The Tampa Patriot

Newsletter of The Tampa Chapter, Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution

Volume V · Issue V | **PATRIOTIC ⚑ HISTORIC ⚑ EDUCATIONAL** | **September 2005**

PRESIDENT
Jack C. Bolen
2217 Boxwood Way
Brandon, Florida 33511
(813) 685-4026
jbolen@mindspring.com

VICE-PRESIDENT
Edward J. Neugaard
11629 Carrollwood Drive
Tampa, Florida 33618
(813) 932-3556
neugaardn@yahoo.com

SECRETARY/TREASURER
Kevin A. Yarnell
7507 Summerbridge Drive
Tampa, Florida 33634
(813) 249-5608
kayarnell@hotmail.com

SURGEON
Walter W. Lane, Jr., MD
14033 Shady Shores
Carrollwood, Florida 33613
(813) 968-6700
waltlanc@msn.com

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
Robert Alan Bell
2603 Heatherwood Drive
Tampa, Florida 33618
(813) 968-9014

CHAPLAIN
Luther Lloyd
819 Freedom Plaza Circle #207
Sun City Center, Florida 33573
(813) 642-9450
lloydlr6@quixnet.net

HISTORIAN
Robert Yarnell
7401 Cypress Drive
New Port Richey, Florida 34653
(727) 849-4452
rsyarn@aol.com

REGISTRAR/PAST PRESIDENT
Dwight Tetrick
19126 Amelia Circle
Lutz, Florida 33558
(813) 949-4746
cimmax@msn.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Kenneth R. Skillman
Post Office Box 10682
Tampa, Florida 33679
(813) 545-2446
k.skillman@lexiconmedia.com

The Most Famous Song In America

On September 13, 1814, the most famous song in America was born — our national anthem. At that time, an American flag containing 15 stripes and 15 stars, one for each state, flew over Ft. McHenry in Baltimore Harbor. The flag was made by Mrs. Mary Pickersgill, her daughter, and two nieces. It was an enormous one, forty two feet in length, each stripe was almost two feet in width, and it could been seen at a great distance. America and Britain were at war and the British fleet was in Baltimore Harbor, determined to demolish Ft. McHenry and capture the city of Baltimore. As the sun set that day, Ft. McHenry's enormous American flag could be seen waiving against the skyline. The British fleet maintained an intense bombardment of the fort all during the night, yet at sunrise the fort was still there and the flag still waved proudly from its walls. This spectacular sight inspired Francis Scott Key to write the poem "The Star Spangled Banner," which later became our national anthem.

(continued on page 6)

OUR NEXT LUNCHEON MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2005

The location is the PICCADILLY CAFETERIA, 11810 Dale Mabry Highway North, Tampa, Florida (telephone 963-1660) in their private room at 11:30 AM. 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.

Minutes of the April 16, 2005 meeting of the Tampa Chapter SAR

President Bolen called the meeting to order at 12:00. Chaplain Luke Lloyd offered the invocation. The President led the pledge to the flag and the pledge to the SAR.

Members present: Jack Bolen, Luke Lloyd, Rodney Stebbins, Alan Bell, Marty Miller, Ken Skillman, Dan Stutzman, Walter Lane, and Kevin Yarnell.

Welcome guests: June Bolen, Jeanne Lloyd, Dr. John Sessums, and Chuck Sheldon two prospective members, seven cadets, two JROTC instructors, and seven other guests.

The president introduced the members and guests.

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

The secretary briefly reported on the status of presenting the JROTC medals to local high schools and asked for volunteers willing to do so.

The treasurer reported a current balance of $2,336.13.

Chaplain Lloyd reported that he had contacted Ted Dickerson and Elwin Thrasher. Both are not in good health.

Dwight Tetrick, registrar, reported on the status of several new and prospective new members. The list was significant.

Dwight also reported on the status of the Liberty Tree. The dedication will be on May 7th at 1:30pm in Al Lopez Park. As you enter the park there is a pavilion on the right and the tree is near this pavilion. We hope to have the color guard from the Clearwater chapter attend.

