



*Tampa Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
November 2016*

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The November meeting of the Tampa Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will be held on November 19. Due to a conflict with the restaurant, the meeting will be moved to American Legion Post #5 at 3810 West Kennedy Blvd. in Tampa. The meeting will start at 10am and there will be no lunch.

The program will be a group participation program, led by Compatriot Bob Yarnell, to determine which claimant really does

deserve recognition for having the first Thanksgiving. (yes, I'll be there)

Revolution Note:

John Dickinson Part 2

Last month we looked at the John Dickinson's early life and his view of the Declaration of Independence. This month we follow him through the writing of the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution.



As the war for independence continued, the continental congress began the process of putting together a government for the new nation. John Dickinson was given the task of writing it and he presented to the Congress the initial draft of what would become the Articles of Confederation. Due to petty jealousies among the states and lack of foresight, his draft was weakened before it finally passed*. Thus we come to the second big WHAT IF, of Dickinson's life. Had his initial draft been approved without the drastic changes, the Philadelphia convention that

convened 9 years later might not have been necessary and we might still be governed by the Articles.

But, the government under the articles did prove inadequate** and a new convention to revise the Articles was convened in 1787. Dickinson attended as a delegate from Delaware and was instrumental (along with delegates from Connecticut and the Carolina's) in bringing about changes in Madison's original proposals. In particular, it was Dickinson who first pushed through some initial votes that would lead to equal representation in the Senate for the small states. In June Dickinson pushed through a vote that the Senate would be elected/appointed by the state legislatures. While it did not include equal representation in the senate, it was the first step toward what would be the key to the great compromise usually credited to either Roger Sherman or Ben Franklin.

When the convention neared dead lock at the end of July, Dickenson reworked some of his proposals from the Articles hoping they might break the deadlock on issues of representation and what powers to give the new government. Unfortunately these were never presented to the convention. Dickinson was a frail man and the convention weakened him to such a degree that he had to absent himself for several weeks and was, for all intents, a non-factor the rest of the summer.

In the movie *A More Perfect Union* about the constitutional convention, which I should add is very well done, Dickinson is portrayed as being obstructionist since he opposed Madison's original plan. While the movie does show him in favor of the compromises at the end, it does not give him credit for helping them along.

He did approve and support the Constitution and wrote a series of letters, under the name of Flabius, in support of it. In them he emphasized that the Constitution was the product of history and experience, not theory, thus harkening back to his

objections to Jefferson's formulation of the Declaration being based on theory, not history and experience.

Dickinson's view of the Constitution can best be summed up in his own words, which still (should) resonate to this day:

"While the people of these states have sense, they will understand (the Constitution) and while they have spirit, they will make (it) to be observed."

John Dickinson deserves better than history and Hollywood have given him.

**I have never been able to find a good version of the debates on the articles and thus cannot detail which of Dickinson's proposals were thrown out that might have been useful.*

***One's view of the Articles and the subterfuge used to convene the Philadelphia convention may make this statement debatable.*

October Meeting

Our October meeting was our annual Law Enforcement Recognition luncheon. We recognized and presented the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal and Certificate to Hillsborough County Sheriff's Deputy Timothy Wren and Florida Highway Patrol Troop C Special Operations District Trooper Alain Hernandez.



Deputy Wren was recognized for his many years of service and specifically three different situations in 2016 where he searched for and arrested a domestic abuse suspect and a burglary suspect and talked down a potential suicide subject. Trooper Hernandez was recognized for his four years of service and specifically for more than 117 DUI arrests taking impaired drivers off the roads the Troop C service area.

Bronze Citizenship Medal Awarded

On October 29, Compatriot Terry Doan, with the approval of the Tampa Chapter Executive Board, presented the SAR Bronze Citizenship Medal and Certificate to Wesley Chapel Civil Air Patrol Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Francisco Pulgarin. This presentation was made at the Civil Air Patrol Group 3 Banquet held at MacDill Air Force Base. Cadet Pulgarin was cited for significant contributions in promoting patriotism to the Tampa Bay area while serving as the Cadet Commander of the Wesley Chapel Honor Guard. As Guard Commandant, he oversees both the Honor Guard Team and Color Guard Competition Team. He has contributed to the overall success of the most active year in this Guard's history.

We hope Cadet Pulgarin is able to join us at our November meeting.



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Below is the tentative program schedule for the remainder of 2016.

Nov. 19— First Thanksgiving controversy revisited—Compatriot Bob Yarnell

Dec 17 - Meeting will be held in conjunction with Wreaths Across America at the American Legion Hall on Kennedy Blvd in Tampa (time TBD)

Jan 21 - Officer Installation (time and place TBD)

Wreaths Across America



The Tampa Chapter is once again a sponsor of Wreaths Across America and again supporting the American Legion Post #5 (Tampa) Veterans Cemetery on Kennedy Blvd. The ceremony and wreath laying is on Saturday December 17. The ceremony usually starts at Noon. That will be confirmed before December 17. For \$15 you can sponsor a wreath to be placed on a headstone at this or any other Veterans Cemetery. The Tampa Chapter sponsorship form will be attached to the email that sent this Newsletter. You can mail the form or give your check to Dick Young. To learn more about Wreaths Across America or to make a credit card sponsorship, you can visit their website at www.wreathscrossamerica.org. The 2016 deadline for submitting wreath sponsorships is November 28.

Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War



The Winding Waters Chapter of DAR has asked to recognize Vietnam Era veterans at our November meeting, in conjunction with Veteran's Day. They will recognize all Vietnam Era Veterans present whether a member or not. We have the name of all known Tampa Chapter members that served during that time. If you are a prospective member or even a guest, we want to recognize you too, regardless of where you served, as long as you were on active duty during the Vietnam War Era, which is defined as November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975. Please send your full name and branch of service at that time to Dick Young at dyoung22@aol.com. It is not necessary to provide proof of service

SAR President General Tomme's Veterans Day Proclamation

Veterans Day is a time to reflect, remember and thank those men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces.

World War I was known at the time as "The Great War"-officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, just outside the town of Versailles, France. However fighting had ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars."

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11th as the first commemoration of Armistice Day. The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11 am. It was a day to be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations.

On May 13, 1938, November 11th was made a legal holiday each year-a day dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be therefore celebrated and known as Armistice Day--a day set aside to honor World War I veterans. In 1954 the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans." On June 1, 1954, with the approval of this legislation, November 11th became a day to honor American military veterans of all wars.

This is a day, which is driven by historical significance of the date and focuses attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor American's military veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. A wonderful day to

thank a veteran for their service, regardless of how long ago it might have been. To all veterans, thank you for your service to our country.

I want to personally thank all of the Veterans who have served this great nation.

Yours in Patriotism,

J. Michael Tomme, Sr.

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President General

National Society Sons of the American Revolution

Misc. Reminders and notes:

Dues are Due - Unless you are a Junior Member (18 or less on Jan 1, 2017) a Life Member, a dual member or active military, your dues are \$80 for 2017. This includes Chapter, State and National Dues. There are no Dues for Junior Members of the Tampa Chapter.

Chapter Website— Remember you can find information about the chapter and programs on the chapter website. www.tampasar.org

Chapter Chaplain - One of the duties of the Chapter Chaplain is to send cards to our members that are sick and sympathy notes to the family of a member who has passed away. If you know of anyone for whom a card should be sent, please mention it to Chaplain Sessums or President Klug at our next meeting.

Chapter officers and committee chairman are encouraged to send to the editor any pertinent information they wish included in the newsletter.

Florida Society website - www.flssar.org

National Society website - www.sar.org