



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

PRESIDENT

Robert Rogers
Porsche.bob@outlook.com

VP & CHAPLAIN

David Chestnut
doubledaves2@gmail.com

REGISTRAR

William Scott
wscott2@tampabay.com

WEBMASTER

Evan Soileau
evan@stpetesar.org

SECRETARY & TREASURER

Peter Ford
fordcgi@msn.com

HISTORIAN

John Stewart
1965UVA@gmail.com



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CHAPTER WEBSITES

www.stpetesar.org

2019 UPDATED CHAPTER MEETING & EVENT CALENDAR

Please mark your calendars

February 16 - Presidents Month meeting
St. Petersburg Yacht Club, 11AM

THIS MONTH IN REVOLUTIONARY WAR HISTORY

1776 – Thomas Paine publishes *Common Sense*

1777 – Battle of Princeton (NJ), Second Battle of Trenton (NJ)

1781 – Battle of Cowpens (SC)



President's Message



Dear Compatriots:

More than two years ago, after a session with a School Board member, I realized that our one billion dollar operating budget for the Pinellas County schools did not include civics or American History in the curriculum after middle school. The only named school holiday is now MLK day. No Christmas – “winter holiday”, no Easter – “spring holiday”, no Presidents Day – “Non-student Day”. Therefore, I thought it might be wise to focus on local education and how the SAR might bring resources to the classroom.

Recently, we've witnessed an increase in statements which I thought were so outlandish that the provocateurs need not be acknowledged. However, I did some research and discovered that the seeds of miseducation are bearing fruit. It's my opinion that many college degrees are not worth the cost and are teaching ideology, not scholarship. Many Millennials can't name the three branches of our constitutional government...for example a newly elected Representative in a recent interview described the three branches of government as “the House, Senate and the Presidency.” I guess the Judiciary doesn't count? According to some surveys, about 50% of Millennials think socialism is a good idea! We've got to take the issue seriously and answer their proposals with facts and logic.

Three proposals have my attention:

1. 70% tax rate to soak the “rich” for a green new deal. The Tax Foundation has examined this idea and reports that in the best case scenario the 70% rate would raise less than \$300 billion annually. So when I hear that a Green New Deal will be financed by soaking the 1% of earners who already pay more than 1/3 of America's taxes, you can bet that soon they're coming after all the middle class, which is where the money is.
2. “Socialism will be like Sweden.” Sweden's experiment with socialist policies was a disaster. Until the mid-20th century Sweden achieved the world's 4th highest per capita income. Then radical social programs were introduced by a social-democrat government – taxes, spending and regulation ballooned. By the early 90s transfer payments consumed 70% of GDP, jobs had disappeared, and per capita income had dropped to 14th in the world. In 1991 a market-oriented government came to power and installed major reforms. Among many changes, welfare benefits were reduced, and privatized health care, school vouchers and for-profit schools were introduced. The corporate tax rate was reduced from 28% to 22%, and the size of government was reduced. The result is that Sweden is now richer than all the major EU countries and is within 15% of the US per capita GDP.



3. “Free College” The argument is that a college degree increases earning potential, and graduates are better communicators, commit fewer crimes, and are better informed citizens. Actually what is being throw about is free tuition, which is often less than half of the total cost of a college degree. The vast majority of college students are at least middle class ... only 10% of college grads are from the bottom 25% of household income families. Poor people do go to college, but the majority never graduate. It’s estimated that 13 million college grads are working jobs that don’t require a degree, and higher education costs rise every time student financial aid has been made more generous. There is merit and the potential for a life well lived as a skilled craftsman like a carpenter or welder making \$80,000 per year, as compared to a college student who graduates with a mountain of debt and can’t find a job suitable for the college degree they have. It is my opinion that the college degrees worth the cost are the science, technology, medical, and education (teaching) areas of study.

Reminder to all Compatriots

The SAR is a Society of gentlemen. Our chapter is founded on patriot ancestry, and we collaborate to advance the cause of American patriotism. Not all Compatriots agree on everything, as our Founding Fathers certainly didn’t. However, all concerns are expected to be resolved in a courteous and collegial manner.