President Jack Bolen presents Janett Tetrick with the NSSAR Martha Washington Medal to honor her for substantial contributions to the SAR.

President Bolen reported that the potential joint meeting with St. Petersburg SAR is on track. Next month we will discuss in greater detail the specifics of what we'd like the meeting to be.

Under old business the secretary reported that the current balance of the genealogy fund is $175 and asked if the members might consider a donation of $100 to Dr. Philip Levy. Dr. Levy is a professor at USF who spoke at our February meeting on an archeological dig of the early home of George Washington in Fredericksburg. After some discussion, Ken Skillman moved that the donation be made. The motion was seconded and passed without dissent.

The president presented Dwight Tetrick with a certificate of appreciation for all his work as past president. He also presented Janet Tetrick with the George Washington Medal for her work with the members in helping with their membership applications.

There being no other business the meeting recessed for lunch.

President Bolen called the meeting to order.

Kevin Yarnell then took the floor and gave a brief presentation on the Separation of Powers within the Federal Government.

He began with some introductory remarks for the benefit of the guests where in he gave some background of the SAR and the JROTC award.

The first section of the presentation gave a definition of the term 'separation of powers' and then examined how this played out in our government. For example, the executive branch appoints federal judges, but they must be confirmed by the senate. Further, judges effectively receive life appointments. This avoids a situation where a judge must continually win favor with the executive branch in order to retain the appointment.

The presentation then moved to the questions: Why did the framers include the concept of separation of powers and how did they arrive at the specific mix of powers outlined in the constitution. The answer to the first question is simply fear. They did not trust that the consolidation of power would always yield effective, non-tyrannical government, and they had plenty of historical examples to back up their fears. The framers arrived at the specific mix of powers in large measure due to compromise. The separation of the legislature into two houses is an example where comprise, in this case over equal representation of large and small states, created a check on power.

A look at the Federalist Papers gave additional insight into the thinking of the framers. The speaker pointed out to the cadets how the development of the argument in numbers 47 and 48 is a fine example of FCAT writing.

The speaker then moved to the Terrie Schiavo case as a recent

Back row, left to right:
Donald Dyer,
Daniel Ruiz,
Chris Baughman,
Justin Downs

Front row, left to right:
Joshua Pratts,
Timothy Lee,
Chris Reiff

ROTC Award Recipients (not pictured):
University of South Florida Army Cadet Brian Byerly, University of Tampa Army Cadet Brian Knotts, University of South Florida Navy Midshipman John E. Sailors USMC, and University of South Florida Air Force Cadet Stephanie Raffo.

example where the application of the separation of powers played out. The specific issue examined was the federal law that allowed the Federal courts to hear the case. Quoting first from the federal district court and then from the eleventh circuit court, the speaker showed how the judges deemed the law unconstitutional and discussed how, regardless of a persons moral views of the case, the system worked as intended and as we need it to work.

In concluding, he reminded the cadets that they share attributes that the membership values in our ancestors and encouraged them to continue to exhibit these character traits.

President Bolen then presented the SAR JROTC awards to the following outstanding cadets:

Joshua Pratts, Brandon High School
Daniel Ruiz, Hillsborough High School
Timothy Lee, Ridgewood High School
Donald Dyer, Tampa Bay Technical School
Justin Downs, East Bay High School
Christopher Baughman, Wharton High School
Chris Reiff, Gaither High School

The 50/50 drawing was won by Janett Tetrick and the treasury thus enriched by $3.00.

Vice President Bolen led the recessional and Chaplain Lloyd gave the benediction. The meeting adjourned at 1:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Yarnell
Chapter Secretary

Minutes of the May 21, 2005 meeting of the Tampa Chapter SAR

In the absence of the President and Vice President, Compatriot Dwight Tetrick acted as chair for the meeting and called the membership to order at 12:00. He offered the invocation. Rod Stebbins led the pledge to the flag and the secretary led the pledge to the SAR.

