



# The Whig



The monthly newsletter and source of information for the  
St. Lucie River Chapter,  
Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution

November 2013

## President's Salvo



Gentlemen,

A couple of quick notes to acquaint you with things that are coming up. First, the upcoming meeting will be our annual food drive, please bring a nonperishable item to the meeting. We have done this for the last couple of years and it has been very successful and is greatly appreciated by those who don't have as much as we do. So remember to bring an item when you come to the next meeting. Second we had a very poor turnout at the last meeting, only 11 people, we need to do better. Lastly, we are down to the few who have not paid their dues. Please, if you have not, get that in the mail so we can get our final report off the State with the great news that we have no drops.

Thanks to all of you for what you do for us.

Hall Riediger

President

## 2013 Stuart Veterans Day Parade



The Color Guard of the St. Lucie River Chapter, Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution again participated in the annual Stuart Veterans Day Parade. Led by new Color Guard Commander Seth Fields, the unit is seen marching down East Ocean Boulevard toward Memorial Park in Stuart. This year's parade was well attended and the public's response to the presence of the Color Guard was very enthusiastic. A simultaneous event was held at Veterans Memorial Park in Port St. Lucie.



To Visit the Chapter Website, go to:  
<http://www.stlucieriverflsarc.org/index.html>

## Veterans Memorial Bridge Dedicated



On November 16, 2013, members of the St. Lucie River Chapter Color Guard were on hand for the dedication of the new Veterans Memorial Bridge between Palm City and Stuart in Martin County. Events included a 5K bridge run, a car parade, and the dedication ceremony. The bridge, which has been under construction for three years, is expected to open to the public by the end of the year.



## Notes from November 9th Meeting



*Bud Rockhill, Tom Gilmore, and Hall Riediger*

The November meeting was delighted to see a power-point presentation by Tom Gilmore of Bud Rockhill's Honor Flight visit to Washington, D.C. We really enjoyed seeing Bud and Tom visiting the WWII Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Iwo Jima Memorial. Bud seemed to have a great time although Tom sacked out on the way back. I guess the old timers just have a bit more

moxie than the young guys. This was Tom's third trip with Honor Flight and all were at his own expense.

The Chapter awarded Tom Gilmore the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal for his efforts with WWII veterans. We thank all those who give that extra effort to help in the community.

Hall



*Hall Riediger and Chris Wade*

Chris Wade received the SAR War Service Medal with Bar for his service in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. The War Service Medal is authorized for those who have served in the armed forces of the United States and fought in a war or action that has been recognized by a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States and for which a campaign medal and ribbon are authorized.

Also receiving an award was Joe Leinbach who also served in the military. He received the Military Service Medal as he did not serve in combat but did serve in the United States Navy during the Korean Era. The Chapter tries to let all of our members know just how much we appreciate our veterans service.

Hall

## SAR 125th Anniversary Medal



*Now Available for Pre-order on the NSSAR website:*

The SAR 125th Anniversary Medal, authorized in 2013, commemorates the one hundred twenty fifth anniversary of the founding of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Only a member who was a dues-paying member between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014 may wear it. In addition, new members whose applications had been submitted during that time may also wear it. The medal is bronze in color and features the likeness of President George Washington because 2014 is the 225th anniversary of George Washington taking his oath of office. The medal is suspended from a chest ribbon of blue, buff and white and comes in a set with a full size and miniature medal.

THIS IS FOR PREORDER ONLY. THE MEDALS WILL BEGIN SHIPPING AFTER INVENTORY IS COMPLETED IN 2014, APPROXIMATELY JANUARY 6, 2014.

