

The St. Petersburg Chapter
Florida Society
Sons of the American Revolution
CHARTERED 1928

PRESIDENT

Alan Craig
arcraig@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Robert Rogers
porsche.bob@outlook.com

REGISTRAR

William Scott
wscott2@tampabay.com

WEBMASTER

Robert Butler
webmaster@stpetesar.org



TREASURER

Patrick Craig
pcfraig@mail.usf.edu

CHAPLAIN

David Chestnut
doubledaves2@gmail.com

SECRETARY & EDITOR

Peter Ford
fordcgi@msn.com

HISTORIAN

John Stewart
uva1965@gmail.com

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CHAPTER WEBSITES

www.stpetesar.org
www.jmcmullencar.org

2016 UPDATED CHAPTER MEETING & EVENT CALENDAR

Please mark your calendars

December 17 – Annual USO donation & report, Veterans Battalion Awards
Wreaths Across America, luncheon following at O’Bistro

January 21 - Coast Guard Presentation

February 18 – Presidents’ Month – Washington & Lincoln Birthdays

THIS MONTH IN REVOLUTIONARY WAR HISTORY

1776 – Battles of Fort Washington (NY) and Fort Lee (NJ)

1777 – Articles of Confederation adopted by the Second Continental Congress

1783 – British evacuate New York, marking the end of British rule



President's Message



The November luncheon was yet another successful meeting with good representation from both the SAR and the DAR. We had 15 ladies from the Caravel Chapter in attendance along with members of the DAR Clearwater Chapter and the Clear Water Harbor Society CAR. We were privileged to honor another Vietnam-era Veteran, Michael Henchey, and we had two featured guests that spoke on Veteran-related topics: Cory Price, Assistant Director of Bay Pines VAHCS gave an overview of the facility and the services provided to Veterans; and Jenna DeMott, 2nd Vice President of the CAR Florida State Society, gave a presentation on the Veteran's History Project (www.loc.gov/vets).

Our President General, J. Michael Tomme, Sr., recently issued a proclamation on the Wreaths Across America ceremonies and reminded us that attending these ceremonies is a great way to remember those who gave their lives to preserve our freedoms and liberties (see proclamation below).

Because our December meeting falls on December 17th this year, the same day as the Wreaths Across America ceremonies, we are planning on attending the ceremony at the Bay Pines facility in place of holding our regularly scheduled meeting at the Hangar Restaurant. We will have a shorter luncheon at the O'Bistro restaurant in St. Petersburg immediately following the ceremony at Bay Pines. The restaurant is located approximately 5 miles from the Bay Pines facility. More information is forthcoming on the event and members will have the option of attending both the ceremony and the luncheon, or just one or the other if that is preferable. To learn more about Wreaths Across America please visit their website: <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/#join-us>.

I will close by wishing you and your families a wonderful holiday season and I look forward to seeing you at our next event.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Craig

Registrar's Report



This year to date we have 3 new members, and I expect several more applications to be completed by the end of the year. We currently have several applications in process, but there is always room for more.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Scott



**National Society of the
Sons of the American Revolution
Proclamation**

17 December 2016

Morrill Worcester was a 12-year-old paperboy for the Bangor Daily News when he won a trip to Washington, D.C. His first trip was to Arlington National Cemetery and it made an impression on him that he would never forget. In 1992, the Worcester Wreath Company, which he owns, found themselves with a surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. He remembered his experience at Arlington. With that experience, he had an opportunity to honor our country's veterans. With the help of Maine Senator Olympia Snowe, arrangements were made for him to place the wreaths in an older section of the cemetery that had been receiving fewer visitors with each passing year. Throughout his life and successful career, his good fortune was due, in large part, to the values of this nation and the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Thus began the legacy of placing wreaths at the graves of our veterans.

As we pause in the midst of this holiday season and reflect, please take a moment to think back on things that are important in our lives today. We must reflect on our families and friends, and our country. We must continue to honor our current military veterans and those veterans who have already served. We must continue to thank our veterans for their service that allows us to enjoy the freedoms we have today.

The members of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution are descendants of our first veterans, who fought for our War for American Independence from Britain. We celebrate and honor those brave men and women, who have given the upmost measure of devotion and sacrifice so that we can live free. We have had many foreign threats to our country and we have always called on our military to protect us. They have always responded no matter where the threats were from.

