



Tampa Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
February 2023

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February meeting

The next meeting of the Tampa Chapter Sons of the American Revolution will be held on Saturday February 18th. at the Innovation Partnership space at University Mall. It is located on the Second Floor of the University Mall. Drive to the backside of the mall. You will see a parking garage. Go to the 2nd floor and park. Enter through the door, walk straight until you reach a big hallway, turn right. Walk 30 or so feet and the room will be on your left.

From 11:30-12 we will have our business meeting. This will include the reports of the VP, secretary, treasurer, registrar and any other officers or committees needing to make a report. Then any old business followed by new business.

We will then adjourn to the food court for lunch. We will reconvene at 12:30. Bill Atkins of the South Shore Chapter will give a presentation about the Revolutionary War submarine "Turtle". Originally from Harrisburg, PA, Bill served as a US Navy Electrician's Mate 2nd class and qualified as an electrical operator on

Naval Nuclear Propulsion plants. He later earned his commission as a Naval officer after receiving his bachelor's degree from the Pennsylvania State University. Upon graduation, Bill reported to the Navy's Nuclear Propulsion program for the second time, this time as an officer. Upon completing the program Bill reported to his first duty station, the fast attack submarine USS Miami (SSN-755) homeported in Groton, CT. While assigned to the **Miami**, Bill deployed to the Persian Gulf and to the North Atlantic, earned his Submarine Warfare designation (aka "Dolphins"), and qualified as a Naval Nuclear Propulsion Engineer. Following the **Miami**, Bill reported to the Navy's Submarine School as an instructor, teaching submarine operations to new junior officers and prospective Department Heads. Bill also served on the **USS Annapolis** (SSN-760), also based in Groton, before leaving the Navy to pursue a career in the private sector.

Bill's civilian career has included roles in training, project, product and service management in several industries including software, safety and security, healthcare supply chain and higher education. He is currently an eLearning Specialist for a marketing technology company designing, developing and deploying online training programs.

In addition to his bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Penn State, Bill also holds a Master's degree in Instructional Technology Management from LaSalle University and an active Project Management Professional (PMP) certification.

January Meeting

This was our Annual Installation Luncheon. This year we met at the Bahama Breeze Restaurant. RVP Parks Honeywell installed President Robbie Robinson and the other officers.



President Robinson inducted new member Walter Oswald. On the Friday before the meeting, President Robinson met with Jason Bell, a native of Tampa and now a resident and college professor in the Czech Republic, to present him with his

membership certificate and a brief induction ceremony at the John Germany Library. New compatriot Bell had to leave for home on Saturday and was not able to attend our meeting. Other medals and awards were presented by outgoing President Charles Klug as well as newly installed President Robinson.



See the minutes of the meeting below.

American Revolution Note

Last month we introduced Bernardo Galvez, Governor of Spanish Louisiana, and wrote about his successful military campaigns to recapture for Spain what is now Mississippi from England in 1779 and to recapture Mobile in 1780. We now turn to the story of the recapture of Pensacola.

British reinforcements arriving in Pensacola in April 1780 caused Galvez to delay his planned advance towards Pensacola in early 1780. After receiving some additional supplies, he sailed from Mobile in October. A hurricane struck the fleet, scattering the ships. The fleet regrouped in Havana. Finally, on Feb 13, 1781, Galvez sailed from Havana. The fleet arrived off Pensacola on March 9. After offloading supplies and enough men to garrison a battery on Santa Rosa Island, he gave the order to sail into the bay. The first ship ran aground, and the senior naval commander refused to risk anymore ships. On March 18, Galvez took

charge of the ships that had come with him from Mobile and, sailing in the lead ship, led them into the bay.

To the north of the main British fort, Ft. George*, the British had constructed two small redoubts/batteries. Galvez landed north of those, and his engineers began preparing for a siege. Despite several British sorties to interrupt the digging of trenches and disrupt the work, the Spanish finished their preparations and opened up on the nearest British fortification on April 30. One week prior to that, Galvez received reinforcements from Havana as well as more equipment. The Spanish now outnumbered the British in both men and artillery.

A hurricane struck on May 5/6. This resulted in the Spanish fleet being withdrawn but Galvez continue the siege. On May 8th a Spanish artillery shell struck the powder magazine of Ft. Crescent, also referred to as the Queen's Redoubt. The resulting explosion killed over 50 British soldiers and the rest withdrew to nearby Prince of Wales Redoubt or back to Ft. George.

The Spanish quickly overran Ft. Crescent, brought up artillery and began their bombardment of the main British fortifications. Realizing he could not long resist the Spanish firepower, British Gen. John Campbell surrendered on May 10th.

An interesting side note. Campbell wrote a memoir about the siege of Pensacola which the State of Florida reprinted in 1976 at the time of the bicentennial. In it, Campbell not only defends and explains his actions but goes to the point of stating that he, in fact, "won" because he "forced" Galvez to give him the most generous surrender terms given to any British force that surrendered during the war. For example, Galvez transported all British survivors to New York via Havana. This upset the Americans but please remember, Spain had declared war on England but had not signed an alliance with the Continental Congress. A more accurate version recalls that Galvez had no place to keep British prisoners and wanted to get on with the job of reorganizing and governing West Florida.