Members present: Rodney Stebbins, Alan Bell, Marty Miller, Joe Hill, and Kevin Yarnell.

Welcome guests: Janett Tetrick, and three prospective members: Michael Carnes, Al Smallwood, and Curtis Beck.

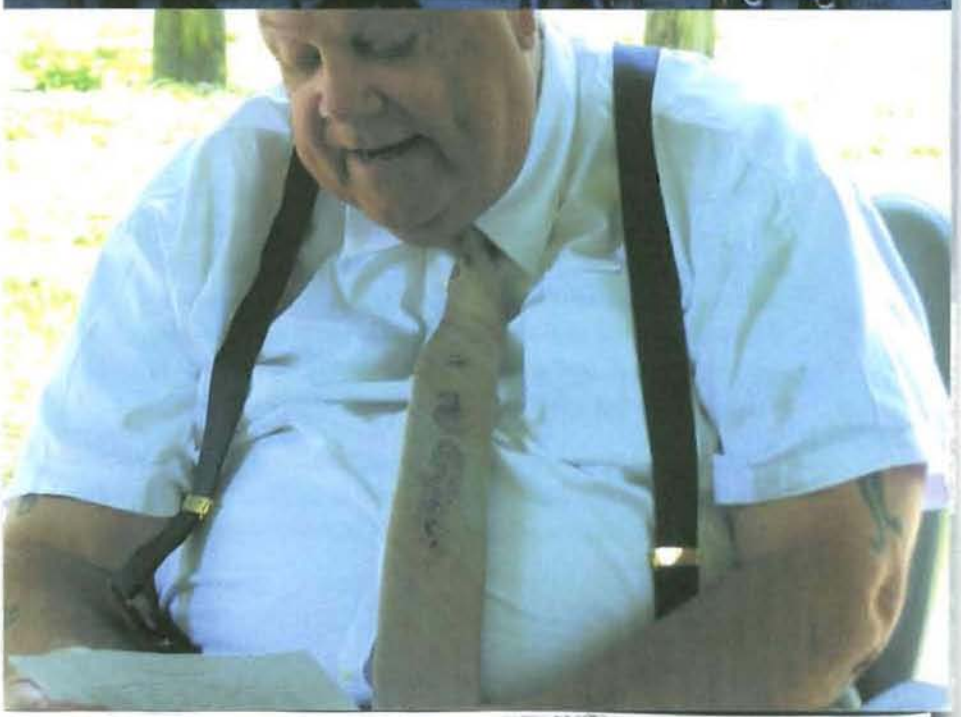
The president introduced the members and guests.

The minutes of the April meeting have not yet been printed so they were not approved by the membership.

The secretary read two thank you notes from JROTC cadets who had received our award. In total we presented 4 senior ROTC and 18 JROTC awards. He also presented the chapter with a participation ribbon from the Chapter Challenge Contest awarded at the State Annual Meeting. Even though we submitted more points for our activities in 2004 than in prior years, we did not place in the top three in our division.

The state society is forming a speaker's bureau. The secretary requested that any member interested in participating submit their name to him so he could send the information on to the state coordinator.

(continued on page 6)



Our Liberty Tree

A baby at birth struggles for its freedom, and that fight is as natural as life itself. Our need for Liberty is not unlike this same struggle. There is not a living creature or plant that does not possess this same feeling, thought or drive. We are not unlike this Liberty Tree. We, like this tree, are well rooted and fed with the nutrients provided by nature. This tree will serve as our symbol of our well-rooted faith that our Liberty is founded in this same struggle of freedom.

We are constantly reminded that if we are to survive, we must have nutrition. As such, it will always be our responsibility to feed this tree as we must feed ourselves. Our Liberty and Freedom is guarded and nurtured as well. This tree will serve as a reminder that we have a responsibility to maintain this very precious concept.

