

THE TAMPA CHAPTER
FLORIDA SOCIETY
SON'S OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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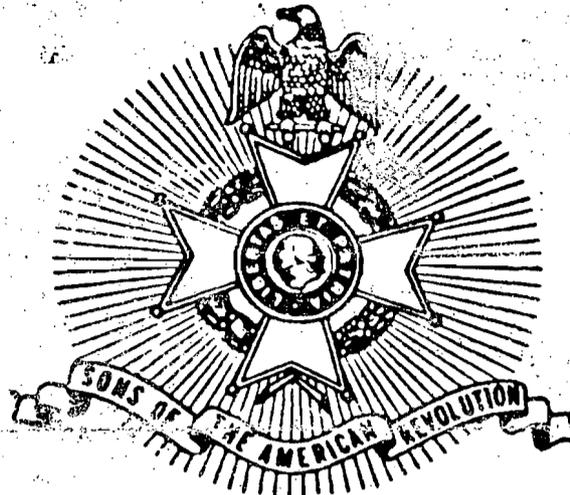
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Patriotic Educational Historic

N-E-W-S-L-E-T-T-E-R

MAY 1992

OUR MAY MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY MAY 16 AT WILDWOOD RESTAURANT 11511 NORTH DALE MABRY AT 11:30 A.M. AS USUAL EACH PERSON WILL ORDER FROM THE MENU AND BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING FOR THEIR OWN MEAL PLUS THE USUAL 15% GRATUITY.

AT THIS MEETING WE WILL PRESENT OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD TO AN OUTSTANDING PERSON IN OUR COMMUNITY. OFFICER FRED ARNOLD, WHO RESCUED 3 FROM FIRE, IS THIS YEARS RECIPIENT OF THIS AWARD. LETS HAVE A BIG SHOWING FOR THIS MEETING TO SHOW OUR APPRECIATION FOR NOT ONLY THE INDIVIDUAL BUT TO ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN LAW ENFORCEMENT.

Board of Governors meeting will be Thursday April 7th at the Peninsular Library at Henderson & Neptune from 5:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. Remind you that all members are welcome to attend these meetings and help with the plans for future programs & meetings.

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OOPS
REINSTATEMENT

WE REPORTED THAT TO BE REINSTATED A PAST MEMBER MUST PAY ALL BACK DUES TO BE REINSTATED. THIS IS NOT TRUE. A PAST MEMBER TO BE REINSTATED NEED ONLY TO FILL OUT A REINSTATEMENT REQUEST AND PAY HIS CURRENT DUES TO BE REINSTATED. PERHAPS THIS WILL ENCOURAGE SOME OF THOSE WHO MAY HAVE BEEN MEMBERS IN THE PAST TO BECOME ACTIVE AGAIN IN THE SAR MOVEMENT.

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Eagle Scout Mark Gibson, winner of our Eagle Scout Award last year, has won the American Legion Award and they feel that will win their National. As I recall we also felt that Mark was the best contestant that we had ever had. As a result of Mark's Essay he has become interested in his genealogy and has asked for papers that he may join the Son's of the American Revolution. He is indeed a young man whom we can all be proud to have as a member of this organization.

ROTC AWARDS

At our May meeting Awards Chairman, James Smith, will report on the ROTC awards given for both College level and High School level.

H-A-P-P-Y B-I-R-T-H-D-A-Y

Elwin Thrasher May 11
Leo Tyson, Jr. May 15
Scott Mason May 30

4/10/92

Officer follows cries, rescues 3 from fire

By BRIAN EDWARDS
Tribune Staff Writer

TAMPA — Following the sound of an infant's cries and groping through dense black smoke, an off-duty police officer

gasps of air and went back in," said Arnold, 23. He followed the cries to the infant's crib, grabbed him and his unconscious 4-year-old brother who was lying on the floor nearby and bolted for the window.

The mother and 1-month-old Alex Gort were admitted to Tampa General Hospital suffering from smoke inhalation. They were both listed in fair condition early today.