## Events Calendar

December 1: Deadline for receipt of annual dues	will be our guests.
December 14: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City *, A talk on the Southern-most battlefields of the Revolutionary War by Hall Riediger, Chair of the Commemorative Historic Sites Committee of the FLSSAR.	January 24,25: FLSSAR Winter BOM Meeting, Orlando, FL
December TBD: Ft. Pierce Christmas Parade	February 8: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City *
December 25: Christmas	February 28 - March 1: Spring Leadership Meeting, NSSAR Headquarters, Louisville, Kentucky
January 11, 2014: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City * Don Zimmerman, our Teacher of the year, and his Mrs.	March 8: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City *

*\* Regular meetings start at 11:30 am unless noted.*

### Editor's Note

It has been a busy month for our Chapter. There will continue to be opportunities for members to participate, both at monthly meetings as well as at public activities throughout the community. Please join us as your schedule allows.

*WKH*

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Minutes  
November 9, 2013

Meeting called to order at 12:15

Invocation: Jay Wise

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: Seth Fields

Pledge to SAR: Oscar Kraehenbuehl

Minutes of the October Meeting were approved, Seth Fields. Jay Wise seconded the motion. Minutes were accepted unanimous.

Guests present: John Sheppard, Grace Woodburn, Alice Rockhill

Members present: Chris Wade, Seth Fields, Tom Gilmore, Chuck McKinley, Oscar Kraehenbuehl, Jay Wise, Carl Dennis, John Auld, Bud Rockhill

Meeting recessed for lunch.

Reopened meeting by calling everyone back to order.

Awards Presentations and New Members Inductions: Presented Chris Wade with War service medal for his tour of duty in Vietnam serving in the United States Air Force.

Joe Leinbach was absent, but was awarded for his service in the United States Navy. Joe will be presented with his medal at a later SAR meeting.

Correspondence: check out the NSSAR Website ([www.SAR.org](http://www.SAR.org)) for the latest on the construction at the new building. Latest posting was number 9. (really coming along well). Plus I checked for this month and there is a very nice presentation about what the vision is for the Museum and learning center.

Unfinished Business: Chris Wade and Jay are working on getting our Duck Money put back into a safe place, so I don't spend it all.

New Business: Jay Wise made motion to open money market fund at PNC Bank to hold chapter funds. A motion was made to remove Robert W. Donnahoo, Jr as a signer for the accounts and by Jay Wise and seconded by Bud Rockhill. Two new signatures, H. Hall Riediger, president and Chris Wade, treasurer were approved for the account.

Dues are now due, and they have been trickling in. Please don't put paying your dues off until the last moment.

Reports: Membership: Chuck is working with at least two new members.

Committee Reports: JROTC – Jay Wise

Eagle Scouts – There is nothing at this time although I am setting up one that was past and going to cover that one.

American History Teacher Award – those of you that attended the Constitution Week Luncheon had the opportunity to meet Don Zimmerman, who will be the Chapter entrant into the Tom and Betty Lawrence, American History Teacher Award. I am planning to have Don and his wife Karla to visit with us in December, so you all will be able to meet him. I will have more on this later.

Other Officer reports: Acting Commander Hall Riediger reported we will be forming up to participate in Veteran's Day in Port St. Lucie and Stuart. If you let me know you would like to participate I will make sure that you have the necessary information.

Habitat for Humanity - Joe was absent to report.

Veteran Affairs: Carl Ward will be back in November. I heard from him and he is in the last phases of clearing out of California.

Program:

Tom Gilmore made a Power Point presentation on his Honor Flight with compatriot Bud Rockhill. He has made a total of three flights as volunteer guardian to DC. He was presented with a bronze Good Citizen's medal and certificate award for his community service to the veterans and as a Stuart Police Volunteer patrolman.

50/50 Drawing: Oscar Kraehenbuehl

Guy's Duck: \$13

Next Meeting: December 14. American History Teacher Award. Don and Karla Zimmerman.

Benediction Chaplin: Jay Wise

Recessional: Hall Riediger

Yours, Tom Gilmore, Secretary

## Major General Lafayette

Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier de La Fayette, Marquis de La Fayette was a French nobleman and military officer born September 6, 1757. His full name is rarely used. Instead he is referred to as the Marquis de La Fayette or simply Lafayette. He was a Major General in the American Revolutionary War.

Lafayette was well educated, and upon the deaths of his parents and uncle, inherited a significant income. Lafayette received military officer's training fitting nobility.

