The Tampa Patriot

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

Volume VI · Issue V | PATRIOTIC ⚑ HISTORIC ⚑ EDUCATIONAL | May 2006

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) 767-0270
kayarnell@hotmail.com

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

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
Robert Alan Bell
2603 Heatherwood Drive
Tampa, Florida 33618
(813) 968-9014
brimeremama@netzero.com

CHAPLAIN
Richard Hardesty
3106 Indigo Place
Seffner, Florida 33584
(813) 654-7032
rhardest@tampabay.rr.com

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

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Kenneth R. Skillman
619 Commiston Lane
Lutz, Florida 33549
(813) 545-2446
k.skillman@lexiconmedia.com

New Weapons, New Leaders

On May 10, 1775, Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold lead a successful attack on Fort Ticonderoga in upstate New York, while the Second Continental Congress assembles in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Congress faced the task of conducting a war already in progress. Fighting had begun with the Battle of Lexington and Concord on April 19, and Congress needed to create an official army out of the untrained assemblage of militia laying siege on Boston.

The transformation of these rebels into the Continental Army was assisted by the victory of the Vermont and Massachusetts militia under the joint command of Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold at the British garrison at Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain. Their major achievement was to confiscate enough British cannon to make the Patriot militias into an army capable of an artillery barrage.

Arial view of Fort Ticonderoga in upstate New York.

Allen and more than 100 of his "Green Mountain Boys" had already decided to take the fort when Arnold arrived with formal military commissions from Massachusetts and Connecticut and a militia of his own. The Green Mountain Boys were unwilling to follow anyone but Allen into battle, so Allen and Arnold shared command as the Patriot militia surprised and overwhelmed the 50 Redcoats in the isolated garrison, who were completely unaware of the bloodshed in Massachusetts. The cannon seized at Ticonderoga and the next day at Crown Point, also on Lake Champlain, allowed the new Continental Army under General George Washington to drive the British from Boston the following spring.

(continued on page 5)

OUR NEXT LUNCHEON MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2006

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 15, 2006 Meeting of the Tampa Chapter SAR

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

Members present: Jack Bolen, Luke Lloyd, Marty Miller, John Skillman, Richard Hardesty, Alan Bell, and Kevin Yarnell.

Welcome guests: June Bolen, Jean Lloyd, Roger Quakenbush, Ron Taylor – a prospective member, Lt Col. Guy Walsh of Brandon High School, 4 cadets and their guests (15 total).

The president introduced the guests.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved.

The secretary reported only typical monthly activity during the past month. The Florida Society Annual meeting is April 28th and 29th in Gainesville and he will be attending in his capacity as state secretary and to represent the chapter.

The treasurer reported a balance of $1898.19.

The registrar, Luke Lloyd, gave an update on the status of those applying for membership.

The president asked that those members interested in forming a color guard meet for a few minutes following dismissal.

The president announced that a Meritorious Service Award will be given to Rod Stebbins at a private presentation as Rod is unable to attend meetings.

Richard Hardesty asked that the chapter consider holding a meeting at a location in the Brandon area. The president said he'd publish this suggestion in the newsletter to gage the reaction.

There being no further business the meeting recessed for lunch.

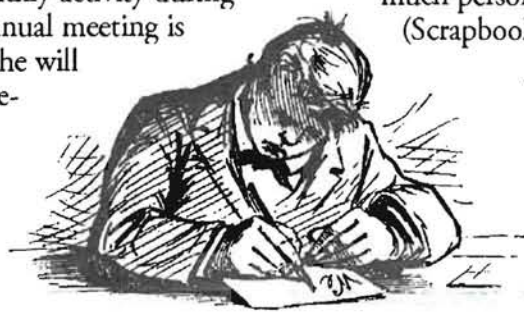
116th Annual Congress, NSSAR
July 2-6, 2006
Dallas, Texas
www.sar.org/news/congress/116thcongress.html

Summer 2006 BOM Meeting, FLSSAR
August 25-26, 2006
Kissimmee, Florida
www.flssar.org/meet.html

President Bolen reconvened the meeting and began the second half of the meeting by awarding the secretary a Meritorious Service Medal from the chapter. He then turned the program over to the secretary who addressed the cadets, their families, and the membership on the topic, "Are You an Historian?"

Compatriot Yarnell began by defining the problem of "lost history" especially as it relates to personal histories. He pointed out that modern sporting events are given additional meaning because the commentators can use historical information to put an athlete's or team's accomplishments into perspective. Records and statistics give added meaning to these events.