As this tree grows, so must our thoughts grow with it. This tree is dedicated to our Liberty and to all of our heroes, patriots and veterans that have sacrificed so much. It is appropriate that we honor their contributions with our memory. Now let us dedicate our lives to the many that have maintained and will continue our Freedom.

We the Sons of the American Revolution dedicate this Liberty Tree to the memory of all those who have passed before us and to those Americans yet to come.

At left from top: Past President Dwight Tetrick conducts the ceremonies for those present. The color guard formed by compatriots dressed in authentic period costumes. Captain Rod Stebbins reads his inspiring dedication (which is printed above). At right from top: The plaque which commemorates our Liberty Tree at Al Lopez Park. SAR and City of Tampa representatives pose for a photo in front of the Liberty Tree. On behalf of the Tampa Chapter SAR Dwight Tetrick receives a plaque from City of Tampa representative Judith Dato. Special thanks goes to Luke Lloyd for his excellent photo contributions.

"Our Liberty Tree"
In Memory of the
Sons of the American Revolution
Tampa Chapter
"In appreciation of our freedom"
2003-2004 A.D.

(continued from page 3)

The treasurer reported a current balance of $2,264.25. This included a check from the Endowment Trust Fund for $225 in reimbursement for our 2004 ROTC awards expenses and a $57 dues rebate check from the state society.

Dwight Tetrick, as registrar, reported on the status of several new and prospective new members. The list was significant.

Dwight also reported on the dedication of the Liberty Tree that took place on May 7th at 1:30pm in Al Lopez Park. A nice group attended including the color guard from the Clearwater chapter.

There being no other business the meeting recessed for lunch.

Compatriot Tetrick called the meeting to order and presented Allan Bell with a supplemental certificate that had recently been approved. Supplemental applications were explained for the benefit of the prospective members.

Unfortunately, the arrangements for our annual presentation of the fire safety award had not been made. The membership instead spent some time in informal discussion primarily centered various ancestral societies and the research necessary to join.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Rod Stebbins who donated his winnings to the chapter and the treasury was thus enriched by $18.00.

Compatriot Tetrick led the recessional and gave the benediction. The meeting adjourned at 1:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Yarnell
Chapter Secretary

(continued from page 1)

Frank Kingston (Rep-GA) tells the story:

House of Representatives June 14, 1995 —

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. Kingston] is recognized for 5 minutes.

"Mr. Speaker....Our favorite flag story is the one about Francis Scott Key. One of the things we always know is he was on a British ship, but we do know what he was doing there. He was not a captive. His friend was a captive. He went to the British ship voluntarily on behalf of his friend and petitioned the officer in charge to release his friend, who was a doctor, for humanitarian purposes. He said, 'This gentleman is a doctor. He needs to come and tend to the sick and the wounded just as your British doctors do.' And the British officer in charge was so taken back by his bravery in risking his own life in coming out there, and, you see, there were actually two of them totally. He said, 'I will tell you what, I will let all three of you guys go in the morning. We are attacking Fort McHenry through the night.' They were, frankly, very confident they could win and capture Fort McHenry. What happened, of course, is Francis Scott Key and his friends were sitting on the ship, bow of the ship, standing there captives, watching through the night, trying to figure out what would happen, and then at the dawn's early light they were able to determine, of course, by the sign, the American flag still standing or still flying, that the British were, in fact, not successful in taking Fort McHenry. He started writing the poem, which became the national anthem, on his way back, because the British officer kept his word, let him go, starting writing the poem, finished it later. It took about 130 years for Congress to declare that the national anthem."

After the War of 1812, the Ft. McHenry flag was used in a reception honoring General Lafayette; during the Civil War it was sent to England for safe keeping. One of the first photographs was taken of it on June 24, 1873 as it flew over the Charleston Naval Yards. The flag was loaned to the Smithsonian for a Centennial Celebration in 1876 and it was finally donated to the Smithsonian in 1912.

