

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

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Educational · Patriotic · Historic



N·E·W·S·L·E·T·T·E·R

**APRIL
2003**

OUR MARCH LUNCHEON MEETING

WILL BE THE 3rd SATURDAY OF APRIL

Our April meeting will be **Saturday, the 19th** 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 APRIL MEETING

PRESENTATION of ROTC CERTIFICATES

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 15, 2002 MEETING OF THE TAMPA CHAPTER SAR AT PICCADILLY CAFETERIA, DALE MABRY HIGHWAY NORTH TAMPA, FLORIDA.

Minutes of the March 15, 2003 meeting of the Tampa Chapter SAR

President Tetrick called the meeting to order at 12:00. 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, Marty Miller, Jim Washburn, Joe Hill, Barry Rich, Ed Neuguard, Walter Lane, and Kevin Yarnell.

Welcome guests: June Bolen, Janette Tetrick, Luke Loyd- soon to be reinstated as an SAR member, his wife Jean, and Rod Stebbins - potential member. Ed Sitton
The president introduced the guests.

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

The secretary reported on the plans for the April meeting where in we award the JROTC medals to the outstanding high school cadets. Fifteen units were contacted and another found us via the website. The membership agreed to pay for the cadets' meals. As discussed last month we will present the medals at the local high schools as we are able. Jack Bolen will be going to East Bay High, Bob Yarnell will be attending the ceremony at Ridgewood High, and President Tetrick will be attending the King High ceremony.

The treasurer reported a current balance of \$2,144.19.

President Tetrick reported on the senior ROTC presentations. He also explained the chapter challenge program. This is a contest run by the state society to encourage the local chapters to participate in state and local programs. To this end, the president appointed Jack Bolen as the Flag Chairman. The idea is to present certificates of appreciation to those that display the flag for non-commercial purposes. Some discussion of this program followed.

The president reported that Fred Patton had to resign his position as Sergeant at Arms due to his health. Ed Neuguard was appointed as the new Sargent at Arms. Jack Bolen reported that Fred's recovery is progressing nicely and he hopes to be at the next meeting.

There being no other business the meeting recessed for lunch.

President Tetrick introduced Vice Ed Sitton of the Military Order of the Purple Heart our speaker.

Ed spoke to the membership about the Military Order of the Purple Heart. The medal was first given by General George Washington on August 7, 1782. Three were given at that time. The medal was originally called the Badge of Military Merit and was a piece of purple cloth in the shape of a heart. It was the first decoration given to an enlisted man as well as officers.

The award was not given again until 1932 when it was reinstated by a Congressional Act on the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birthday. At that time it took on its current use that being awarded to those wounded in battle as well as for military merit. The speaker passed his own Purple Heart medal around the room and briefly described the markings on it. The medal itself requires 19 different processes to manufacture and is, as a result, one of the more expensive medals given.

Ed then spoke on the founding of the organization, its development, and challenges. He also commented on their organization's ROTC program and other activities.

He offered some personal remarks regarding the circumstances of his wounds suffered in Vietnam and how that experience has shaped his life.

The speaker concluded by explaining a program sponsored by the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Certificates of appreciation from the Korean people have been presented to Korean War veterans through this program. Ed presented this certificate to Joe Hill and Rod Stebbins.

A brief question and answer session followed.

President Tetrick expressed the thanks of the chapter to Ed Sitton and presented him a certificate of appreciation from the SAR.

June Bolen won the 50/50 drawing. She graciously donated her share to the chapter. Thus the treasury was enriched by \$11.00.

Jim Washburn offered some concerns about the flag certificates being awarded to those that display it improperly. Ed Sitton suggested that we present with the certificate with a copy of the rules of flag etiquette. This suggestion was well received by all.

