



# The Whig



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

September 2013

## President's Salvo



Gentlemen,

It has become that time again, when dues need to be paid for the up-coming year 2014, and please don't as in previous years let it go until the last minute. We will need to have the dues collected and sent to the State Secretary by December 1. There is a little leeway for those really late payers, but we do need to get this done and finished. You will find a reply form in the Newsletter. Please fill it out, add your check, and mail to Compatriot Christopher Wade, 628 Bentpaddle Lane, Port St. Lucie, FL 34983, or Hall Riediger, 1702 SW Nantucket Ave, Port St. Lucie, FL 34953.

Thank you to all of you for renewing and staying with the Sons of the American Revolution.

Yours,

Hall Riediger  
President

## Constitution Week Luncheon



*Professor Don Zimmerman with SAR Chapter President Hall Riediger, St. Lucie River Chapter, and DAR Vice-Regent Esther Twitchell, Halpatookee Chapter.*

The Annual Constitution Week Luncheon hosted by the Halpatookee, Jupiter Lighthouse, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie River Chapters, Daughters of the American Revolution, and the St. Lucie River Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, was held on September 14, 2013 at the Monarch Country Club in Palm City, Florida. The guest speaker was Don Zimmerman, Adjunct Professor of History at Indian River State College. Professor Zimmerman's topic was "The Founding Fathers". Don Zimmerman

did a wonderful job as speaker, covering much of who and what the founders thought and did when the constitution was written. His wife Karla attended as a guest. Florida Society President Ted Duay attended along with Jeff Sizemore, the East Central Regional Vice President and his wife, Joy. Monarch country Club was great as usual. Professor Zimmerman will be the St. Lucie River Chapter SAR's entrant into the Tom and Betty Lawrence American History Teacher of the year contest.

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

## Honor Flight with SAR Veteran Bud Rockhill



*This story contributed  
by Compatriot Tom  
Gilmore*

On my third Honor Flight on September 7, 2013, as a guardian, I took a fellow SAR Compatriot to Washington, DC. Bud Rockhill was one of the WWII veterans who hit the beach in Operation Overlord in the Battle of Normandy. This biggest and most complex D Day invasion took place June 6, 1944, and will always be remembered when we think of our greatest generation of military heroes.

Bud told me he was one of the veterans who served in the Battle of the Bulge and was in the artillery division of the army. He shared his experiences with me on the flight to Washington and while we were waiting for our return flight home to West Palm Beach, Florida. Many of the veterans often have kept their wartime stories to themselves, but seem to open up with their guardians on the Honor Flights.

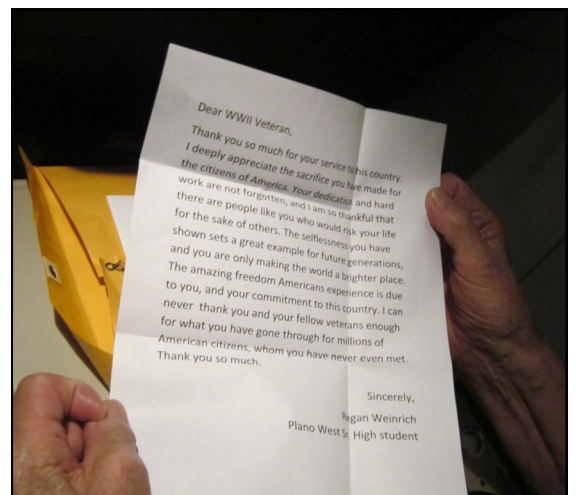
The Honor Flight operation made its inaugural tour in May of 2005. Earl Morse, a physician assistant and retired Air Force Captain, started the Honor Flight Network Program because he wanted to honor the veterans under his care. The mission and ideals of the program have spread across America. It has been a huge success. The goal is to try to take every living veteran that was in the military service during WWII on one of these historic flights. The flights are free of charge for eligible veterans.

I have found my involvement in the program to be personally gratifying and a wonderful way to honor our WWII heroes. It is an amazing one-day program that begins in the early morning hours and ends late into the evening. Police and Vietnam veteran motorcycle riders escort is provided both to and from the airports. The tour includes visits to the World War Two Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Iwo Jima Memorial. Many of the veterans often get to meet high-ranking military officers or politicians. Since Bob Dole was instrumental in the building of the World War Two Memorial, he and his wife, Elizabeth, are usually nearby to greet and thank the veterans.

If any other compatriot would like to either be one of the honored veterans or join the Honor Flight Team as a guardian, you can visit the Honor Flight website at <http://www.honorflight.org>. I know you will have a wonderful fun filled day that will remain in your memory for years!



