

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

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March 2017

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2017 UPDATED CHAPTER MEETING & EVENT CALENDAR

Please mark your calendars

April 22 – Support for Armed Services and ROTC awards

May 27 – Chapter annual awards, Knight Essay Award

THIS MONTH IN REVOLUTIONARY WAR HISTORY

1774 – British pass Intolerable Acts, including Boston Port Act

1776 – Battle of Nassau, Bahamas

1781 – Articles of Confederation ratified



President's Message



Dear Compatriots,

Thanks to those that attended our March luncheon. It was a very informative meeting, as Dr. Roger Smith talked to us about Florida's role during the American Revolution. Many of us were unaware of the importance of Florida during this time period as it is not something that has been widely disseminated. I would encourage you to visit Dr. Smith's website to learn more about his research: <http://www.colonialra.com>.

I am pleased to announce that next month we will be featuring our very own Bob Rogers and his presentation on the Mayflower landing and its significance to the American Revolution. Bob is a direct descendent of Thomas Rogers, one of the signers of the Mayflower Compact. Bob is also President of the Thomas Rogers Society.

Due to event conflicts during April and May, we will be pushing back our monthly luncheon from the 3rd Saturday to the 4th Saturday for those 2 months only:

April Luncheon – April 22nd
May Luncheon – May 27th

On April 15th, the Clearwater DAR will be holding their annual fund raising event at the Belleair Country Club, with all proceeds going to local military veterans (flyer included below). This will be a patriotic-themed event and will include live entertainment and a silent auction as well as other activities.

On May 20th, the Spring 2017 BOM and Annual Meeting will be held in Orlando. Past President Charles Butler has been nominated as the West Central Florida Regional Vice President. I know you will join me in wishing Charles the best of luck in securing this key position with the State Society.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our April luncheon.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan Craig



Chaplain's Message



When I first bought my Continental Army Uniform, I wondered if I would get my money's worth out of it. When I first put it on, I couldn't help but say wow, isn't this something! A vision went through my head of my forefather dressed like this. My patriot ancestor was David Buffington of the 1st Virginia Regiment. They must have looked impressive in their blue with red trim. I am very pleased to say that this uniform is worth every penny that I paid for it because I wear it quite often.

Color Guards of the Clearwater, Tampa and St Petersburg Chapters have been called upon to perform a number of duties together over the last few years at such events as Memorial Day, Wreaths Across America and a number of Honor Flights. Our most recent event was the 31st Massing of the Colors at Pasadena Community Church. It seemed like every organization that owns a flag was in attendance from Boy Scouts, ROTC and our SAR Combined Color Guards.

It has been discussed at SAR meetings in the past how to get our name out in the public. I think the Color Guard is a great way to do that. Often people at these events ask me about my uniform. I tell them how it was made with authentic materials and is a replica of my ancestor.

If you would like to know more about our Color Guard or how to obtain a uniform, call me.

David Munson Chestnut
St Petersburg SAR, Color Guard Capt.
St Petersburg SAR, Chaplain

WEBSITE ENHANCEMENTS

Our new webmaster, compatriot Evan Soileau, has done an excellent job of updating and expanding our website, stpetesar.org. Links to various tools at the NSSAR site have been established, allowing for research on ancestors and general SAR information. Newsletters for many meetings over the past several years have also been added. To confirm that your patriot ancestor is recognized on the site, click on "Resources", then "Chapter Ancestors" to find your ancestor.



MEETING MINUTES



Sons of the American Revolution
St Petersburg Chapter
March 18, 2017

The March Chapter meeting was held at The Hangar Restaurant & Flight Lounge
Albert Whitted field - 540 1st Street S., St. Petersburg, FL

Meeting Notes

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Call to Order at 11:30 AM | Alan Craig, President |
| 1. Rituals | |
| o Invocation | David Chestnut |
| o Pledge of Allegiance | Hardy Bryan |
| o SAR Pledge | Charles Butler |
| 2. Opening Comments / Introductions | Alan Craig |

Guests were:

Linda Soileau – DAR

William Marshall – prospective member

Dr. Roger Smith and his wife Christina

Compatriot Evan Soileau has agreed to be our webmaster. He previewed our revised website, which is stpetesar.org

The substantially improved site includes our calendar with meeting dates/times and locations. A discussion of our mission and objectives and a patriot list which might be helpful to anyone interested in joining. Please review it and give Evan your comments.

President Craig discussed the recent conference for the CAR in Tallahassee. Jenna DeMott is 1st VP and president elect for 2018. The Clearwater CAR was recognized with the Spirit and Gold Merit awards. Vanessa Talbott, Regent DAR Clearwater is state CAR Chair. Veronika McGinn, President of the McMullen Booth CAR was also recognized.

President Craig recognized and congratulated Compatriot Jerry Halstead for his recent marriage.



President Craig appointed a nominating committee of: Compatriots John Stewart, Will Scott and Charles Butler.

A national mentorship initiative was announced and will be chaired by Charles Butler.

The lunch recess was called at noon.

The luncheon speaker was Dr. Roger Smith from the University of Florida. His topic was:

“The 14th Colony: The American Revolution’s Best Kept Secret”

Florida was essential to the British during the American Revolution because of the strategic importance of the fortress at St. Augustine. In August 1762 the British captured Havana Cuba, a very important Spanish stronghold in the Caribbean and the capital of their most important and profitable sugar colony. In order to retain Cuba, Spain traded the entire region of Florida to Britain as part of the 1763 Treaty of Paris. The British kept St. Augustine as the Capital of East Florida. East Florida was important to the British as an easily defended fortress & store of supplies for the British Navy. The colonies of Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina were extremely important to Britain as the source for food and fiber for clothing for the British holdings in the Caribbean. The Crown wanted to invade the Colonial south from St. Augustine but their plans never proved successful. General George Washington understood the strategic importance of Florida and spent considerable resources to capture Florida but was ultimately unsuccessful. This is an extremely interesting concept, which many of us had not previously considered.

5. Benediction - David Chestnut
6. SAR Recessional - Bob Rogers

CHAPTER MEMBERS ATTEND MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR WWII PILOT

St. Petersburg Chapter SAR Board of Governors officers Charles R. Butler and John M. Stewart were honored to participate in special memorial funeral services for WWII P-51 Mustang pilot John Mumford at Bay Pines National Cemetery on the morning of March 23.

The unique case of 2nd Lieutenant Mumford, who grew up in St. Petersburg, attracted local and national news media attention in March, and highlighted the Department of Defense's ongoing commitment to locate and return members of the armed forces who were killed in action and not recovered for burial.



Early expectations were for a small family graveside service. However, due to an outpouring of community interest in honoring America's war veterans, last minute changes were made by the family to accommodate the public and news media.

The Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) have a special interest in honoring combat veterans of all wars, especially WWII. The St. Petersburg Chapter SAR has developed a unique, specifically focused community outreach program for just such occasions.

According to Board of Governors Chairman Charles Butler, during the past few years, the chapter has participated in more than a dozen funeral and memorial services for deceased veterans, SAR Compatriots, and DAR members. According to Compatriot Butler, the chapter has significantly expanded the traditional sedate role of Chaplin to include proactive, visible community outreach services. "Our chapter's chaplain can participate in memorial services in modern dress, or if appropriate, in a period correct Virginia Infantry Uniform," he added.

"Frequent, visible SAR participation in memorial and funeral services is a sincere and thoughtful way to serve our community," Butler said. "It also meets our community's expectations of service from our Society."

"During times of grieving and loss, we as lineage society members represent a stabilizing, comforting connection to the past, and the continuity of life", Butler said. "I suspect psychologists might agree, this is a special and unique responsibility men can fulfill in society."

"Families are always so grateful for our presence and participation. It is also one of the most personally rewarding aspects of my SAR membership."

The Funeral

The morning of the 23th of March seemed more like early summer than late winter. With families and friends milling around quietly under a dappled canopy of Live Oak trees, Bay Pines National Cemetery could easily have been mistaken for just another verdant city park.

A sudden, short siren blast announced the arrival of the leading service cars and law enforcement honor escorts for the funeral procession. Numerous police, fire, sheriff, and military vehicles followed, with intermittent siren bursts and flashing emergency lights.

Members of Rolling-Thunder provided a motorcycle honor escort. News helicopters circled overhead as the procession wound its way through the cemetery for nearly 15 minutes before arriving at the outdoor ceremony pavilion.

After Lieutenant Mumford 's family was seated, the service began with an invocation offered by the attending Military Chaplin.

Compatriot Charles Butler was then called forward, and began the formal funeral service by delivering a eulogy emphasizing Lieutenant Mumford's heroic wartime sacrifice in the service of his country.



"He was not a springtime patriot, or a summertime soldier. Lieutenant Mumford gave his life for America. We in the Sons of the American Revolution consider him a Brother in Arms. He is a Patriot for all of time."

Compatriot Butler's eulogy drew a clear and direct spiritual connection between the bravery of General Washington's Continental soldiers and that which was demonstrated by Lieutenant Mumford in WWII as he fought valiantly against overwhelming odds.

Compatriot Butler then introduced John Stewart who offered a special memorial benediction on behalf of the family of Lieutenant Mumford and the Sons of the American Revolution. The memorial service was derived from a Patriot Prayer in the original book of prayers and services created by the NSSAR in 1889.

