



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

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March 2019

**CHAPTER WEBSITES**

[www.stpetesar.org](http://www.stpetesar.org)

**2019 UPDATED CHAPTER MEETING & EVENT CALENDAR**

Please mark your calendars

April 20 - St. Petersburg Yacht Club, 11AM  
Military Appreciation Month

**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:

The Mayflower Compact is a document signed aboard the Mayflower in November, 1620 off the coast of Provenance Town, Massachusetts. The Agreement set forth principles of self-government – but not separate from the authority of King James of England. The Mayflower Compact contained for the first time in history the concept of self-government and the election of their leaders for the good of the body politic. A central belief by the Pilgrims was that they were on a mission for God to found a colony in the new world that would encompass freedom of religion separate from the authority of the Crown. When they landed far north of their land patent in Virginia they developed the Mayflower Compact, which was agreed to by 42 male passengers. It is this set of ideals that has become the primary reason the Mayflower has become the remarkable icon of our country's history. It was the first time people had elected their own leaders as opposed to having governance set by the crown.

The four main ideals found in the Mayflower Compact are:

1. Deep faith in God and his divine guidance.
2. Expressed a mutual regard for one another as equals in the sight of God.
3. Expressed the intent to establish just and equal laws upon which could be built a democratic form of government.
4. Expressed continuing loyalty to the native country England and to King James.

Our April meeting will feature a presentation by the United States Marine Corps. The central topic will be the challenges of recruiting our fighting force in today's environment.

See you at our April 20 meeting.

Bob Rogers



## Board Chairman's Message



Dear Compatriots:

The SAR is much more than a lineage society. It is a very special organization of men with a shared heritage focused on a common purpose: *preserving the ideals of our ancestors through the advancement of American Patriotism*. The essence of everything we do as Compatriots and as a Chapter is predicated on promoting an accurate awareness and understanding of our Founding Principles, our Constitution. Therefore, we as SAR are in the purest sense of the word, *educators*.

As educators, we have two core responsibilities:

First, we offer direct teaching of accurate and contextual facts. This is accomplished one-on-one, to classroom students or a public audience, or by radio, television, or other mass media. Compatriot John Stewart's Jefferson portrayals are an excellent example of this genre.

Second is for us to ensure accurate, thorough and contextual information is systematically presented to students through our institutions of learning. Our charter and our National Society expect us to do both. So did our forefathers, and our Society's founders. The Americanism Awards iterate what the National Society has identified as effective public outreach and educational efforts.

As a member of the St. Petersburg Chapter, you can be proud of the fact that through the efforts of such Compatriots as John Stewart, Bob Rogers, David Chestnut, and others, our patriotic community outreach efforts have been quite effective over many years. The fact we consistently score highly on our Americanism Award submissions demonstrates our commitment to educational outreach. If you would like to join this effort, please contact John Stewart, Bob Rogers, or me for more information.

With respect to the second responsibility, which is to ensure our school system provides accurate, thorough and contextual information to our students, I am pleased to report that President Rogers has taken the initiative to appoint an



outreach education task force to lead the effort to help enhance American history, Revolutionary War, and civics education taught in our schools. Led by Chairman John Stewart, members include Bob Rogers, Peter Ford, and Charles Butler. Our committee has established a strong collaboration with our fellow Compatriots of the Tampa Chapter, chaired by President Dr. John Goolsby, and over the coming years we expect to make significant and quantifiable contributions to the betterment of civics, history and Revolutionary War subjects for students in our Tampa Bay area schools.

Your membership in the St. Petersburg Chapter, your active participation in meetings and events, your generous donations to the chapter and your loyalty to our education mission are vital to our community service mission. To be good citizens, students must be taught to be patriots. Over the coming months, you will see an increasing chapter emphasis on civics, history and patriotic education outreach programs. The St. Petersburg chapter takes this challenge seriously, and we are grateful for your support. Please don't hesitate to contact Chairman Stewart if you wish to offer any assistance in this effort. All ideas are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charles Butler

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### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Banking changes have required us to modify our checking account title to agree with our Florida exemption certificate and our IRS filings. Compatriots paying for meeting meals by check must now make out their checks to:

**NSSAR – St. Petersburg Chapter**

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Sons of the American Revolution  
St Petersburg Chapter  
March 16, 2019

**Call to Order:** The monthly meeting held at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club was called to order at 11:30 AM by President Bob Rogers and the invocation was given by John Stewart.

**Guests:** SAR Regional VP Dick Young, speaker Lori Coffey, DAR members Coleen Pauley Perry and Cathy Paunov, and several friends of compatriots.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the February 16 meeting were approved as submitted.

**Officer Reports & Presentations**

Dick Young told the chapter about the “partners in patriotism” program, which supports the honor flights, wreath ceremonies and similar events. Our chapter currently participates in these events. He is also the FLSSAR CAR liaison. Compatriot Young said that NSSAR is working on a patriot research system for online use. Florida will host the 2023 National SAR Congress meeting, likely in Orlando.

John Stewart stated that this year’s essay contest winner will be attending the May meeting, and receive his award. John was a judge for the recent Pinellas County “national history day.” There were over 200 exhibits but none qualified for our award, which is based on events surrounding the founding of our country.

**Guest Speaker**

Lori Coffey’s presentation topic was “the women of 1620.” She spoke at length about each of the four women who survived the first year at Plymouth. There were 102 people on the Mayflower, but only the men were named in the ship’s log, e.g. “John Smith and wife and son.” The pilgrims were of two factions – the “saints” who sought religious freedom, and the “strangers” who sought prosperity. The women had no rights then, as widows were forced to remarry, and sign their assets over to their husbands. Everyone became a farmer in Plymouth by necessity, as they couldn’t own land back in England.

**Benediction & Recessional**

John Stewart gave the benediction, and President Rogers adjourned the meeting at 1:30 PM.

Submitted by Peter Ford, Secretary





**DAR State Regent Dawn Lemongello with President Bob Rogers**







**Guest speaker Lori Coffey with President Rogers**

**The following history of the pledge of allegiance was provided by compatriot David Soderlund:**

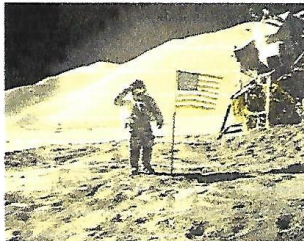




## CELEBRATING AMERICA'S FREEDOMS

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20420

### The Pledge of Allegiance



Astronaut David R. Scott gives a military salute to the U.S. flag during a 1971 Apollo 15 moonwalk.

Thirty-one words which affirm the values and freedom that the American flag represents are recited while facing the flag as a pledge of Americans' loyalty to their country. The Pledge of Allegiance was written for the 400th anniversary, in 1892, of the discovery of America. A national committee of educators and civic leaders planned a public-school celebration of Columbus Day to center around the flag. Included with the script for ceremonies that would culminate in raising of the flag was the pledge. So it was in October 1892 Columbus Day programs that school children across the country first recited the Pledge of Allegiance this way:

**I pledge allegiance to my Flag and  
to the Republic for which it stands:  
one Nation indivisible, with Liberty  
and Justice for all.**

Controversy continues over whether the author was the chairman of the committee, Francis Bellamy — who worked on a magazine for young people that published the pledge — or James Upham, who worked for the publishing firm that produced the magazine. The pledge was published anonymously in the magazine and was not copyrighted.

According to some accounts of Bellamy as author, he decided to write a pledge of allegiance, rather than a salute, because it was a stronger expression of loyalty — something particularly significant even 27 years after the Civil War ended. "One Nation indivisible" referred to the outcome of the Civil War, and "Liberty and Justice for all" expressed the ideals of the Declaration of Independence.





The words “my flag” were replaced by “the flag of the United States” in 1923, because some foreign-born people might have in mind the flag of the country of their birth, instead of the U.S. flag. A year later, “of America” was added after “United States.” No form of the pledge received official recognition by Congress until June 22, 1942, when it was formally included in the U.S. Flag Code. The official name of The Pledge of Allegiance was adopted in 1945. The last change in language came on Flag Day 1954, when Congress passed a law which added the words “under God” after “one nation.”

Originally, the pledge was said with the hand in the so-called “Bellamy Salute,” with the hand resting first outward from the chest, then the arm extending out from the body. Once Hitler came to power in Europe, some Americans were concerned that this position of the arm and hand resembled the salute rendered by the Nazi military. In 1942, Congress established the current practice of rendering the pledge with the right hand placed flat over the heart.

Section 7 of the Federal Flag Code states that when not in military uniform, men should remove any headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, thereby resting the hand over the heart. People in military uniform should remain silent, face the flag and render the military salute.

The Flag Code specifies that any future changes to the pledge would have to be with the consent of the president.

The Pledge of Allegiance now reads:

**I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America  
and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation  
under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.**