The problem is that this type of thing is not done nearly enough. How many minor/H.S. athletic teams keep good records? (Most schools can barely keep track of their major school records.) How many clubs can give a list of all their past members, past officers or past award winners? How much personal history do each of us have recorded? (Scrapbooks? Photo albums? Time lines?)



The presenter then challenged the audience to begin to change this. He discussed some examples of successes in this area and then ideas of how to proceed. Listed here is an outline of these suggestions:

Find history worth capturing (don't need to look too far) • Clubs and sports • Lists of members, officers • Lists of awards • Timeline / summaries • Family • Stories / legends • Timeline • Personal • Things related to your hobbies (ex: cycling log, book list) • Stories; (vacation log) • Decide how to keep / record the information • Paper vs. computer • Convenience • How will the data be used • Website as a possibility • Be creative • Personal yearbook • Start • Barriers • Sense of being overwhelmed • May not need to collect back info; maybe we can start now • Ease of maintaining

The secretary concluded by addressing the question, "What's in it for you?" and encouraged those in attendance to begin to capture their history.

Following the remarks, President Bolen presented the JROTC awards to the cadets in attendance.

One of our guests won the 50/50 drawing. The treasury was thus enriched by $8.00.

President Bolen led the recessional. Chaplain Hardesty gave the benediction. The meeting adjourned at 1:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Yarnell
Chapter Secretary

President Jack Bolen presents Kevin Yarnell with the SAR Meritorious Service Award for his many years of outstanding service to the chapter.

Captain Rod Stebbins receives the SAR Meritorious Service Award for his loyal dedication and numerous exceptional contributions to the Tampa chapter. In attendance were Luke Lloyd, Jack Bolen and Ed Neugaard.

A Message From Our President

I recently had the privilege of presenting the NSSAR's Meritorious Service Medal to compatriot Rodney Stebbins, Sr. Making the presentation with me was Vice President Ed Neugaard and Chapter Registrar Luke Lloyd. This medal is awarded to members who have "rendered long, faithful and meritorious service to their chapter." Captain Rod, as most of you know, played a major role in developing and maintaining our website and assisting past president Dwight Tetrick with the Liberty Tree project. Rod also was instrumental in developing and maintaining a geological database for chapter members that now has approximately 170,000 names!

We awarded the medal at Rod's home since his health makes it difficult for him to attend meetings. The good news is that he looked and felt good the day we were there and said that he may be able to attend some meetings in the future. I'm sure we are all looking forward to seeing his smiling face soon.

Leaving Rod's house, I thought about the members that over the years have stepped forward to render the service required by our chapter. I thought of soldiers in long ago armies. Most soldiers followed orders and did what was required. Others, unfortunately, were "slackers" who made a career out of trying to get out of doing their duty. But there was one group, small and elite, who carried the colors". These "color bearers" were volunteers who took such pride in their cause that they volunteered to carry the flag into battle knowing full well that this would make them the target of enemy soldiers and sharp shooters! Rod is a color bearer. Our chapter will continue to need new color bearers to render services to keep us viable. ARE YOU A COLOR BEARER?

Jack Bolen
President

"Those that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty or safety."

– Benjamin Franklin

2006 SAR Tampa Chapter ROTC Awards

Past President Dwight Tetrick (Tampa Chapter FLSSAR) Presents AS 300 Cadet Gerard Fernandez (AFROTC Detachment at University of South Florida) SAR Silver ROTC Medal. The awards ceremony was held at the annual Military Ball on 21 April 2006 held at Fletcher Hall in the University of Tampa.

Classmates of Cadet Gerard Fernandez. Photo courtesy of Cadet Brian Hart.

Cadet Luke Erickson of University of South Florida Army ROTC was awarded the SAR Silver ROTC Medal at their annual Military Ball 21 April 2006.

Cadets representing several branches of the United States military were presented with SAR Bronze ROTC Medals during the Tampa Chapter's April 15, 2006 meeting.

At the awards ceremony on the University of South Florida parade grounds April 27, 2006, Midshipman 1st Class Lindsay Johnson accepts SAR Silver ROTC Medal from Dwight Tetrick (Tampa Chapter FLSSAR) for her classmate SSgt Dennis Cruz, USMCR in the NROTC.

Dwight Tetrick (Tampa Chapter FLSSAR) presented the SAR Silver ROTC Medal at the annual Military Awards Banquet held at The University of Tampa on April 28, 2006 to Cadet Robert Crapo of the Spartan Battalion AROTC.