At National Cemeteries across this great this country, ***Wreaths across America*** ceremonies are just a small token to say ***thank you*** to those brave men and women, and to remember those who gave their lives to preserve our freedoms and liberties. When you place a wreath for a relative or a friend, remember those other veterans who are buried in our cemeteries across this country who no longer have anyone to visit their graves or who remembers them.

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution proudly participates in this program by honoring our veterans who have passed away. We say ***thank you*** to all of our veterans and to those participating in the program today. May God continue to bless America.



J. Michael Tomme, Sr.
President General, 2016-2017



Treasurer's Report

As of November 27, 2016, 84% of the Chapter members have remitted their annual dues for 2017. If you haven't already done so, I strongly encourage everyone to send in their payment by December 10th at the very latest. Otherwise, you're at risk of not being included on the 2017 Annual Report. The Chapter donations are tracking a little higher than they were at this point last year, so thank you to everyone who has contributed above the normal dues amount. Please remember that not only are these donations tax deductible, they are also what allow us to achieve the many objectives we set for our Chapter at the beginning of the fiscal year.

We currently have \$5,529 in our checking account and \$1,910 in liabilities to the N.S.S.A.R. and F.L.S.S.A.R. for 2017 dues payments.

I would like to recognize the top 5 chapter donors for 2016:

Charles Butler

Alan Craig

John Stewart

David Soderlund

Edward Thomson

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Craig

VETERANS DAY

Compatriot Charles Butler, Chairman of St. Petersburg Chapter's Board of Governors, represented our chapter at Veterans Day ceremonies held at Memorial Park Cemetery. The program included posting of colors by the Pinellas Park Police Department, a special Commemoration to the Armed Forces by U.S. Army Specialist E-4 Drew Hoffman, and patriotic music by The New Horizons Band of Gulfport, the Dixie Collins Choral Quartette, and special guitar and vocal artist Makayla Honaker. A stirring rendition of "Taps" was played by bugler Gary Brown.

Pastor Branson Rogers officiated for the event and offered prayers and blessings for our military, living and deceased. The Memorial Park Cemetery sponsors annual commemoration events for Veterans Day and Memorial Day.



MEETING MINUTES



Sons of the American Revolution St Petersburg Chapter November 19, 2016

Call to Order: The monthly meeting held at the Hangar restaurant in St. Petersburg was called to order at 11:45 by President Alan Craig, and the invocation was given by Chaplain David Chestnut.

Guests: Prospective members Mike Black and James Kent; retired Air Force pilot Mike Henchey; DAR guests including Merri Ray and Vanessa Talbott; Jenna DeMott of the Clear Water Harbor CAR Society.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the October 2016 meeting were approved.

Officer Reports: Secretary Peter Ford requested that all submissions for the monthly chapter newsletter be sent to him by one week after the meeting. David Chestnut said that our chapter's color guard will be joining the Tampa SAR's color guard for the Wreaths Across America program next month. Charles Butler reported that he is working on the "SAR Orientation 101" initiative, and that John Stewart is chairing the Florida committee that is part of NSSAR's initiative to update SAR's planning process and procedures.

Program

President Craig presented the Bronze Good Citizenship Award to Will Tirone, a senior at Shorecrest Prep. Will is a 4.0 student, an athlete, and is extremely involved in volunteer work locally, out of state, and internationally.

Retired Air Force fighter pilot Col. Mike Henchey spoke about his experiences over several decades in the service, from the Academy in the 1970's through postings around the world through the 1990's.

Cory Price, Assistant Director of the Bay Pines Veterans Health Care System, spoke on the services offered by Bay Pines. The system operates with a \$700 million annual budget and 4,000 employees, and served over 108,000 veterans last year. The VA system offers many services critical to veterans, including treatment of PTSD, amputees, and mental health treatment.

Jenna DeMott spoke about her involvement in the Veteran's History Project, in which veterans from World War I through the current conflicts are interviewed and videotaped regarding their experiences in service to the country. The collected materials will be archived at the Library of Congress. Information on the Project can be found at www.loc.gov/vets. Jenna shared excerpts of her interviews with Lt. Col. George Smith and Col. Pat Niemann, SAR Regional VP and frequent guest at our chapter's meetings.



Vanessa Talbott spoke about the Stars and Stripes luncheon being hosted by the Clearwater DAR on March 25, 2017. The luncheon will be a fundraiser primarily for local veterans and it includes a silent auction.