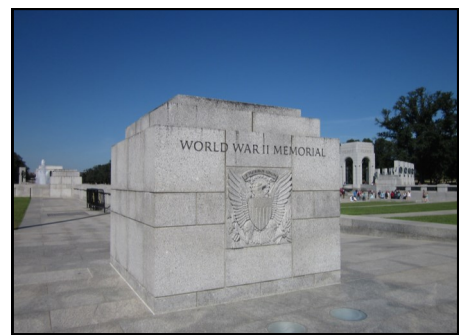
*Tom Gilmore with Bud Rockhill*



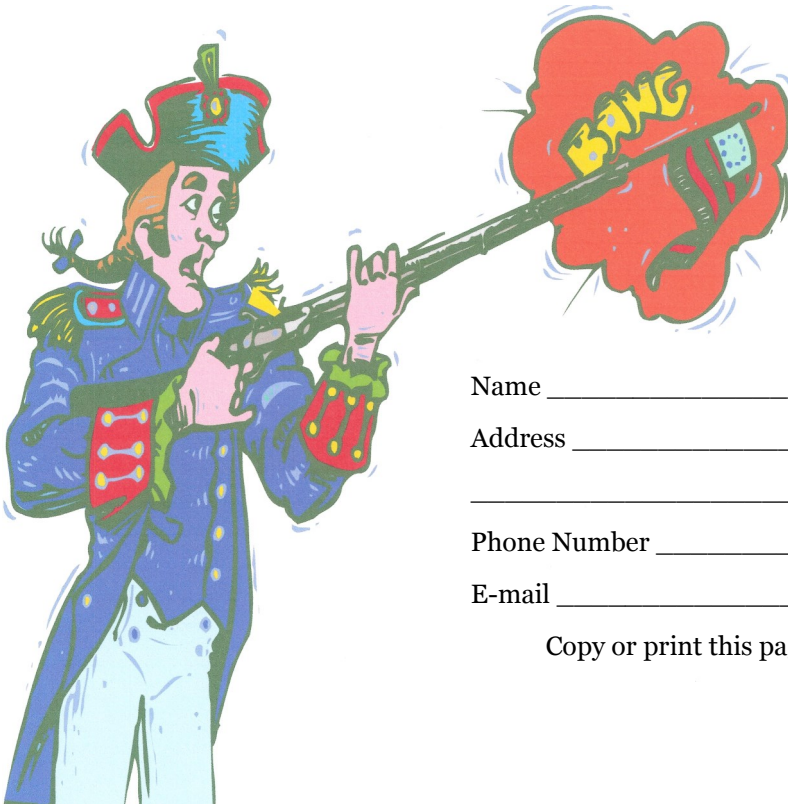
Dear WWII Veteran,  
Thank you so much for your service to this country. I deeply appreciate the sacrifice you have made for the citizens of America. Your dedication and hard work are not forgotten, and I am so thankful that there are people like you who would risk your life for the sake of others. The selflessness you have shown sets a great example for future generations. The amazing freedom Americans experience is due to you, and your commitment to this country. I can never thank you and your fellow veterans enough for what you have gone through for millions of American citizens, whom you have never even met. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,  
Rygan Weinrich  
Plano West High Student

(Continued from page 2)



## 2014 Membership Dues



It is that time of year again. 2014 dues (\$65) are now being collected and are due by December 1, 2013. Please send them in as soon as you can so we are not delaying our report to National.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Copy or print this page, fill out, include check for \$65, and Mail to:

Compatriot Chris Wade  
628 Bentpaddle Lane  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34983

## SAR News and Notes

- Medal of Honor Recipient is sworn in to the Washington State Society, Sons of the American Revolution: While presenting John Druse Hawk with a flag certificate in April, it was discovered that he was from a long lineage of patriots serving this country. His father served in WWI, Grandfather in Spanish American War, Great Grandfathers served in the Civil War, great-great Grandfather served in the war of 1812, and his patriot ancestor Isaac Lawrence served as a Corporal in Captain John Hartwell's Company, Colonel Dike's Regiment, participating in the Battle for Bunker Hill. Even more significant is the fact that Mr. Hawk was awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military honor, for his service in WWII. Read more at [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org) or click [here](#).

-Integrated Library Solution: On June 21, 2013, a new cataloguing system went live at the SAR Genealogical Research Library in Louisville, Kentucky. The new library system, Integrated Library Solution, was purchased this spring by the SAR Library Committee. While the previous system was also provided by The Library Corporation (TLC), this new software is a major upgrade and will significantly benefit library patrons. Many libraries across the country currently use this software, including the DAR. Read more online at [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org) or click [here](#).

-The Summer 2013 edition of *The Florida Patriot* is available for download from the FLSSAR website or by clicking [here](#).

## Events Calendar

September 27, 28: Fall Leadership Meeting, NSSAR Headquarters, Louisville, Kentucky

October 12: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City \*

November 9: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City \*

November 11: Veteran's Day

November 28: Thanksgiving

December 1: Deadline for receipt of annual dues

December TBD: Ft. Pierce Christmas Parade

December 14: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City \*

December 25: Christmas

January 11, 2014: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City \*

January 24,25: FLSSAR Board of Management Meeting, location TBD

February 8: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City \*

February 28 - March 1: Spring Leadership Meeting, NSSAR Headquarters, Louisville, Kentucky

July 18-24: 124th Annual Congress, Greenville, South Carolina

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

## Editor's Note

We extend our appreciation to Compatriot Thomas Gilmore for his content contributions this month, including help with photography. Any Compatriots who wish to contribute content or help with photography, or who can provide context and summaries should email the editor.

