

*The Tampa Chapter  
Florida Society  
Sons of the American Revolution*

**PRESIDENT/REGISTRAR:**

Dwight Tetrick  
19126 Amelia Circle  
Lutz, FL 33558-4939  
(813) 949-4746  
[cimmax@msn.com](mailto:cimmax@msn.com)

**SECRETARY/TREASURER:**

Kevin A. Yarnell  
7507 Summerbridge Drive  
Tampa, Florida 33634-2260  
(813) 249-5608  
[kayarnell@hotmail.com](mailto:kayarnell@hotmail.com)

**SURGEON**

Walter W. Lane, JR., MD  
14033 Shady Shores  
Carrollwood, FL 33613  
(813) 968-6700  
[ilane@rr.com](mailto:ilane@rr.com)

**SERGEANT -AT-ARMS**

Mr. Edward J. Neugaard  
11629 Carrollwood Dr.  
Tampa, FL 33618  
(813) 932-3556  
[neugaard@chuma1.cas.usf.edu](mailto:neugaard@chuma1.cas.usf.edu)

**VICE-PRESIDENT:**

Jack C. Bolen  
2217 Boxwood Way  
Brandon, FL 33511-7001  
(813) 685-4026  
[jbolen@mindspring.com](mailto:jbolen@mindspring.com)

**CHAPLAIN:**

James E. Washburn  
3501 Bayshore Blvd.  
Apt. # 604  
Tampa, FL 33629-8901  
(813) 831-7974

**HISTORIAN**

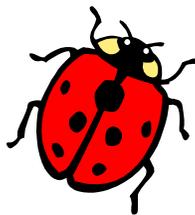
Robert Yarnell  
7401 Cypress Drive  
New Port Richey, FL 34653  
(727) 849-4452  
[rsyarn@aol.com](mailto:rsyarn@aol.com)

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:**

Daniel M. Stutzman  
913 Cooper Ridge Place  
Valrico, FL 33511  
(813) 689-0695  
[dstutzma@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:dstutzma@tampabay.rr.com)



Educational · Patriotic · Historic



**N·E·W·S·L·E·T·T·E·R**

**MAY  
2003**

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**OUR MAY LUNCHEON MEETING**

**WILL BE THE 3rd SATURDAY OF MAY**

Our May meeting will be **Saturday, the 17th** at the **PICCADILLY CAFETERIA**, 11810 Dale Mabry Highway North, Tampa, Florida (telephone # 963-1660) in their private room at 11:30. This gives us time for camaraderie. Wives and guests are always welcome at our meetings. Members and guests will be responsible for their own meal and gratuity.

**ALL SAR MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO WEAR THEIR SAR INSIGNIA TO ALL MEETINGS.**

**PROGRAM FOR MAY MEETING**

**Presentation of the NSSAR Fire Safety Commendation Medal To  
Firefighter Sean VanAtter**

Sean is an eight-year veteran of the Hillsborough County Fire Rescue. He is assigned to Station 14 on 131<sup>st</sup> Avenue in North Tampa, which is the third busiest fire station in Tampa. He is a member of the HCFR's Honor Guard. He served five years in the Marine Corp. and two years in the Coast Guard Reserve.

He was awarded the International Benjamin Franklin Fire Service Award for Valor by the Department of Homeland Defense.

On Thursday, May 30, 2002 at 7:30 PM, Hillsborough County (Tampa, Florida) Firefighter Sean VanAtter rescued five occupants of a vehicle crash at Interstate 275 and Busch Boulevard.

Firefighter VanAtter was returning to his station from University Community Hospital via taxi when he came upon the motor vehicle crash. A semi-tanker truck had collided with an automobile, entrapping five occupants as the vehicle burned out of control. With no protective equipment and without concern for his own safety, Firefighter VanAtter forced entry into the vehicle on the passenger side, removing the mother and two small children. He again made entry on the passenger side and removed the father and a third child.

Firefighter VanAtter single-handedly rescued all five occupants of the car before Tampa Fire Rescue arrived. Several minutes later, paramedics arrived on the scene where one occupant was flown by helicopter to Tampa General Hospital. The others were transported by ambulance.

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### **MINUTES OF THE APRIL 19, 2002 MEETING OF THE TAMPA CHAPTER SAR AT PICCADILLY CAFETERIA, DALE MABRY HIGHWAY NORTH TAMPA, FLORIDA.**

Minutes of the April 19, 2003 meeting of the Tampa Chapter SAR

President Tetrick called the meeting to order at 12:03. Chaplain Jim Washburn offered the invocation. The secretary led the pledge to the flag and the president the pledge to the SAR.

Members present: Dwight Tetrick, Jack Bolen, Rod Stebbins, Marty Miller, Jim Washburn, Ed Neuguard, Fred Patton, Claude Richie, Bob Yarnell and Kevin Yarnell.

Welcome guests: Fimie Richie, Billie Washburn, Don Middleton- an applicant, June Bolen, June Patton, Janett Tetrick, Luke Loyd- soon to be reinstated as an SAR member, his wife Jean, nine cadets and their guests.

The president introduced the members and guests.

The SAR membership approved the minutes of the April meeting as published in the newsletter.

The secretary had no report.

The treasurer reported a current balance of \$2,212.53.

The President reported that Rod Stebbins has been accepted into the SAR. He also reported on several other potential members and their status. The chapter was gratified by the success in increasing our membership. [Secretary's note: The bulk of this effort is being done by Dwight and Janett Tetrick. I'm sure I join the membership in expressing our appreciation.]