On 7 December 1776, Lafayette arranged through Silas Dean, American agent in Paris, to enter the American service as a major general. He acquired the ship *La Victoire* for the voyage to America; the Continental Congress did not provide funds for his voyage. The king forbade him to leave after British spies discovered his plan, and issued an order for Lafayette to join a regiment in Marseille, with disobedience punishable by imprisonment. The British ambassador ordered the seizure of the ship Lafayette was fitting out, and Lafayette was threatened with arrest. He travelled to Spain, where on 20 April 1777, he sailed for America, disguised as a woman, leaving his pregnant wife in France. Lafayette bought the ship's cargo to avoid docking at intermediate stops, and the ship landed near Georgetown, South Carolina, on 13 June 1777.

Lafayette travelled to Philadelphia where the Continental Congress delayed his commission, weary of a recent spat of unqualified foreign volunteers, but when he offered to serve without pay, he was commissioned a Major General on July 31, 1777, a title Congress considered honorary. He was not assigned a command and was accepted by George Washington as his aide-de-camp, a staff position. Lafayette's demeanor impressed Washington, who promised to hold him in confidence.

At the Battle of Brandywine, Washington sent Lafayette to join General John Sullivan, where he was placed under General Thomas Conway. Lafayette's

service included providing a staunch defense and an orderly retreat. During the action, he was shot in the leg, and was cited by Washington for bravery and military ardor and recommended for command of a division.

Lafayette was placed in command of General Adam Stephen's division. He performed reconnaissance duties and defeated a superior force in action in New Jersey.

The Continental Army wintered at Valley Forge while the 'Conway Cabal' attempted to replace Washington with Horatio Gates. Before being sent north by the War Board for a supposed invasion of Canada, Lafayette warned Washington of his suspicions of a plot. The attempt to replace Washington ultimately failed.

In May, 1778, Washington sent Lafayette to reconnoiter near Barren Hill, Pennsylvania. British forces immediately attempted his capture. France had recently recognized American independence. Lafayette successfully withdrew his men in the face of the numerically superior force.

The Continental Army attacked the British at Monmouth Courthouse, where Washington placed General Charles Lee in charge. Lee's demeanor seemed strange to Lafayette, who urged Washington to the front. Washington arrived to find his men in retreat, and personally rallied the force and repelled British attacks.

Lafayette participated in a disjointed attack on Newport, Rhode Island. The French fleet had arrived, but was not consulted before the attack. The French fleet then attacked the British under Lord Howe, but afterwards moved north to Boston for repairs. Bostonians viewed the moved away from Newport as a desertion and rioted. John Hancock and Lafayette were sent to calm the situation, and ultimately Lafayette was cited by Congress for his gallantry, skill, and prudence.

In February 1779, Lafayette returned to



France where he successfully lobbied for additional French aid.

In May 1780, Lafayette returned to America, commanding troops in New York and later Virginia. Lafayette, joined by forces under General Anthony Wayne, opposed Cornwallis. When Cornwallis established the British at Yorktown, Lafayette took position at Malvern Hill. When the French fleet arrived, the British were trapped. In September 1781, Washington's forces joined Lafayette's and the Siege of Yorktown began. On October 14, forces took redoubts #9 and #10, leading to the surrender of Cornwallis on October 19, 1781.

Robert Rhodes Crout, biographer of Lafayette, said his participation in the American Revolution "served succeeding generations around the world as a call to arms and international conflicts involving principles of human rights and liberties. He was the most distinguished foreign volunteer to the American army, providing legitimacy for their side."

Lafayette was a trusted lieutenant and favorite of George Washington. Numerous locations throughout the United States are named in his honor.

Lafayette died May 20, 1834.



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## **President's Brigade**

Those Compatriots whose extra financial support allows the Chapter to go the extra mile in it's efforts throughout the year. Please, if at all possible, help us out with a little extra.

### **Gold Medal**

Support of \$50 and above

### **Silver Medal**

Support of \$25 and above

### **Bronze Medal**

Support up to \$24