Four-year-old Jesus Gort and Jose Alvarado, Burgos' 9-year-old nephew, who leaped from the bedroom window before Arnold went inside, were treated and released to relatives, said Karen Clarke, hospital spokeswoman.

"I just want to thank him for saving my life," Burgos said in a telephone interview from the hospital. "He must be a good person to do that for someone."

Firefighters arrived at the blaze at 2717 E. Main St. at 10:17



Arnold

"I was listening to the baby crying and trying to feel my way around," said Tampa police officer Fred Arnold, who was hoisted through a bedroom window. He crawled to the bed where 22-year-old Ana Burgos lay and carried her to the waiting arms of bystanders.

knelt down, took a couple of



Tribune photograph by SKIP O'ROURKE
Jose Alvarado, 9, is treated by firefighters after he leaped through a window to safety.

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a.m. and had it extinguished about 45 minutes later. Investigators said Thursday evening that they had not determined the cause of the blaze, which destroyed the interior of the house.

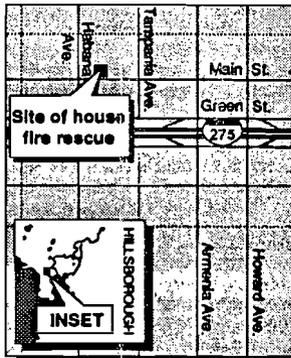
Burgos said Thursday night that she also didn't know what started the fire. She was asleep until the 4-year-old awoke her as the room filled with smoke. She remembered trying to get him to jump out a window after she broke it with a picture frame, but he wouldn't go without her.

At that point, she passed out and didn't remember anything until after she was outside the house.

Meanwhile, Arnold was washing his car at a friend's house down the block when he smelled and saw the smoke rising into the morning sky.

Arnold and Ronald Pittman sprinted down the block and heard the cry of children in the burning house. They joined Armando Roche, a local bail bondsman, who ran across the street from his aunt's house and broke a porch window.

Alvarado leaped through the



Tribune map

window to escape. Roche and Pittman hoisted Arnold into the house to search out the crying baby. He lowered Burgos to them, then brought the baby — who had by then become quiet — to the window and handed him to neighbor Mercedes Broche.

She patted the limp baby on the back until he began to cough. Within seconds, tears streamed down the

infant's face blackened by the smoke, Broche said.

Burgos lost all her possessions in the blaze and didn't have any insurance, said her sister-in-law, Estelle Prieto.

Prieto established a special fund — The Ana Burgos and Children Account — at the Manufacturer's Bank branch at 4144 N. Armenia Ave., where she works.

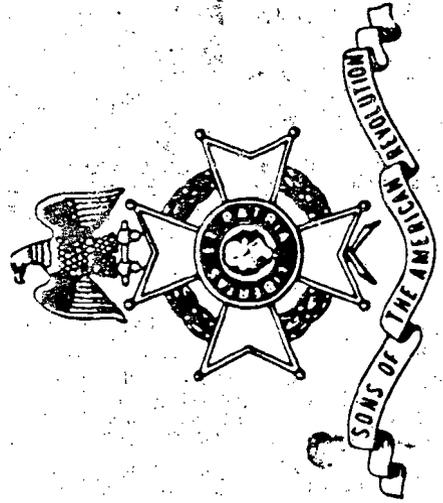
Arnold, a graduate of Tampa's Jefferson High School who has been on the force for 2 1/2 years, said he'd been trained at the Tampa Police Academy to handle emergency situations.

Last year, he was writing a report at a burglary victim's home when he and Pittman, a member of a police Explorer group at the time, spotted smoke from a house across the street. They searched through the rooms but found them vacant.

On Thursday, their response was just as immediate.

"I wasn't really concerned about my safety at the time," Arnold said. "Just in getting in there and getting them out. I just did what I had to do."

Staff writer J.D. Callaway contributed to this report.



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