Benediction & Recessional

Chaplain David Chestnut gave the benediction, and President Craig adjourned the meeting at 1:40 PM

Submitted by Peter Ford, Secretary



Army Specialist Drew Hofman, speaker at Memorial Park Veterans Day observances





Viet Nam era veterans Rogers, Henchey, Ford, and Soderlund receive commemorative pins from President Craig (center)



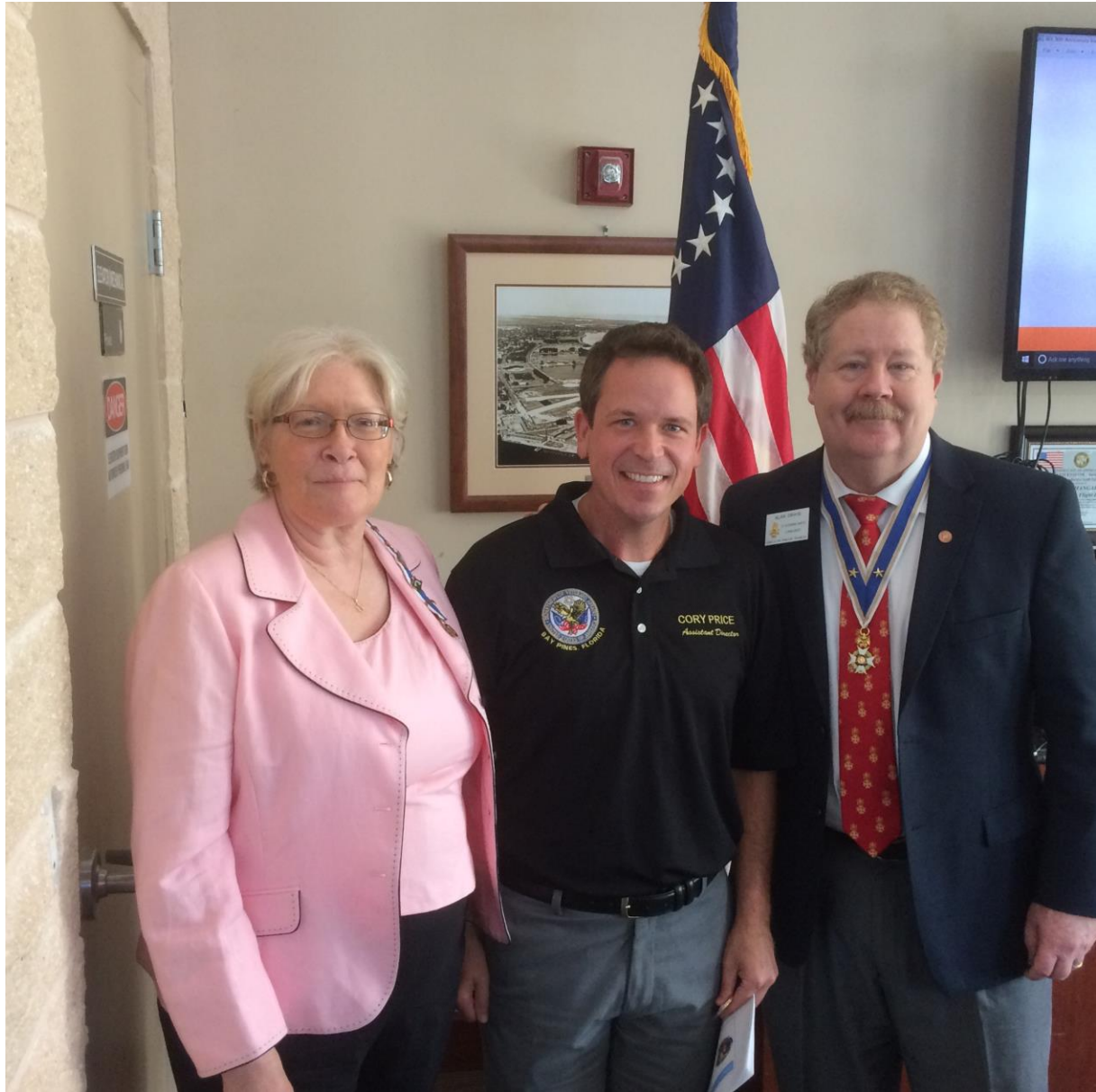
President Craig (right) addresses a large gathering of SAR members and DAR and CAR guests





President Craig presents Good Citizenship Award to student Will Tirone





Merri Ray (Caravel DAR) and President Craig (right) with guest speaker Cory Price, Assistant Director of Bay Pines Veterans Health Care System





President Craig (right) with guest speaker Col. Mike Henchey (ret.), a former Air Force Fighter pilot.

