



*Tampa Chapter  
Sons of the American Revolution  
December 2022*

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## **December Meeting**

The Tampa Chapter is once again sponsoring the Wreaths Across America at the American Legion Post #5 Veterans Cemetery at 3810 W Kennedy Blvd. The formal ceremony is on Saturday, December 17, and will constitute our December Meeting. We will gather informally after the Ceremony to discuss any urgent business. Our Chapter Color Guard will, once again, present the Colors at this Ceremony. The C.A.R. has been invited to join us. The Ceremony starts at 12:00, but you should be there by 11:30.

For those of you not familiar with Wreaths Across America, please go to [wreathscrossamerica.org](http://wreathscrossamerica.org) and learn their story.

## **January Meeting**

The January Meeting (January 21) will be our Annual Officer Installation Luncheon. This year, we have again scheduled this Luncheon at the Bahama Breeze Restaurant at 3045 North Rocky Point Drive, East in Tampa. Cost of lunch is \$40 per person, with your choice of four entrees. **Reservations and payment** must be made with either VP Roger Roscoe at [rogerfla@att.net](mailto:rogerfla@att.net) or Treasurer Will Wagner-Hart at [tampasar.treas@gmail.com](mailto:tampasar.treas@gmail.com) no later than **January 10**.

## November Meeting

The November meeting included our Law Enforcement Recognition where we presented the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal and Certificate to all seven members of the FHP Criminal Interdiction Unit. Pictured below, with President Klug are the five members who were able to attend our meeting.



## Elections

Chapter officers for 2023 are:

President

Vice-President

Secretary & Co-newsletter editor

Treasurer

Registrar & Co-newsletter editor

Chaplain

Sgt at Arms

Members-at-large

Robbie Robinson

Roger Roscoe

Bob Yarnell

Will Wagner-Hart

Dick Young

Matthew Balencie

Darren Acosta

Terry Doan

Thomas Spangler

## American Revolution Note

### Background

My November 2020 column entitled, "A Revolution Not Made but Prevented" offered this thesis: The American colonists did not make a revolution. They prevented one. Between 1763 and 1774, England brought radical change to the colonies. The Crown and Parliament no longer protected the rights of the

American colonists. By fighting a war for Independence, the American colonist stopped that radical change from taking place.

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I subscribe to the BBC History Magazine. In an article on the French Revolution earlier this year, the author noted it was the first revolution of its kind in the world. In the next month's letters to the editor section a person in New York, wrote:

"Marisa Linton states that the French Revolution was the first of its kind in the world. That is not so. The American Revolution of 1776 precedes the 1789 French Revolution. It, too, was a revolution against a monarchy perceived as oppressive and unjust and was also informed by a desire to set up a secular government. ...it's important to note that the American example came a few years before that of France."

Yes, the American break with England did occur prior to the French Revolution, but to say the French Revolution was a copy of or similar to the American break with England is a stretch. It is even more of a stretch to say that the American "revolution" heralded or predicted what the French Revolution would be. To do that is to read history backwards through the prism of a pre-conceived idea that is, at best, disingenuous.

There are many differences between the two events. First, as I have argued several times, the Americans seceded from the British Empire to regain the rights they had lost during the period 1763-1775. Opposition to the measures passed by Parliament, not disloyalty to George III, led to the rebellion.

Second, when you get to the end of the War for Independence and on into the late 1780's, the same people who served in the various colonial legislatures, now served in Congress or the legislatures of the states. In other words, the American revolt did not eat its young. In fact, after the war, the political establishment marginalized the more radical of the influential colonists prior to the war, most notably Patrick Henry and Thomas Paine.

Third, there was no reign of terror. It is true that in the back country of the Carolinas and Georgia old feuds were settled, some of which had only the most tenuous connection to the war. But neither the state governments, nor the Continental Congress sponsored or endorsed the liquidation of any group or class of people. The Americans did not send Catholic nuns to the guillotine. An orgy of slaughter did not decimate the land holding aristocracy.

Lastly, I don't know that I've ever heard that the setting up of a secular government was a goal of the American rebels. That would imply that the previous government was religious in nature or even a theocracy. There was no theocracy in the American colonies and while the clergy had influence over their congregations, more so in New England than the south, the clergy did not run the government. Yes, the Anglican church was the established church in England and in most of the southern colonies, but that did not prohibit other denominations from meeting. The clergy did not run the Parliament in England or the various colonial legislatures. The colonists simply didn't want an established church funded by or beholden to the government.

The difference between the two events was best summarized by Edmund Burke, British statesman and philosopher. He pointed out that while the French revolutionaries sought to destroy civilization and remake it in a brutal, heartless mold, the Americans had sought merely to preserve their accustomed liberties against an overreaching Parliament. (Speech on conciliation with America).

That letter to the editor points out something the SAR continues to be concerned about and something I have been writing about, both directly and indirectly, over the past 3-5 years...that the American War for Independence and the events leading up to it need to be taught better and more accurately in the schools. Poorly taught or misrepresented history opens the citizen to manipulation. As Thomas Jefferson wrote, "An educated citizenry is a vital requisite for our survival as a free people."