New Weapons *(continued from page 1)*

Ironically, both Allen and Arnold would eventually be accused of treason against the Patriot cause they had served so well in its earliest and neediest moments. Allen avoided conviction for his attempt to reattach Vermont to the British empire in the unstable days of the new republic. Arnold's name, however, became synonymous with "traitor" for his attempt to sell the fort at West Point, New York, to the British in 1780. (For some very interesting insights into the character of Benedict Arnold, please see Ben DuBose's article "Who Was The Real Benedict Arnold?" at: www.flssar.org/benarnld.html)

On May 24, 1775, John Hancock was elected president of the Second Continental Congress.

John Hancock is best known for his large signature on the Declaration of Independence, which he jested the British could read "without spectacles." He was serving as president of Congress upon the declaration's adoption on July 4, 1776, and, as such, was the first member of the Congress to sign the historic document.

John Hancock graduated from Harvard University in 1754 at age 17 and, with the help of a large inherited fortune, established himself as Boston's leading merchant. The British customs raid on one of Hancock's ships, the sloop Liberty, in 1768 incited riots so severe that the British army fled the city of Boston to its barracks in Boston Harbor. Boston merchants promptly agreed to a non-importation agreement to protest the British action. Two years later, it was a scuffle between Patriot protestors and British soldiers on Hancock's wharf that set the stage for the Boston Massacre.

Hancock's involvement with Samuel Adams and his radical group, the Sons of Liberty, won the wealthy merchant the dubious distinction of being one of only two Patriots—the other being Sam Adams—that the Redcoats marching to Lexington in April 1775 to confiscate Patriot arms were ordered to arrest. When British General Thomas Gage offered amnesty to the colonists holding Boston under siege, he excluded the same two men from his offer.

While Hancock served as president of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, Samuel Adams' cousin John Adams convinced Congress to place Virginian George Washington in command of the rebel army. In 1776, the Continental Congress declared independence from Great Britain. The next year, John Hancock returned home to Massachusetts, where he served as a major general in the militia and sat in the Massachusetts constitutional convention that adopted the world's first and most enduring constitution in 1780. Having helped to create the new state government, Hancock proceeded to serve as the state's first governor, a position he held on and off until his death in 1793.

Don't Forget This Great Patriot...

Patriot Elias Boudinot was born on May 2, 1740 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Boudinot served in numerous positions during the War for Independence, culminating in his role as president of the Continental Congress from 1782 to1783. As president, he signed the Treaty of Paris, ending hostilities with Great Britain.

The Boudinot family enjoyed lofty connections among the American colonial elite. Elias' father, a silversmith, was Benjamin Franklin's neighbor and friend in Philadelphia. Elias studied law at the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University), where his brother-in-law and future signer of the Declaration of Independence, Richard Stockton, served as his mentor. Elias furthered ties between the two families by marrying Richard's sister, Hannah Stockton, in 1762. Elias' daughter, Susan Boudinot Bradford, married the future chief justice of Pennsylvania and President George Washington's attorney general, William Bradford. Elias' brother, Elisha, pursued a successful legal career, eventually becoming an associate justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey from 1798 to 1804.

After the War of Independence, Boudinot went on to represent New Jersey in the U.S. House of Representatives and served as director of the United States Mint under Presidents Washington, Adams, and Jefferson. Later, Boudinot advocated for the rights of African-Americans and Indians as president of the American Bible Society.

Kenneth R. Skillman
Newsletter Editor
619 Commiston Lane
Lutz, Florida 33549-3867

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TAMPA FL 336
18 MAY 2006 PM 3 T

Chaplain's Corner

Giving Memorial Day Meaning

Paul wrote, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us." (Romans 8:18) Such is the hope that rises in all our hearts as Memorial Day approaches. We all focus on those young men and women who currently man the battlements for us around the world, and who, like their forefathers before them, have gone forth willingly. None know their destiny, but all know they are volunteers. None desire to have their lives cut short, but all know that some will. None seek to be heroes, but all know some walk among them. As we might expect, the destiny of some has already been fulfilled in such a way that this Memorial Day holds sadness for another generation. What will you do to give their lives meaning? We are the only ones that can give their lives meaning, and we must be true to them and their love of liberty, freedom and peace. Do not let them be forgotten!

Richard Hardesty
Chaplain

MAY SAR NEWS INSIDE!

May Program

This month we will present the Fire safety Commendation Medal to Captain William Riley of the Hillsborough County Fi re & Rescue Department. Captain Riley is stationed at the Brandon Fire House located on Bloomingdale Avenue. He is being recognized for his heroic rescue of persons involved in a tragic automobile wreck a few months ago.

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 May 20, 2006 and September 16, 2006 – please mark your calendars.