There being no other business the meeting recessed for lunch.

President Tetrick called the meeting to order. He presented the SAR JROTC awards to the following outstanding cadets:

Thomas Phelps, Brandon High School  
Jeremy McDonnell, Robinson High School  
Kevin Wright, Leto High School  
Joshua Gunderson, Bloomingdale High School  
Daniel Parra, Hillsborough High School  
Kenny Villarsen, Wharton High School  
Precious Neal, King High School  
Kevin Bart, Freedom High School

Alicia True of King High School was presented a similar award from the Descendents of Valley Forge.

Kevin Yarnell then took the floor and gave a brief presentation entitled, "A Look at the Manhattan Project". His stated purposes for the talk were 1. "In light of current events and the cyclical nature of history, there is a need to know the origins of nuclear weapons" and 2. "Everyone needs to know a little physics"

The converging of three unique discoveries ultimately led to the idea that a nuclear device was possible. Compatriot Yarnell briefly discussed each. The first is the famous equation  $E=mc^2$ . This formula of Einstein established a relationship between mass and energy and showed that one could conceivably be converted into the other.

The second was a violation of the old notion that the whole is equal to the sum of its parts. This does not hold true in the nucleus of atoms where the mass of a nucleon (a proton or neutron) varies by whether it is in a large atom or a small one.

The third discovery was the splitting of the atom itself. This was first done in 1938 by two German scientist who where hoping to make a new element by bombarding uranium with neutrons. Instead they succeeded in breaking the uranium atom into two smaller atoms.

The combination of these three leads to the equation

Mass of a uranium atom = the mass of the pieces after it has been split + a release of energy

The energy comes from the missing mass. (E.g. that the sum of all the pieces has less mass than the original atom) That missing mass is converted into energy via Einstein's equation.

Compatriot Yarnell then drew a simple diagram of a nuclear reaction showing how the splitting of one atom would in turn release more neutrons capable of splitting more atoms. The result is a geometric increase of the number of atoms split leading to a significant release of energy.

In 1939 Einstein wrote a letter to President Roosevelt explaining the possibility of such a device. Shortly thereafter the Manhattan Project was begun. The audience was encouraged to consider the ethical issue evident at this point. "If we can make something, should we?" The speaker pointed out the relevance of this question in the present and offered cloning as a prime example.

The membership then learned of some of the significant engineering problems that needed to be overcome in order to construct the first bombs. Obtaining enough fissionable material was one challenge. Another was the actual construction of the device.

The last part of the presentation centered on the actual decision to use the bombs as a means to end WWII. The speaker cautioned the audience to base any judgments on the facts known to the participants at that time. He concluded with a brief summary of the key points of the talk.

A brief discussion followed.

Claude Richie won the 50/50 drawing. He graciously donated his share to the chapter. Thus the treasury was enriched by \$13.00.

President Tetrick led the recessional and Chaplain Washburn benediction. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Yarnell  
Chapter Secretary

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## MAY IN THE REVOLUTION

<b><u>May 10, 1775</u></b>	Second Continental Congress meet in Philadelphia. John Hancock is elected President.
<b><u>May 10, 1775</u></b>	Colonists capture the forts and arsenals at Ticonderoga.
<b><u>May 11, 1775</u></b>	Battle of Crown Point. Ethan Allen and The Green Mountain Boys attack the British near Lake Champlain and win.
<b><u>May 15, 1775</u></b>	Congress places the colonies in a state of defense.
<b><u>May 2, 1776</u></b>	American revolution gets much needed foreign support. King Louis XVI of France commits one million dollars in arms and munitions. Spain also promises support.
<b><u>May 10, 1776</u></b>	The Continental Congress authorizes each of the 13 colonies to form local governments.
<b><u>May 12, 1780</u></b>	British take Charleston, South Carolina. They capture a large Patriot army and deal the rebels one of their worst defeats of the war.
<b><u>May 8, 1778</u></b>	British General Henry Clinton replaces General Howe as the commander of all British forces in America.
<b><u>May 30, 1778</u></b>	300 Iroquois Indians burn Cobleskill, New York. This attack was instigated by the British and started a panic on the frontier.
<b><u>May 10, 1779</u></b>	British troops burn Portsmouth and Norfolk, Virginia.
<b><u>May 6, 1780</u></b>	British troops capture Fort Moultrie, South Carolina.
<b><u>May 21, 1781</u></b>	General George Washington and French General Rochambeau meet in Connecticut for a council of war. Rochambeau reluctantly agrees for a joint French navel and an American ground attack in New York.

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## In Memorial

**Cpl. Antonio Sledd**, 20, a graduate of Gaither High in Tampa, died on Oct. 8, 2002 when two Kuwaiti men opened fire on his unit during a training exercise on the Kuwaiti Island of Failaka. Another Marine was wounded and other Marines killed the two gunmen.

**Marine Lance Cpl. Andrew Julian Aviles**, 18, a graduate of Robinson High School in Tampa, Aviles was killed in Iraq April 07, 2003 as Marines battled to secure a bridge, enemy artillery took out the amphibious assault vehicle he was riding in.

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**Group picture of the JROTC cadets who joined the Chapter for the April meeting and received the SAR JROTC Certificates.**



**Tampa Chapter, Florida Society  
Sons of the American Revolution  
Dan Stutzman, Newsletter Editor  
913 Cooper Ridge Place  
Valrico, Fl. 33594**