POW/MIA Tribute

You will notice a small table in a place of honor. It is set for one with four service hats representing the four branches of the United States military. They are the U.S. Air Force, Navy, Marines, and the Army. The military caste is filled with symbolism. This table is our way symbolizing the fact that members of our profession of arms are missing from our midst. They are commonly called POW/MIA, we call them brothers. They are unable to be with us this evening and so we remember them because of the incarnation.

- Table set for one is small – Symbolizes the frailty of one prisoner alone against his oppressors. Remember!
- The tablecloth is white – Symbolizes the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms.
- Single yellow rose – Symbolizes remembrance displayed in a vase, reminds us of the families and loved ones of our comrades-in-arms who keep faith awaiting their return.
- Red ribbon tied on the vase – Reminiscent of the red ribbons worn upon the lapel and breasts of thousands who bear witness to their unyielding determination to demand proper accounting of our missing.
- Slice of lemon on the bread plate – Reminds us of their bitter fate.
- Salt upon the bread plate – Symbolic of the families' tears as they wait.
- Inverted glass – Reminds us they cannot toast with us.
- Empty chair – Reminds us they are not here.

A Message From Our President

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable summer in spite of the heat. It must just be that I am getting older but the heat this summer has been tougher for me to endure than any time in the 30 plus years we have lived in Florida.

My work use to take me to Charleston and Homestead, so I saw the effects of Hugo and Andrew first hand. I will never forget driving through the Francis Marion National Forest on the coast north of Charleston. Every tree was clipped off at the same level, about 20 feet above the ground. It looked like a giant had gone through with a lawn mower. Homestead, of course, was virtually wiped off the map. That said I have never seen the destruction and desolation that Katrina has wreaked on New Orleans, Biloxi, etc. The flooding in the New Orleans area is unprecedented.

The trees in the forest have grown back and Homestead has been rebuilt even better than before. I have to wonder what and how long it will take to rebuild New Orleans or even if it ever will happen.

It also concerns me to see how fragile the line is between order and chaos. Thank God for the men and women that enforce our laws and keep and preserve the peace and the emergency response people who come to our rescue. We will honor a person from law enforcement in October and a firefighter in November. I hope you will mark your calendars now for those meetings and let's show up in force to show our appreciation.

Jack Bolen
President

FLSSAR Speaker's Bureau

Compatriot Bill Piper is working to organize a FLSSAR Speaker's Bureau in order to appropriately utilize the talents of certain members and (possibly) others to provide interesting speakers for Florida Chapters—and to other groups—in order to assist with programs and provide improved SAR visibility in our communities.

To accomplish these tasks, we are requesting that interested Compatriots volunteer to become members of this new group. If you are so inclined, please furnish the following information:

Your name and chapter.
Ways to contact you (address, phone, e-mail).
Area in which you are willing to serve (examples: "limit" in miles, "all of Florida").
Subject(s) on which you are willing to speak.

Having this service available will both increase our general knowledge about that Revolutionary War and provide information on other topics of interest to our members. It also will raise the visibility of the SAR on many levels. Please send appropriate information to:

Compatriot W. B. Piper, 3619 Reston Drive,
The Villages, FL 32162

or e-mail to: jannbill@thevillages.net

The information about speakers will be processed and, then, published in the near future. Your assistance in this regard is greatly appreciated.

Kenneth R. Skillman
Newsletter Editor
Post Office Box 10682
Tampa, Florida 33679-0682

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

SEPTEMBER SAR NEWS INSIDE!

September Meeting Program

The September program will be, "Looking South: Savannah to Yorktown and the End of the Revolution." Compatriot Jack Bolen will discuss the The Southern Strategy, the final strategy used by the British in an attempt to win the war. Our forefathers from many different colonies had to overcome tremendous odds to defeat Lord Cornwallis in Georgia and the Carolinas, keep the Revolution alive in the South and force the final showdown at Yorktown.

Chapter Notes

Please visit the Chapter Website at:
www.patriot-web.com
and the National SAR Website at:
www.sar.org

Our next two meetings will be held on September 17 and October 15, 2005 – please mark your calendars.