President Tetrick led the recessional and Chaplain Washburn benediction. The meeting adjourned at 1:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Yarnell
Chapter Secretary

APRIL IN THE REVOLUTION

- April 18, 1775** Paul Revere's Ride.
- April 19, 1775** Battle of Concord and Lexington.
- April 23, 1775** King George III declares the Colonies to be in a State of Rebellion.
- April 26, 1777** The Ride of Sybil Ludington. She was 16 years old and her father was a Colonel in the militia in Putnam County, New York. A Patriot messenger arrives at their home with news that nearby Danbury, Ct. was ransacked by the British and that they were heading to Fredricksburg, NY to destroy another Patriot supply center. The messenger was too tired to continue and Colonel Ludington was needed to organize the militia. Sybil volunteered to ride and inform the militia. She rode 40 miles that night, informing the residents of what happened and issuing a call to arms. Sybil returned safe the next day. Enough militia turned out to cause the British to retreat to Long Island.
- April 27, 1777** Battle of Ridgefield, CT. The Americans, led by Benedict Arnold, defeats the British.
- April 8, 1780** British warships enter Charleston Harbor. As the British deployed around Charleston, They noticed a plantation home overlooking the Congaree River. It was the home of Rebecca Motte. The location was ideally located for a fortified outpost. The British took over the home. Rebecca and the Patriots wanted them out. The plan was to burn the British out and Rebecca supplied the fire arrows for the job. The British left and the Patriots were able to move in and extinguish the fire, saving most of the home.
- April 25, 1781** Battle of Hobkirk's Hill.
- April 4, 1782** Sir Guy Carleton replaces General Clinton as the British commander in America.
- April 12, 1782** Battle of Les Saintes.
Benjamin Franklin and Richard Oswald begin peace talks in Paris.
- April 16, 1782** General Washington establishes the headquarters of the American Army at Newburgh, New York.
- April 19, 1782** The Netherlands recognizes the United States of American through the efforts of John Adams.
- April 11, 1783** **Congress officially declares an end to the Revolutionary War.**
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Women of Interest

Deborah Sampson/Samson wanted to fight for independence. She cut her hair and bound her chest with a cloth. She enlisted in the 4th Massachusetts Regiment in 1778, using the name of her brother, Robert Shirliff. She was wounded in battle but it was a fever that gave her away. The fever was not fatal but the doctor discovered her secret. He had her nursed in his home. After the war, Deborah was given an honorable discharge. Her husband was the only man to receive a widower's pension from the Revolutionary War.

Margaret Corbin followed her husband when he joined the Army. At first she cooked and preformed other duties for the soldiers. Her husband served in the artillery as a matross, the person who loads the cannon. During the Battle of Fort Washington in New York, her husband took over as gunner when the gunner was killed. Molly stepped in as matross. Her husband was also killed and Margaret was hit and left for dead. She recovered but was permanently disabled, her left arm mangled by grapeshot. She recovered from her wound and because of her bravery was made a member of the Invalid Regiment. She received the nickname of "Captain Molly". "Captain Molly" Corbin was the first woman to receive a pension for wounds received in battle. A monument at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point marks her grave.

Grace and Rachel Martin of South Carolina learned that a British courier would be passing through their area with important documents. Their husbands were off fighting in another part of the State and so they decided to intercept the courier. Wearing their husband's clothes and carrying rifles, the ladies laid in wait and ambushed the courier and his two guards at night. The British gave up the documents without a fight. The enemy decided to return to their post but first stopped for a night's rest at a nearby home. The next morning they ate breakfast with the owner, Mrs. Martin, and briefly spoke with her daughter in laws, Grace and Rachel.



Ed Sitton of the Military Order of the Purple Heart presents Rodney J. Stebbins, Korean War Veteran, a "Letter of Appreciation". This Letter is from the people of South Korea to those who fought for the freedom of South Korea during the Korean War.



Ed Sitton presents another "Letter of Appreciation" from the people of South Korea to Joseph B. Hill, Jr.



Tampa Chapter President Dwight Tetric presents Cadet Petty Officer First Class Precious Neal of the King High Navy R.O.T.C. the SAR Bronze R.O.T.C. Certificate and Medal at the Offsite Inspection Ceremony on March 20, 2003.



Tampa Chapter President Dwight Tetric presents Ed Sitton of the Military Order of the Purple Heart with a SAR "Certificate of Appreciation".



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED