

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

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October 2016

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**2016 UPDATED CHAPTER MEETING & EVENT CALENDAR**

Please mark your calendars

**The speakers / themes for our upcoming meetings are:**

**November 19** - Joint meeting with Caravel DAR. Support for CAR chapters

**December 17** – Annual USO donation & report, Veterans Battalion Awards

**January 21**– Coast Guard Presentation

**THIS MONTH IN REVOLUTIONARY WAR HISTORY**

**1774** – Petition of Grievances sent to King George III

**1776** – Battles of Valcour Island (Lake Champlain, NY) and White Plains (NY)

**1777** – Battles of Germantown (PA), Saratoga (NY) and Red Bank (NJ)

**1780** – Battle of Kings Mountain (SC)

**1781** – British surrender at Yorktown (VA)



## President's Message



served.

I can't tell you how much I enjoyed the October luncheon. The theme of the meeting was honoring those that served in the Vietnam War and we were so fortunate to have Silver Star recipient Johnnie Clark in attendance. He was awarded the Silver Star for deeds performed in the line of duty while serving in Vietnam. He spoke at length about his experiences and those with whom he

Hardy Bryan also recounted some of his stories while serving in Vietnam. It was a wonderful meeting as well as a sincere pleasure to honor those that gave so much in service of our country.

As an official Commemorative Partner of the Department of Defense Vietnam War Commemoration initiative, our Chapter will be honoring Vietnam Veterans as well as Vietnam-era Veterans and others that supported the war effort throughout the year. The commemoration objectives are as follows:

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the armed forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the armed forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

For more information, please visit [www.vietnamwar50th.com](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com).

The annual dues notice was sent out on October 1<sup>st</sup> and nearly half of our members have remitted so far. A big thanks to those that have made their payments and a gentle reminder to those that haven't yet to please mail your check before December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Our November meeting will be a joint luncheon with the ladies of the Caravel Chapter, DAR, and I look forward to seeing you there.

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.

The NSSAR has recently created an online application generator, and is encouraging its use for all new and supplemental applications from now on. If you are working on a supplemental or an application for a friend or relative, let me know and I will send you additional information and instructions for the online system.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Scott

## MONTHLY LUNCHEON – OCTOBER 15, 2016

Our chapter's monthly meeting at the Hangar restaurant focused on NSSAR's emphasis this year on recognizing the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of those who served during the Vietnam era. We were honored to have Silver Star recipient Johnnie M. Clark speak on his experiences and the writing of his first book, "Guns Up!" Compatriot Hardy Bryan shared several stories on his time in Vietnam, including the prevention of a sabotage attack on the fuel tanker Pelican. Mr. Clark was presented with a medal for his heroism, and he, Hardy Bryan, Peter Ford, Bob Rogers, and David Soderlund received certificates in recognition of their service.

Compatriot Soderlund researched Lt. James Albert Whitted, a naval aviator for whom Albert Whitted Airport in St. Petersburg was named in 1928. If you would like to read more, it can be found in Wikipedia at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_Whitted](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Whitted)





**Sons of the American Revolution**  
**St Petersburg Chapter**  
**October 15, 2016**

**Call to Order:** The monthly meeting held at the Hangar restaurant in St. Petersburg was called to order at 11:30 by President Alan Craig, and the invocation was given by Chaplain David Chestnut.

**Guests:** Author, Vietnam veteran and Silver Star recipient Johnnie M. Clark and his wife.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes for the May 2016 and September 2016 meetings were approved.

**New Business**

Charles Butler commented on the NSSAR president's initiative to create "SAR Orientation 101" for new members, which Charles will be working on for our chapter.

President Craig proposed the idea of an "ancestor's spotlight" for future meetings, whereby a compatriot could present a brief story about his Revolutionary War ancestor.

**Program**

Bob Rogers introduced Johnnie Clark, who gave a stirring account of his experiences in Vietnam and his efforts to put his story in writing. After numerous tries the book, "Guns Up!" was published. Many of his fellow Marines, despite receiving serious injuries in battle, have gone on to have remarkable post-military careers.

Compatriot Hardy Bryan recounted his Vietnam experiences, especially his role in preventing the underwater demolition of the tanker ship Pelican by saboteurs.

President Craig commented on SAR's tribute this year to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of those who served in Vietnam or supported our military efforts during that era. Chapter certificates recognizing their service were presented to compatriots Bryan, Ford, Rogers, and Soderlund and to Johnnie Clark.

**Benediction & Recessional**

Chaplain David Chestnut gave the benediction, and President Craig adjourned the meeting at 1:55 PM

Submitted by Peter Ford, Secretary





President Craig (left) presents medal for heroism to Johnnie Clark, with Mrs. Clark





President Craig (right) presents Vietnam era service recognition certificates to Hardy Bryan, Johnnie Clark, Peter Ford, David Soderlund, and Bob Rogers.

