in the

Outstanding Cadet Essay Contest, Caleb Walker, has placed first at State and will be submitted for the National contest.

Chuck Adams explained that paying for the cash awards is solely supported by the State grant and member donations. This year we barely had enough funds to do the six contests that we offered. To continue and / or to expand in 2026, we will need larger contributions from member donations.

SAR ROTC Bronze Medal Awards. Chuck reported that of the 31 Broward County schools offering the JROTC program, 30 selected a qualifying cadet for this award. Thanks to the nine Chapter members volunteering to assist, we will have a representative at each of the 24 schools that have a formal ceremony and asked us to participate. In early June, we will also award a Bronze Good Citizenship Medal to the top Sea Cadet participating in that program.

Chuck Adams inducted Compatriots Alfred C. Evans and Bruce D. Angier. Steve DePaul presented each compatriot with their Rossette lapel pin.

Chuck Adams asked that volunteers presenting JROTC Bronze Medals and Certificates to the various schools stay after the meeting to get their presentation package.

Chuck Adams led the participants in reciting the SAR Recessional. The Benediction was given by Tom Carpenter Jr.

To read the complete set of the minutes of the general members meeting held on April 19, 2025, 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.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (cont'd)



Lunch Attendees – April 19, 2025



America 250 Report – Kevin Shurte



Color Guard



250 Minute - Tom Carpenter Jr



Left: Al Evans Inducted by Chuck Adams



Chuck Adams presented Steven DePaul, as FLSSAR Chairman of the First Amphibious Landing Committee, the Chapter's check for \$7,075 derived from donations made by 26 Chapter members.



Left: Bruce Angier Inducted by Chuck Adams

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (cont'd)



Photo Left: Steve DePaul, Al Evans, Bruce Angier, and Chuck Adams.



Chapter First Place American High School History Teacher – Hannah Lee Levitt.
Received Chapter Award on November 23, 2024;
Awarded First Place at State; and Awarded Second Place at National.



Color Guard – April 19, 2025
Photo Left: Kevin Shurte, Mark Snider and Jim Clark.

**2025 YOUTH EDUCATION –
A YEAR IN REVIEW**

We have grown from a Chapter who in 2023 did not sponsor any of the seven (now eight) SAR youth education contests, to having done one in 2024, to doing six of the eight in 2025.

This year, the total cost in cash awards and medals approximated \$1,850. After receipt of FLSSAR grant reimbursements, the net Chapter cost will be about \$ 525. For us to maintain and expand these program depends on the additional donations made to the Chapter by membership. Please consider this when paying your 2026 dues later this year.



Chapter First Place South Florida Eagle Scout Essay Contest – Michael Perez
Received Fort Lauderdale and Miami Chapters Co-Sponsored Award on February 22, 2025; and Awarded Third Place at State. Left: Chuck Adams, Michael Perez & Lee Popham.



Video Contest - Dana Anduquia.
Received Chapter Award for First Place on February 26, 2025; Received First Place at State; Came in Fourth But Did Not Place at National. Photo Left: Ramblewood Middle School Principal Andrew Kirk, Kevin Shurte, Dana Anduquia, Chuck Adams, Video Class Teacher, Paul Paradis.

Oration Contest – Chloe Cave.
Received Chapter Award for First Place on May 10, 2025; and Placed Second at State.



Outstanding JROTC Cadet – Caleb Walker.
Received Chapter Award for First Place on May 14, 2025; Awarded First Place at State; and Awarded Fourth Place at National. Photo Left: SMI Mark Andre, Cadet Caleb Walker, and Chuck Adams.

Middle School Brochure Contest – Awards Made on April 10, 2025. Photo Top: Kevin Shurte, First Place Winner Madeline Maragh, Second Place Winner, Dana Anduquia, and Third Place Winner, Giana Manns. Back Row: Winning Teacher, Annejeanett Washington-Collins. Photo Bottom: Kevin Shurte and Dana Anduquia.

AMERICA 250

***Second Continental Congress Convenes -
May 10, 1775***

Congress Voting Independence, by Robert Edge Pine and Edward Savage (circa 1784-1801)

Whereas the First Continental Congress convened in September 1774 in reaction to Parliament's punitive Intolerable Acts, reacting with the adoption and establishment of such negotiatory legislation as the Suffolk Resolves and the Articles of Association, the Second Continental Congress convened in May 1775, as a wartime congress, overseeing America's war efforts, negotiating alliances, and passing historic legislation.

As agreed, at the close of the First Continental Congress in October 1774, the Second Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia on May 10, 1775. However, America's political climate had changed. In the six months since the first session adjourned, Britain had refused to negotiate the colonists' objections enumerated in the 1774 Declaration of Rights and Grievances. Moreover, war had erupted in the colonies, with the shots fired at Lexington and Concord. Although many delegates still yearned for reconciliation with the mother country, their attitudes about self-government had changed and the movement toward independence had gained momentum.