If any Compatriot has a significant concern about any chapter issue, the first point of contact is always the chapter president. This is simple organizational decorum we all know and understand. Over the years, the St. Petersburg Chapter has been one of harmony, collegiality and mutual support. We can all take pride in this fact. I am confident that as our chapter continues to grow and experience more success in its initiatives, we will continue this tradition.

As a reminder, chapter and SAR email lists are considered private, and for official chapter officer use only. Misuse of SAR email is a serious violation of policy.

Respectfully submitted.
Bob Rogers



Board Chairman's Message



Dear Compatriots:

My father once told me that in the 1930s, his high school history classes were mostly memorization of names, dates, and places. "Certainly these are important, but he added that it is also important to understand why things happened. For that, we have to educate ourselves."

"People 240 years ago were essentially the same as we are today," he said. "They had aspirations, hopes, and dreams, and probably most of all, they wanted an opportunity to provide their families with a happy, comfortable life."

Not much more really than what most Americans want today. Thankfully we have the foundations of a system created to give us all the freedom to rise or fall, win or lose, succeed or fail based on our own merits.

In their wisdom, our Founding Fathers decided that America should be a fresh start for humanity, one of meritocracy and not aristocracy. A meritocratic system requires the freedom to succeed and the freedom to fail. Without the lessons of failure, how can we truly define a plan for success? Or savor success? Our Founders did not want the government to decide who succeeded and who didn't, nor did they want success to be predetermined by birthright.

They recognized that all men are created equal in the sight of God, and in the eyes of the law, but that's as far as they were willing to allow government to intrude into our private lives and determine our fortunes. Our Founders believed that although all men were created equal, they all have varying talents, abilities and ambitions and only a well-functioning meritocracy can allow their potential to fully flourish. This was why they created the unique Federal Republic system we have, and a Constitution built around our God given natural rights, not rights allotted by an omnipotent state or monarch.

After the Revolutionary War, Thomas Jefferson warned America in his writings to be mindful of "dangerous levelings" in society. This means Jefferson didn't want either the government or other forces to remove or limit by artificial means the inherent inequalities of talent, ability and ambition that exist naturally in each of us. Instead, he wanted them to blossom, and for the crucible of individual competition and rugged individualism to determine America's future. He was right then, and he is right today.

As SAR, we have a special responsibility to convey not only the facts of the Revolutionary era to our youngsters through an effective education system, we have the duty to help them understand



why our Founding Fathers created a meritocracy, a word we rarely hear these days, but one that defines American exceptionalism at its best. The St. Petersburg Chapter SAR is now embarking on an exciting journey to help strengthen civics and American history education in our community. Every chapter Compatriot has an important role in this effort- one that will resonate positively long after we have departed.

It is an honor and a privilege for us as SAR to leave our community better than we found it for future generations to enjoy. This is what our Federal charter directs us to do, it is what our forefathers would expect us to do, and most of all it is the right thing to do for America.

The Board of Governors is working hard to make our chapter all it can be, and we appreciate your loyalty and support. Please join us in this effort with your ideas, prayers, and participation.

In Patriotic Service,
Charles

VP / Chaplain's Message



I was given the following quote which comes from author John Mason: “As every thread of gold is valuable, so is every moment of time.” This quote reminds me how precious time is during our lives and how important it is to make the most of the time we have in this beautiful world.

It also suggests to me what time meant to our ancestors. What was life like for our earliest ancestors of colonial times? We think how totally foreign their life was to ours, yet in many ways maybe not. Day-to-day life was consumed by trying to earn a living and earn the respect of peers. They went to school, some even went to college. Those that came to settle in the American Colonies still had to provide for their families, farmers planted crops and soldiers protected the colony. Church was a center of their society as was the village hall. The colonists ate, drank and danced at the village social and on Sunday they surely made their way to church to repent their sins and give thanks to the lord for the blessings they have received.

There was another John Mason who came to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1632 in the great Puritan exodus. He came as an officer and was appointed Captain of the local militia. He and Roger Ludlow planned and supervised the construction of the first fortifications on Castle Island (later known as Fort Independence) in Boston Harbor. In 1634, he was elected to represent Dorchester in the Massachusetts General Court, where permission was granted for him to move to the fertile Connecticut River valley. In 1635, he settled in Windsor, Connecticut at the confluence of the Farmington River and the Connecticut River; he lived there for the next twelve years and served as a civil Magistrate and military leader of the Connecticut Colony.

