Tampa Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution

October 2024 Newsletter

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Tampa SAR
Officers 2024

President: Robbie Robinson
1st Vice President: Roger Roscoe
Secretary: Bob Yarnell
Treasurer: Will Wagner-Hart
Registrar: Dick Young
Chaplain: Matt Balencie
Sergeant-at Arms: Darren Acosta
Historian: Bob Yarnell
Past President: Charles Klug
Color Guard Commander: Dick Young
Members-at-Large: Terry Doan, Thomas Spangler
Newsletter: Bob Yarnell, Dick Young, Robbie Robinson

Presidents Message:

Fellow Tampa Compatriots,

I hope that everyone is doing OK after hurricane Helene's untimely arrival to Florida recently. I think the amount of damage it caused caught many of us by surprise, and I know that some of you were more seriously affected than others. That said, I am looking forward to seeing you all again at our October meeting.

October will be a busy month. Besides the monthly meeting, some of us will be also be attending the FLSSAR Fall Board of Managers (BOM) meeting in Kissimmee on 11-12 October. Then, on 22 October, our Color Guard will be supporting another Honor Flight arrival at the St Petersburg Airport. I hope many of you can join us; this is a special event and it is always so good to see such a patriotic response from the citizens of the Tampa Bay area as they welcome back the veterans who travel to Washington DC for the day.

I believe everyone has received various emails regarding a new system being incorporated by the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution called Club Express. This system can be used to pay your upcoming annual dues if you find it more convenient. Of course, you can also pay your dues as you have done in the past, so there is no mandatory compliance to the new system at this time. Please be patient since it is still being worked on.

Now that we are in a new location, we have decided to hold our meetings without any break for lunch since the room is a considerable distance from the Food Court. The good news is that we conclude our meetings much sooner, which gives you the option of where you would like to have your lunch.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Best Wishes to All,
Robbie

September Chapter Meeting Summary:

Our Chapter held its September meeting at a new location at the University Mall due to maintenance issues with our previous room. We met on the first floor at 11:30am and did not hold a break for lunch as we normally have done.

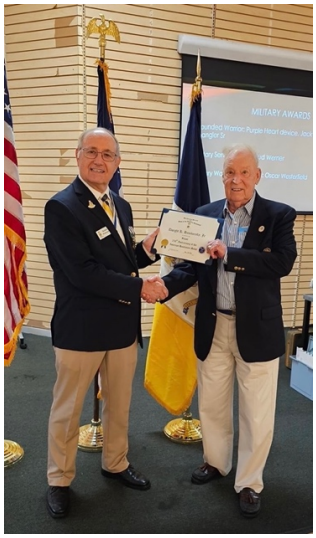
New meeting room on 1st floor of University Mall

Chapter President Robinson started the meeting by awarding Terry Doan the Henry Knox Medal for his outstanding support to the Chapter.

Terry Doan with Henry Knox Medal

The following people were then awarded SAR 250th Anniversary medals: Will Wagner-Hart, Bill Swain, and Matt Balencie received the Gold Medal; Terry Doan and Dwight Hamborsky received the Silver Medal; and Paula Perry, Joe Dato, and Walter Oswald received the Bronze Medals.

Robbie Robinson with Will Wagner-Hart, Bill Swain, and Matt Balencie receiving 250 Gold Medals



Dwight Hamborsky with Silver 250 Medal.

Paul Perry receives Bronze 250 Medal

Walter Oswald receives Bronze 250 Medal

Following the award of medals, President Robinson then a Military War Certificate to Oscar Westerfield, and a Military Service Certificate to Bud Werner for their service to our nation while serving on active duty.

Oscar Westerfield and Military War Certificate

Bud Werner awarded the Military Service Certificate

The next item on the agenda was to recognize Paul Erger by presenting him with a 15-year SAR Service Pin.

Paul Ergler with 15 year SAR Service Pin

President Robinson then inducted several new SAR compatriots into the Tampa Chapter: induct several new compatriots into the Tampa SAR Chapter: Matt and James Dorman, Barry and David Weins, and Richard Gray.

Matt Dorman being inducted in the SAR

President Robinson with Barry and David Weins

Richard Gray receives his SAR Induction Certificate

Following the inductions, President Robinson gave a presentation on the Suffolk Resolves, which were written 250 years ago on 9 September 1774. His presentation discussed the events that led to the Colonists writing the Suffolk Resolves, and how the Resolves led to the Revolutionary War seven months later at Lexington and Concord.

After his presentation, he gave some closing comments, and following the benediction by Matt Balencie, the meeting was adjourned.

October Meeting Information:

We will hold our next meeting on October 12th, starting at 11:30am, at our new meeting location at the University Mall on the first floor. We have Law Enforcement awards to present, and Compatriot Dick Young will give a presentation about the Children of the American Revolution (CAR).