With colonial militia surrounding Boston, one of the congressional delegates' first acts was to unify America's military forces. On June 14, 1775, Congress formed the Continental Army allowing for the one-year enlistment of soldiers in service to the United Colonies. The next day, Congress unanimously appointed George Washington as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, which he would lead from June 19, 1775, until resigning his command before the same congress on December

23, 1783. On October 13, 1775, Congress authorized the formation of the Continental Navy and appointed Esek Hopkins as its commander in December that same year. Congress would also establish the Continental Marines in November 1775 under the command of Captain Samuel Nicholas to service as landing forces for the Continental Fleet. The congress would conduct and coordinate America's military efforts throughout the war.

America's cause required financial backing and military assistance from foreign powers. Aware of the necessity for foreign intervention on America's behalf, Congress appointed Benjamin Franklin, Arthur Lee, and Silas Deane as commissioners to France. In early 1777, Lee traveled to Spain and secured a four million *reales de vellón* credit line which was used to secure essential supplies such as tents, blankets, and boots. Franklin, Lee, and Deane importantly negotiated the 1778 Treaty of Alliance with France that not only created a military alliance between America and France but also indirectly led to the Treaty of Aranjuez between France and Spain which resulted in Spain declaring war on England in June 1779.

Most importantly, the wartime Congress would pass historic legislation. With many delegates still yearning to reconcile differences with England, Congress drafted and approved the Olive Branch Petition on July 8, 1775. Penned by John Dickinson of Pennsylvania, the petition, which King George refused outright, promised colonial allegiance to the Crown and appealed to the King to intervene on behalf of the colonists who perceived themselves victims of an unjust Parliament. One day following the adoption of the Olive Branch Petition, Congress adopted the "Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms." This declaration, which the King similarly disregarded, was drafted by John Dickinson and Thomas Jefferson and sought to explain to King George why colonists had armed themselves against the British. Another important piece of legislation the delegates shaped was the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union, which gave name to The United States of America and granted Congress "the authority to make treaties and alliances, maintain armed forces and coin money." The most important document framed by this legislative body was the Declaration of Independence which it approved on July 2 and signed on July 4, 1776, and declared "That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States."

AMERICA 250 (cont'd)

2025 UPCOMING EVENTS

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11. "U.S. Army Founded | June 14, 1775." *History.Com*, A&E Television Networks, 24 Jan. 2025, www.history.com/this-day-in-history/June-14/u-s-army-founded-1775.
12. World History Edu. "History and Major Facts about the Second Continental Congress." *World History Edu*, 27 Mar. 2025, worldhistoryedu.com/history-and-major-facts-about-the-second-continental-congress/.

- May 16 to
May 17, 2025 Spring BOM, Kissimmee, FL
- May 17, 2025 Honor Flight South Florida #35,
FLL International Airport
- May 26, 2025 Memorial Day Parade,
Pompano Beach, FL
- Jul 04, 2025 July 4th Ceremonies,
To Be Announced
- Jul 12 to
Jul 18, 2025 135th National Congress, Uncasville, CT
- Sep 06, 2025 Honor Flight South Florida #36,
FLL International Airport
- Oct 02 to
Oct 04, 2025 NSSAR Fall Leadership, Louisville, KY
- Oct 17 to
Oct 18, 2025 Fall BOM, Kissimmee, FL
- Oct 25, 2025 Honor Flight South Florida #37,
FLL International Airport
- Nov 11, 2025 Veterans Day Ceremonies,
To Be Announced
- Dec 04, 2025 Yuletide on Atlantic Parade,
Pompano Beach, FL
- Dec 13, 2025 Wreaths Across America,
Pompano Beach, FL



First Amphibious Landing Memorial Monument Project.

As of May 17, 2025 Report at Spring BOM –
Total Cost = \$207,500; In-kind Donations = \$84,800;
Net Cost = \$122,700; Cash & Pledges = \$59,175;
Cash Needed by December 2025 to Maintain March
2026 Planned Dedication = \$63,500.

IN THE NEWS

HERITAGE FESTIVAL – FORT BASINGER

The annual Heritage Festival was held on Saturday, April 12 and Sunday, April 13, 2025, at the historic Pearce Homestead located in Fort Basinger, FL. This year marked the 150th anniversary of the homestead which in the last quarter of the 19th century was one of the largest cattle ranches in Florida. Historically, the property is also the site of the now defunct Fort Basinger built in 1837 to station troops in the fight against the Seminole Indians. The festival is recognized by NSSAR as a National Color Guard Event as it occurs in the same month as Patriot's Day. On Saturday, April 12, Florida Society Adjutant, Kevin Shurte, participated in the presentation of colors with guardsmen from the Highland County and Okeechobee County Chapters. On Sunday, April 13, Fort Lauderdale Chapter Guardsmen Chuck Adams, Steve DePaul and Mark Snider presented the colors along with the guardsmen from the Highland and Okeechobee Chapters SAR.