My tenth great grandfather Thomas Munson came to the Colony in 1634. He also was a military man sent to defend the colonies and in 1637 both men fought in the Pequot Indian War. The large and powerful Pequot Tribe had subjugated other local tribes, killed numerous Colonial



settlers and destroyed vital corn crops. The Pequots wanted to sell corn to the settlers at a very high price. The Massachusetts Bay Colony eventually declared war on them, and reluctantly the infant Connecticut Colony was quickly drawn into the conflict. After the war, Capt. John Mason became Major and later on Thomas Munson was made Captain. Both men were rewarded with plots of land in the Connecticut Colony.

When we look back at this time in history and think of the people of that time, we must realize they were living their lives the best way they could. They were given the charge to protect the colonists and their own families. Both men married, John married Anne Peck, they had eight children. Thomas married Joanna Mew and they raised three children. To them gold could be valuable but the time they had on this earth was the most valuable and precious blessing God could bestow.

God Bless the Spirit of our Great Nation and the courage of its founders.

Respectfully submitted,
David Munson Chestnut

Registrar's Report



There are currently at least six applications in process. If you know of anyone who has an interest in becoming a member, please let them know that we are always willing to assist them with the application process.

If you are preparing a supplemental application, or working with a relative or friend on their application, please be sure to use the most current version of the form, or the interactive online application.

Respectfully submitted,
Will Scott

Attention All Veterans

The Sons of the American Revolution has three programs to honor and record your service: Military Service Veterans Corps Certificate of Patriotism which authorizes the wearing of the War Service or Military Service Medal; Florida Vet Battalion; and Compatriots Military Service Record Form.

Compatriots Military Service Record Form is a new form and can be found at: <https://members.sar.org/media/uploads/pages/201/SfIRJe4kCv2S.pdf> This form is to record your service information at Archives of Honor at SAR National Headquarters. All three forms now require attachment of a redacted form of your Discharge Document, usually a DD 214.

I would like to help with submission of these items, as forms change and are updated.

David Soderlund - Vet Recognition Committee kavika@tampabay.rr.com



Meeting Minutes



Sons of the American Revolution St Petersburg Chapter January 19, 2019

Call to Order: The monthly meeting held at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club was called to order at 11:40 AM by President Bob Rogers and the invocation was given by Chaplain David Chestnut.

Guests: Army Brigadier General David MacEwen (ret.) and several friends of President Rogers.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the December 15 meeting were approved as submitted.

Officer Reports & Presentations

President Rogers spoke about the chapter's focus on the need for civics and history education, begun two years ago. Several proposals currently being floated by individuals in Congress are based on questionable economics and historical basis:

- A proposed 70% tax rate, which would be insufficient to pay for proposed additional benefits. Some have proposed that this rate apply to assets, not income, which is contrary to Amendment XVI to the Constitution.
- Moving towards "socialism" as practiced in the Nordic countries. In fact, Sweden and Finland have been moving towards a free market economy for over the past 25 years, during which their taxes and size of government have decreased.
- "Free college tuition for all," which would be unfair to those who have already paid and borrowed to fund their educations. Additionally, tuition is often a small part of the total cost of attending college, as it can be outweighed by room, board, etc.

Chaplain Chestnut reported on our chapter's message to DAR officer Cindy Weatherby on the passing of her husband.

John Stewart reported that he has received 14 entries in this year's Knight Essay Contest.

Guest Speaker

Dr. Tom Tufts introduced General MacEwen, who served as the 59th Adjutant General before his retirement. Horatio Gates was the first AG, and he was the second officer appointed by the Continental Congress after General Washington. The AG's job entails all daily aspects of human resources for the Army's 1.1 million members. General MacEwen spoke at length about the Port Mortuary at Dover AFB, where the remains of those who died overseas are returned and prepared for burial. The military pays for the family members to attend the dignified transfer ceremony at Dover, and an officer accompanies the remains to the final resting place. The officer carries the personal effects of the deceased on this journey. We are the only country that does this for the families of fallen service members.



Benediction & Recessional

Chaplain Chestnut gave the benediction, and Chairman Butler adjourned the meeting at 1:40 PM.

Submitted by Peter Ford, Secretary



General David MacEwen addresses the January meeting





General MacEwen receives Silver Good Citizenship Medal from Chairman Butler