Two other Veterans Services groups spoke briefly to the family, followed by the customary US Military Funeral Service, rifle salute, and presentation of an American flag to the family concluded the ceremony.

After the Memorial service, the surviving nephew of John Mumford expressed his gratitude to the Sons of the American Revolution for participating in his uncle's service, and for emphasizing the spiritual link to Washington's army. He also expressed an interest in becoming a member of the Society.

The Lieutenant Mumford Story

On June 2, 1944, Second Lieutenant John Mumford, piloting a legendary P51 long distance fighter, was escorting a flight of B-17 bombers on a mission over what is now Ukraine when it was raked by marauding German Focke-Wulf FW-190s, Messerschmitt Me-109s and Junkers JU-88s fighters.

Mumford's unit counterattacked. During the ensuing dogfight, his Mustang took several direct hits, one of which must have severed a fuel line or punctured a gasoline tank.

Leaking high octane aviation fuel, the aircraft caught fire, and plunged from the sky. Mumford's Mustang crashed and burned in an open field. Nearby villagers were told by the Russians not to recover his body.

The month of June '44 faded, hunters and farmers came and went, summer drifted into autumn, and John Mumford's Mustang fighter lay as it fell, in the soft earth of Ukraine.

Seventy-two winters passed. The harsh steppe winds, and the inexorable elements of the fields gradually covered the charred skeleton of the once proud P51 and its young American pilot with a blanket of solitude and timeless anonymity.



Meanwhile, undeterred by time and distance, The United States Defense Department's Recovery and Repatriation Team persisted, and after decades, finally was allowed to search the crash site last summer.

After a DNA analysis of recovered bone fragments, it was confirmed they had indeed successfully located the missing P51 from June, 1944, and Second Lieutenant John Mumford's remains.

In early March of this year, it was publicly announced that the recovered remains of 2nd Lieutenant John Mumford would be returned to his family in St. Petersburg, FL, and interred with military honors at Bay Pines National Cemetery.

The St. Petersburg Chapter SAR contacted the funeral home, and extended an offer of Memorial Service outreach to the family of Lieutenant Mumford.



Stars and Stripes Luncheon

Featuring

The "FLEXIBLE FOUR"

A Barbershop Quartet

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2017

Social Hour & Silent Auction Viewing

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Luncheon 11:30 a.m.



A Patriotic
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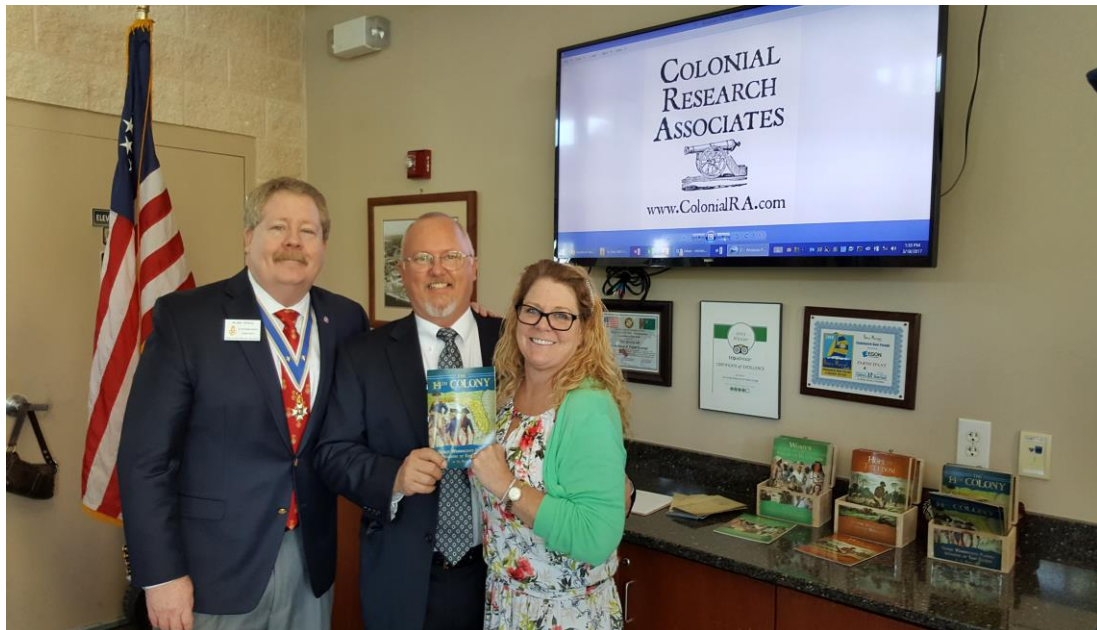
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Bradskate@aol.com

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President Craig with guest speaker Dr. Roger Smith and Mrs. Smith





Honor guard at Mumford memorial services