Photos of Guardsmen taken in front of the 400 year live-oak dedicated in 2021 as a SAR liberty Tree. Photo 1, left, taken April 12, 2025 and Photo 2, above, taken April 13, 2025.

2025 FLEET WEEK FORT LAUDERDALE

Fleet Week Fort Lauderdale took place between April 22 and April 30, 2025. It featured various daily events, ship tours, and community activities to honor the armed forces and the 250th anniversary of the establishment the now U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps. The Navy and Marine service members on the several ships which were in port that week attended or participated in the scheduled activities throughout the week. Mark and Carmen Snider attended festivities on Sunday, April 27, 2025 in Hollywood, FL. Mark completed the 5K Walk/Run in Colonial militia attire carrying the Betsy Ross Flag.



IN THE NEWS (cont'd)**FLORIDA C.A.R. AMERICA 250
MONUMENT DEDICATION**

On Saturday, May 3, 2025, the Florida Sons of Liberty Brigade Color Guard presented colors at the F.S.C.A.R. America 250 Monument Dedication at Veterans Memorial Park in Sebastian, Florida. Representing the Chapter were Kevin and Kathy Shurte. Nine FLSSAR guardsmen participated in the opening ceremony, and FLSSAR President James Gaskins spoke on behalf of the state society. F.S.C.A.R. Senior Advisor Holly Hamilton presented Fort Lauderdale compatriot Kevin Shurte with the DAR Bronze Hannah White Arnett Medal in recognition of his service to the DAR. This dedication marks the first monument in the nation dedicated entirely by a C.A.R. state society.

**HONOR FLIGHT SOUTH FLORIDA
FUNDRAISER**

On Sunday, May 4, 2025, the Fort Lauderdale Color Guard presented colors at the opening ceremonies of the Symphonic Winds performance at South Plantation High School. The event was a fundraiser for Honor Flight South Florida. The Chapter contributes \$250 to each of the four annual flights. In attendance for the Chapter: Chuck and Ronna Adams, Kevin and Kathy Shurte, and Mark and Carmen Snider.

**JROTC SAR ROTC BRONZE MEDAL
AWARDS COMPLETED**

On Monday, May 19, 2025, the last of our 30 SAR ROTC Bronze Medals was awarded. Of the 31 participating programs in Broward County, one school declined to recommend a cadet. The Chapter was able to have a representative at 22 of the 24 schools that had invited us to attend their ceremony. The JROTC Awards Committee is Chaired by Chuck Adams. Committee members that represented the Chapter at the awards ceremony: Chuck Adams (3); Tom Carpenter (3); Greg Elder (2), Herb Gardner (3); Jim McHugh (1); Barry Moss (1); Kevin Shurte (3); and Mark Snider (6). Committee members unable to attend a school due to scheduling conflicts are: Jim Clark and Jim Blakeslee. Special recognition goes to Mark Snider for attending the most ceremonies. Also, Herb Gardner as a 2025 new member who covered three schools and did two hand deliveries. Finally, Greg Elder who, as a 2025 applicant awaiting membership approval, did two schools and one hand delivery of the award to the school that he would have attended except for the school's last minute rescheduling of the date for their ceremony.

SAR MEMBER PROFILE – JEFFREY Z. LITTLE

Interviewed by Chuck Adams



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

A. I was born in 1953 in Alameda, California. My childhood (through the end of junior high school) was spent in a small rural town in the Willamette Valley of Oregon called

McMinnville. Our family then moved to Redlands in Southern California where I graduated from Redlands High School and completed my bachelor's degree in Communications and Performing Arts at the University of Redlands.

Q. What is/was your occupation?

A. I have recently retired from working for the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) which is based in Evanston, IL. NMSC recognizes, honors and awards scholarships to some of the most academically talented high school graduates in the United States. I had account executive and "outreach/sales" responsibilities, overseeing many corporate-sponsored and college/university-sponsored academic scholarship competitions. I was Executive Vice President of NMSC when I retired after 33 years with the organization. Prior to NMSC, I worked as an Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions for UCLA.

Q. Tell us about some of your recreational interests and/or hobbies.

A. I love to fish (fresh and salt water), strum a guitar, occasionally hack up a golf course, and I enjoy watching most sports. I am currently trying to adjust from being a Bears fan to being a Dolphins fan.

Q. How about your family?

A. I married my wife Connie in June of 2008. We both have children from prior marriages which include one son and five daughters. We also have three grandsons and two granddaughters. We greatly enjoy spending time with our three youngest grandkids who live near us here in Coral Springs.

Q. Who is your Patriot ancestor?

A. My Patriot ancestor is John Bodley (1733-1801). He was a private in the New York Militia, 3rd Regiment commanded by Col. Pauling and serving under captains John Hardenbergh and Andrew Bevier.

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. In addition to my own love of American history, I want to join SAR to support its outreach efforts to students and young people and hopefully increase their interest in the American Revolution and in American History in general.

Thanks, Jeff, for sharing.

2025 CHAPTER OFFICERS

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