The King of Spain promptly promoted Galvez to Lt. General and then to Viceroy of New Spain. He pursued enlightened policies toward the native American population. Writing, ..." if the Indians are not our friends...it is only just compensation for the affronts we have caused them, the lies we have told them and the tyrannies they have suffered from us." He introduced a new model for interactions between the Spanish and the indigenous population. His policies resulted in the pacification of most of New Spain's northern border and even ended the sporadic warfare between the Spanish and the Apache in what is now

west Texas. He also encouraged science and began several building projects, including the building of Chapultepec Castle in Mexico City.

Unfortunately, his reign as Viceroy did not last long. A typhus epidemic swept through the area in 1786 and Galvez succumbed to it in Nov of that year. An alternate version of his death is that many of the Spanish officials in New Spain objected to his changes in Indian policy and as a result, they poisoned him.

Galvez is memorialized in many places. Most notably, Galveston, Texas is named after him and there is a statue of him in front of the U S State Department building in Washington, DC.

- Ft George no longer exists but was located in what is now the main downtown area just north of the AA baseball stadium.

Program Schedule

2023

Feb. 18	The "Turtle" by Wm Atkins (SAR member South Shore)
Mar. 18	EMT/Fire Fighter recognition + "The Alamo of the Revolution" by Jerry Hurwitz
April 15	JROTC recognition + "Washington's Spies; the Story of America's First Spy Ring" by Alexander Rose (via Zoom)
May 20	tentative: program/speaker from a local history museum.

Other Important Dates

Feb 22	Birth date of George Washington
Mar 3-4	National SAR Spring Leadership Conference, Louisville
Apr 13	Birth date of Thomas Jefferson
Apr 19	Patriots Day
May 19-20	Florida SAR Spring BOM & Annual Meeting, Kissimmee
May 29	Memorial Day
July 13-20	133 rd National Congress, Orlando

JROTC Medal Presentations

Each of you has the opportunity to make presentations of the SAR JROTC Award to the recipients at the various High School JROTC programs which the Tampa Chapter supports. This is a very rewarding experience; it will help renew your faith in the youth of our nation. There is very little you would have to do other than attend the program. Terry Doan will mail the awards to the school and they will prepare them; you would just sit in the designated area with the other

presenters and, when they announce the award, you would move up and hand the award to the cadet. (You will need to pause to allow family members to take pictures.) You would then return to your seat and depart at the end of the ceremony; these generally last around an hour. We usually wear a navy blazer and khaki pants. Some wear their tri-corn hat but that is not required; some other presenters wear organization polo shirts.

Attached to the email that sent this Newsletter you will find a spreadsheet with the information from the schools which have already provided names and/or dates. Terry will update this as he hears from the schools. Please let him know if you are interested in participating and which event you would like to support. Please also let us know if we can provide any additional information or clarification. (terrydoan127@gmail.com)

2023 Congress Volunteers

Some of you have volunteered to work at Congress and have asked what is expected. There will be a myriad of possibilities each day ranging from a few hours to all day, with some days going 10-12 hours. The Congress Planning Committee has uploaded a list of volunteer activities, by day on the FLSSAR website, which will give you an opportunity to select your preferences. Also, please understand this is a **volunteer** activity; you will not be reimbursed for any travel, meal or lodging expenses.

Color Guard Events & Opportunities

- Feb 18 Florida Society C.A.R. Annual Conference - Orlando
- Mar 4 Florida Society DAR State Conference - Orlando
- Mar 11 Last Naval Battle Commemoration - Merritt Island
- Mar 25 Battle of Thomas Creek Commemoration - Jacksonville
- Apr 15-16 Patriots Day Celebration - Pearce Homestead, Highlands County
- Apr 25 Honor Flight Welcome Home - St. Pete/Clearwater Airport
- May 7-8 Galvez Day and Battle of Pensacola Commemoration - Pensacola
- May 19-20 Florida SAR BOM & Annual Meeting - Kissimmee
- May 29 Memorial Day (we will try to find something)
- Jun 9 Tampa Chapter DAR Flag Day Luncheon
- Jul 4 Independence Day (we will try to find something)
- Jun 13 Honor Flight Welcome Home - St. Pete/Clearwater Airport
- Jul 16-19 National SAR Congress Events - Orlando

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 of January Meeting

The minutes of the January meeting are abbreviated given the nature of the meeting and its purpose.

President Charles Klug called the meeting to order at noon. The brief business meeting followed with officers giving reports. Now that the dues money has been sent to both the State and National offices, the balance in the treasury is \$9,217.05. The meeting adjourned for lunch.

After lunch, President Klug gave books about the Revolutionary War Era to the officers in thanks for their work this past year. Parks Honeywell then installed the new officers. New President Robbie Robinson gave a quick preview of the things he planned to prioritize during the coming year.

The Chapter presented Victoria Klug with the Martha Washington medal to acknowledge her support throughout the year.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:45.

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 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 Chaplain Balencie or one of the other officers at our next meeting.