## **Program Schedule**

Dates and tentative programs for the meeting year are below. As always, feel free to pass along any program/speaker suggestions to President Robbie Robinson, VP Roger Roscoe or Sec. Bob Yarnell

### 2023

- |          |                                                                     |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan. 21  | Officer Installation (Bahama Breeze)                                |
| Feb. 18  | The "Turtle" by William Atkins (SAR member South Shore)             |
| Mar. 18  | EMT/Fire Fighter recognition + speaker (TBD)                        |
| April 16 | JROTC Recognition and<br>Zoom presentation by author Alexander Rose |
| May 20   | tentative: program/speaker from a local history museum.             |

## Other Important Dates

December 14	Death of George Washington (1799)
December 17	Wreaths Across America
February 22	Birth date of George Washington (1732)
April 19	Patriots Day
May 19-20	Florida Society BOM & Annual Meeting - Kissimmee
July 13-20	133 <sup>rd</sup> National Congress, Orlando

## 2023 Congress Volunteers

Some of you have volunteered to work at Congress and have asked what is expected. There is a myriad of possibilities each day ranging from a few hours to all day, with some days going 10-12 hours. First go to the [FLSSAR.ORG](http://FLSSAR.ORG) website and click on the "Congress" button. That will take you to the separate Congress website where you click on the "volunteer" button. This will take you to a list of volunteer activities, by day and will give you an opportunity to select your preferences. If you have questions about a particular activity, feel free to contact Tom Thompson at [tjthompson@gmail.com](mailto:tjthompson@gmail.com) or contact me at [dyoung22@aol.com](mailto:dyoung22@aol.com).

Also, please understand this is a **volunteer** activity; you will not be reimbursed for any travel, meal or lodging expenses.

## Color Guard Events and Opportunities

Since our last meeting, your Color Guard has participated in two events. On December 3, they led the Military Vehicle Preservation Association's line of vintage military vehicles in the Safety Harbor Christmas Parade. Pictured below is the group as they await the start of the Parade. Pictured below (left) are Compatriots Bill Swain, Dick Young (Commander), Matthew Balancie, Robbie Robinson (Chapter President-elect), Walter Arnold (Clearwater) and Terry Doan.



Our Chapter was invited to the Desoto Chapter DAR Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Palma Ciega Golf & Country Club on December 9. We were also asked to present the Colors to open the meeting. Pictured above (right) are the Color Guard members present: Robbie Robinson (Chapter President-elect), Dick Young (Commander), David Bryant, Bill Swain, Joe Dato and Walter Arnold (Clearwater). Joining them are Laura Glass Desoto Chapter Regent and the big guy himself. Other Tampa Chapter members present were Oscar Westerfield, Bud Werner and Darren Acosta. Chapter President-elect Robbie Robinson made a presentation on uniforms of the Revolutionary era. As part of his presentation, Robbie presented Regent Laura Glass the SAR Medal of Appreciation for the many SAR referrals she has sent our way (most of which included her assistance in preparing the application) as well as her reaching out to our chapter as Regent.



## Opportunities

December 17                      Wreaths Across America

As we have for many years, the Tampa Color Guard will participate by presenting the Colors to open the Ceremony.

We can never have enough Color Guardsmen. If you have any interest in joining the Color Guard, please contact Dick Young, Chapter Commander or any of the members of the Tampa Chapter Color Guard. If you do not want to start with the full Continental Line uniform, we can show you how to get started with a militia "uniform" for much less cost.

## **Minutes for November 19, 2022**

President Charles Klug called the meeting to order at 11:35.

The Pledge of Allegiance and the Sar Pledge were followed by officer and committee reports. The secretary had no correspondence to report but did remind everyone that **dues are due** and with Florida Hosting the National Congress next year, reinstatement might take longer than usual. Treasurer Will Wagner-Hart reported a balance of \$12,568.68 on hand. Do not be misled by that number. Most of it is dues that will be sent to State and National in December. Dick Young gave the color guard report, highlighting welcoming an honor flight. He also updated everyone on the ongoing need for volunteers at the 2023 National Congress in Orlando.

New member certificates were presented to Alan Cheever, Nick and Henry Jewett and David Knisley. Supplementals were presented to Will Wagner-Hart and David Whipkey.

The next order of business was the presenting of the SAR law-enforcement medal to the Criminal Intervention Unit of the Florida Highway Patrol.

The meeting adjourned for lunch just after 12 noon.

The meeting reconvened at 12:35.

David Maxwell a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a Washington-based nonpartisan research institute focusing on national security and foreign policy. Made a presentation, via zoom, on Korea.

The meeting adjourned after the benediction and recessional at 1:40.

*Submitted by Robert Yarnell, Secretary*

## **Miscellaneous Reminders**

The face book page for the Tampa Sons of the American Revolution is Tampa Sar. The password to add anything is American1776.

Please feel free to upload pictures or comments. Invite all your friends to look.

Chapter Website—remember you can find information about the chapter and programs on the chapter website. <http://www.tampasar.org/>

One of the duties of the Chapter Chaplain Balencie is to send cards to our members that are sick. Another is to send a sympathy card to the family of a member who has passed away. If you know of anyone that should be the recipient

of these cards, please mention it to the Chaplain or one of the other officers at our next meeting.

If you are aware of any Tampa Chapter compatriot who suffered damage or injury as a result of the recent hurricane, please let one of the chapter officers know as soon as possible.