

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

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CHAPTER WEBSITES

www.stpetesar.org
www.jmcmullencar.org

2017 UPDATED CHAPTER MEETING & EVENT CALENDAR

Please mark your calendars

September 16 – Constitution Week luncheon with DAR guests, installation of officers

THIS MONTH IN REVOLUTIONARY WAR HISTORY

1774 – British pass Intolerable Acts

1775 – Fort Ticonderoga captured by Ethan Allen & the Green Mountain Boys

1778 – Battle of Barren Hill (PA)

1780 – Siege of Charleston, Battle of Waxhaws (SC)



President's Message



Dear Compatriots,

It is hard to believe that my term as President has already passed. While the year just seemed to fly by, I am pleased to report that it wasn't without its achievements. I had set three main goals for the Chapter at the onset of the year and I am proud to say that we met all of them:

- Increase Membership – Goal Accomplished (4% Increase)
- Increase Financial Equity Position – Goal Accomplished (67% Increase!)
- 2nd Place Finish (or higher) in Americanism Contest – Goal Accomplished (1st Place!!)

In addition to these goals, I also wanted to dedicate the year to U.S. Military Veterans and the organizations that serve them. To that end, the Chapter became a Commemorative Partner of the Department of Defense Vietnam War Commemoration initiative and honored more than a dozen Vietnam-era Veterans over the course of the year. Additionally, the Chapter included programs honoring: Vietnam Silver Star recipient Johnnie Clark; the Bay Pines Veterans Health Care System; Wreaths Across America; the Veteran's History Project; the United Services Organizations, Central Florida; and Honor Flight of West Central Florida. Finally, our Board of Governors participated in the special funeral services for WWII P-51 Mustang pilot, John Mumford, at Bay Pines National Cemetery.

We also focused on other programs that promote patriotism or awareness of American history by contributing to or participating in the following:

- Knight Essay Contest
- Children of the American Revolution
- Pinellas County History Fair
- Colonial Research Associates
- DAR Stars & Stripes Annual Luncheon (with 29 Veterans in attendance)
- Good Citizenship, JROTC, Law Enforcement, Heroism and Flag Display recognition
- Florida Society Regional Meeting (St. Petersburg Chapter hosted the event)
- Constitution Week, Veteran's Day, Flag Day and Memorial Day Events

Suffice it to say, it was a very busy year in which I believe we made a noteworthy impact on our community. This of course would not have been possible without the very valuable contributions made by each of our members. I am extremely grateful for the support that has been provided by *every* member of the St. Petersburg Chapter and I am honored to have served as President. I am very optimistic that we will continue to grow, both in size and in assets, and will also continue making significant contributions to our community as we move forward. I have the utmost confidence in our new President, Compatriot Bob Rogers, and our recently elected Chapter officers - please join me in wishing them all best for the coming year. Cheers!

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Craig



Registrar's Report



We currently have one application under consideration by NSSAR, another on its way to state and several others in the process of being researched or prepared. If you know anyone who may be interested in becoming a member please have them get in touch with me to assist them with there application.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Scott

Meeting Minutes



Sons of the American Revolution

St Petersburg Chapter

May 27, 2017

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

Guests: Mark Foster, Mike Rolleston of PSCU, Clearwater DAR Regent Vanessa Craig, prospective member Michael Black, Knight Essay Award winner Elijah Soyke and his father, LCDR Tom Xenakis of Admiral Farragut Academy, and John Stewart's grandsons.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the April 2017 meeting were approved.

Officer Reports & News Items

Hardy Bryan recognized PSCU as the winner of a Flag Award for appropriately displaying the American flag. Mike Rolleston accepted the award for PSCU.

John Stewart reported that at the recent FLSSAR BOM meeting our chapter received a first place Americanism award. He and Charles Butler received the Meritorious Service Oak Leaf Cluster Award for their primary roles in preparation of the State Society's Strategic Plan. John Stewart served as Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee, and was assisted by Co-chairs Lee Matson and Ralph Nelson, Jr. They researched and wrote the State Society's first Strategic Plan



in its 125 year history. Charles Butler was elected West Central Regional VP of FLSSAR, succeeding Pat Niemann.

Will Scott reported that Mike Black's application is now complete, and several others are in the works.

David Chestnut reported that he spoke to the Florida Constitution Revision Committee on the proposed Veterans and Heroes Protection Act, which is scheduled for a vote this fall by the Florida legislature.

Will Scott and John Stewart received the Roger Sherman award for their many years of service to the chapter, and Certificates of Appreciation were presented to David Chestnut, Peter Ford, Bob Rogers, and Evan Soileau.

John Stewart presented the first place award in the Knight Essay contest to Elijah Soyke of Admiral Farragut Academy, whose father then read the essay to the audience. Elijah's essay also received the third place award at the state level.

Law Enforcement Award

President Craig presented the award to his father, compatriot Frank Craig. After enlisting in the Navy at the age of 17 during World War II, Mr. Craig's career in the military and in law enforcement spanned over 45 years, with service in the Los Angeles Police Department and then in numerous countries as a police advisor and narcotics attaché. He also served as a consultant for the Office of the Inspector General.

Election of Officers

John Stewart presented the slate of officers for the 2017-2018 year, as selected by the Nominating Committee:

President – Robert Rogers
Vice President – David Chestnut
Treasurer - Evan Soileau
Secretary – Peter Ford
Registrar – Will Scott
Chaplain – David Chestnut
Historian – John Stewart
Sergeant at Arms – Ron Hays

There being no nominations from the floor, the chapter members voted unanimously to elect the slate as presented.

Benediction & Recessional

David Chestnut gave the benediction, and President Craig adjourned the meeting at 1:20 PM.

Submitted by Peter Ford, Secretary



Memorial Day Observances

Numerous compatriots attended Memorial Day observances around Pinellas County, with compatriots Stewart, Scott, and Chestnut wearing period dress at Bay Pines. Compatriot Bryan, who oversees our chapter's flag awards, has provided a link regarding the proper display of the flag, as we celebrate Memorial Day:

Puttinguptheflag.com

Compatriot Butler Elected FLSSAR Regional Vice President

St. Petersburg Chapter Compatriot Charles R. Butler was inducted as the West Central Regional Vice President FLSSAR at a meeting of the Board of Managers on May 20.

The induction ceremony was performed by National Society President General J. Michael Tomme, and was attended by several NSSAR Past Presidents, national officers, and other state Presidents as well as officers of the Florida Society, and numerous FLSSAR chapters throughout the state.

St. Petersburg Chapter Past Presidents John Stewart and Charles Butler received the Meritorious Service Oak Leaf Cluster Award for their primary roles in preparation of the State Society's first Strategic Plan. John Stewart served as Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee, and was assisted by Co-chairs Lee Matson and Ralph Nelson, Jr. They researched and wrote the State Society's first Strategic Plan in its 125 year history.

New State President Robert Folk appointed Compatriot Butler Chairman of the FLSSAR Strategic Planning Committee.

Compatriot Butler served the St Petersburg Chapter SAR as President for three years, and Chairman of the Board of Governors for one year. He also served as Senior Society President for two years, and Senior Society Vice President for the James McMullen Society Children of the American Revolution.

He will remain on the St. Petersburg Chapter Board of Governors during his term as West Central Regional Vice President, and during his service to the State Society as Strategic Planning Committee Chairman.

"Being a Compatriot of the SAR is a very high privilege. Being able to serve as a State Society Officer is a rare honor. I consider it a tribute of respect to my Revolutionary War ancestors, and to my chapter," Compatriot Butler said. "I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our State Society."





President Craig presents the Law Enforcement Award to his father, Compatriot Frank Craig





Compatriot Stewart presents award to Knight Essay winner Elijah Soyke





Compatriot Bryan presents Flag Award to Mike Rolleston, representing PSCU





President Craig presents Roger Sherman Awards to Compatriots Will Scott & John Stewart for their many years of service to the chapter





President Craig passes the gavel to incoming President Bob Rogers

From the Editor's Desk

A week after our last meeting before our summer hiatus I took a trip out west, a part of our country that has always fascinated me. The many rivers and mountains are a reminder of what our ancestors had to endure to expand our nation westward after the Revolutionary War.

In South Dakota I had an opportunity to visit the Black Hills National Cemetery, where almost 20,000 veterans are buried. I was pleased to see that every grave marker had a flag on it.

I visited Mount Rushmore, which memorializes four of our greatest presidents. I then visited the Theodore Roosevelt National Parks in North Dakota, founded by the president who was also one of the earliest conservationists.



Pompeys Pillar in Montana overlooks the Yellowstone River, where William Clark stopped on the expedition's return from the Pacific coast in July 1806. The 8,000 mile journey by the Corps of Discovery took 28 months, or less than 10 miles per day.

Many of the "towns" on the map are merely a wide spot in the road, often without a store or a gas station, and the next "town" may be 40 or 50 miles in any direction. The pioneer spirit of our founding fathers is alive and well out west!



Black Hills National Cemetery





Mount Rushmore





Teddy's Cabin at Theodore Roosevelt National Park, ND





Little Missouri River, Theodore Roosevelt National Park





**Fort Union Trading Post on the Missouri River, ND/MT border
This was the main fur trading post on the upper Missouri River from the 1820s – 1860s**





**Yellowstone River, Montana, from atop Pompeys Pillar
William Clark carved his name in the rock on July 25, 1806**





Cloud Peak near Buffalo, WY - - big sky country!