Tampa Chapter Schedule for 2024:

-October 12th - University Mall, starting at 11:30am. Law Enforcement Awards

-Nov 9th- University Mall, starting at 1pm. Note that we will be moving the time to 1pm so that we can accommodate the Veterans Day parade which will be held at the VA facility on Bruce B. Downs, a few blocks from the University Mall

-Dec 14th- Wreaths Across American, American Legion Post #5

Color Guard Events:

We are always looking for compatriots to join us. For more details on how to join the color guard, please contact our Color Guard Commander Dick Young

Upcoming Dates:

12 Oct: Florida Society BOM, Kissimmee
22 Oct: Honor Flight at St Petersburg Airport
9 Nov: Veterans Day Parade at the Tampa VA Hospital on Bruce B. Down
Dec: Wreaths Across America at the American Legion Post #5

Revolutionary History Notes (by Bob Yarnell)

The Forks of the Ohio 1753-1758

By the early 1750's Virginia's Royal Governor, Robert Dinwiddie, became concerned about the advance of the French from Canada into the Ohio River Valley and northwestern Pennsylvania. In 1753, he sent a special envoy, George Washington, to sign a treaty with the Iroquois in the area and tell the French to leave.[1]

After an arduous trek through the wilderness, Washington and his companion guide, Christopher Gist, ran into a French patrol. The French patrol escorted them to Ft. de Boeuf, about halfway between the Forks of the Ohio and Ft. Niagara. The French commander told Washington in no uncertain terms that the French rejected the Virginia ultimatum to leave the Ohio Country and would soon have a fort construction at the forks of the Ohio. The French completed their fort in 1754 and christened it Ft. Duquesne.

Gov. Dinwiddie thereupon ordered Washington, now commander of the Virginia militia, to lead an expedition to capture the fort and remove the French from the area. Washington proceeded north and while in north central Maryland met with an allied Chief the Virginians called the Half King. He informed Washington that his scouts had discovered a French patrol in the area. Washington ordered his men to locate and attack the French.

The Jumonville Affair or the Battle of Jumonville took place in early May 1754.[2] Jumonville, a French Envoy, had been sent south to warn the Virginians against attacking Ft. Duquesne. However, as Washington had no knowledge of the purpose of the French group, he attacked. The fight lasted just 15 minutes. The casualties included Jumonville. Following the fight, Washington relocated to Great Meadows, PA. where he constructed a small circular fort, Fort Necessity. It did not take the French at Ft. Duquesne long to react. They sent a force of approximately 500 men to dislodge Washington. On July 3rd, while Washington's men were digging some outer entrenchments, the French attacked. Following a brief "stand up" fight in the open, the Virginians retreated to the fort. However, the French positioned themselves on nearby hills and fired into the fort. Sensing that the situation could not be saved, Washington opened up negotiations with the French.

On July 4, 1754, Washington signed the surrender. Washington and his men could leave under arms, but the surrender included a clause which would have far ranging implications. Washington could not read French, and his translator wasn't much better. The clause stated that he (Washington) admitted assassinating the French emissary. When word of this reached Paris, the French declared war on England. What would, in reality, be a world war had started.

The British now had to take the situation in North America seriously. They sent Gen. Braddock and approximately 2000 infantry to capture Ft. Duquesne and once and for all remove the French from the Ohio country. After the debacle at Ft. Necessity, Gov. Dinwiddie relieved Washington from command of the Virginia militia. Nevertheless, he went

along on the expedition, riding with the Virgina militia at the rear of the British column.

On July 9, 1755, the advanced part of Braddock's column, about 1300 men, crossed the Monongahela River south of Ft. Duquesne. A force of French and their native American allies attacked the British. The narrow road made it difficult for the British to maneuver and they slowly, at first, and then more quickly, fell back. The advance column ran into Braddock bringing up the remainder of the force and confusion ensued. Eventually the British survivors made it to the southern side of the Monongahela. Washington organized a defensive perimeter and commanded a rear-guard action that enabled the British to withdraw.

When the battle ended, Washington's uniform had several bullet holes in it – behind the knee, under the shoulder etc. – but Washington did not sustain any wounds.[3] The British reported 456 dead and 422 wounded. The French after action report noted 23 killed and 20 wounded.

During the years 1755-1757, the French went from victory to victory and the British and their colonial allies endured reversal after reversal, mostly in the Upper Hudson Valley. By 1758, things had stabilized enough for the British to take another shot at capturing Ft. Duquesne. I'll discuss Gen. Forbes' 1758 campaign next month. And… I'll connect it to the Pittsburgh Pirates. Stay tuned.

1 I've not gone into detail about Washington's trek in the Wilderness. It is fairly well known and would require a much longer column to do it justice.

2 There is still considerable debate among historians about what happened to Jumonville. The most believed account is that he surrendered and when brought before Washington and the Half King, Half King buried his tomahawk in Jumonville's skull. Washington was appalled but there was little he could do to stop the ensuing slaughter of the French by the Half Kings men.

3 Washington's actions at the Battle of the Monongahela or Braddock's defeat as it is usually referred to, have become legendary. Given the holes in his uniform there is no logical reason why Washington should have come off that battlefield alive.

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.

Websites—remember you can find information about the chapter and programs on the chapter website: http://www.tampasar.org, and that you can find information related to Florida SAR at FLSSAR.org.

Secretary Request:

Any officer or committee chairman giving a report that includes numbers or names, I would appreciate it if you could give me that information either via email prior to or after the meeting or hard copy at the meeting. During the meeting I may easily miss those details and that information will enable us to have more accurate and complete minutes.

Chaplain Comments:

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