## The Whig Contact Information

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## Major General John Stark

John Stark was a Major General in the Continental Army in the Revolutionary War and is widely known as the “Hero of Bennington” for his service at the Battle of Bennington on August 16, 1777 about 10 miles outside of Bennington, Vermont.

John Stark was born in Londonderry, New Hampshire on August 18, 1728. He was the son of Irish immigrant parents. Stark married Elizabeth “Molly” Page.

On April 28, 1752, while on a hunting trip, John Stark was captured by the Abenaki tribe of Native American Indians. After his capture, he was made to run the gauntlet of stick wielding warriors, proving his worth to the Indian chief, and was subsequently ‘adopted’ into the tribe. The following spring, government agents paid a ransom for his release and he returned to his home of New Hampshire.

During the French and Indian War, John Stark served as Second Lieutenant under Major Robert Rogers. Stark gained military experience as well as detailed knowledge of the northern frontier. Roger’s Rangers were ordered to attack the Abenaki village of St. Francis in Quebec. Stark refused to take part in the attack and returned to New Hampshire. Stark retired holding the rank of Captain.

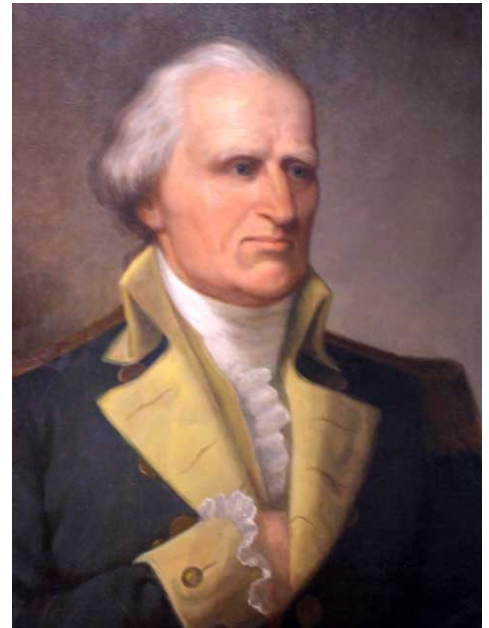
With the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War, Stark returned to military service, becoming a Colonel in the New Hampshire Militia on April 23, 1775. Stark assembled his troops and moved to the area of Boston, Massachusetts. American forces attempted to take and hold Breed’s Hill on the Charlestown peninsula near Boston. As a result, the British attacked, beginning the Battle of Bunker Hill. Colonel John Stark responded to an urgent call for reinforcements from Colonel William Prescott, and marched his men to the scene and deployed as he saw fit, inflicting several repulses to the attacking British, but ultimately provided cover to the retreating American forces. British losses

were relatively heavy.

George Washington offered Stark a command in the Continental Army. Stark’s regiment became the 5th Continental Regiment and reinforced the American army retreating from Canada, as well as taking part in the Battles of Princeton and Trenton. Stark was then asked to return home to recruit more troops. While away, Stark found that he had been passed over for promotion by a fellow New Hampshire Colonel, Enoch Poor. Incensed, Stark resigned his commission in disgust on March 23, 1777.

New Hampshire then offered John Stark a commission as Brigadier General in their militia. Stark accepted on the condition he would not be answerable to Continental Army authority. Stark moved his men to Manchester, New Hampshire where he encountered Major General Benjamin Lincoln, who ordered Stark to the Hudson River. Stark refused and an agreement was reached to allow Stark and his men to operate independently against the rear of General John Burgoyne’s British Army.

General Burgoyne sent an expedition to capture American supplies at Bennington, Vermont. Stark heard about the raid and immediately marched his force to that place. Hearing this, British Lieutenant Colonel Friedrich Baum requested reinforcements and fortified his position, awaiting their arrival. On August 16, 1777, General Stark deployed his available troops against those of Baum. The attack caused British allied Indians, loyalists, and Canadians to flee, leaving Baum with his British troops stranded awaiting reinforcement. Stark attacked the British, reportedly saying “We’ll beat them before night or Molly Stark’s a widow.” Baum was fatally wounded and his men gave up around 5 p.m. British reinforcements arrived about the same time as American reinforcements, and the British were forced to withdraw. Stark’s action raised American morale, withheld needed



supplies from the British, and contributed to the eventual surrender of Burgoyne’s northern army after the Battles of Saratoga. Stark received a promotion to Brigadier General of the Continental Army on October 4, 1777. After the Battle of Freeman’s Farm (First Saratoga), General Stark’s brigade was positioned to cut off Burgoyne’s retreat to Lake George and Lake Champlain.

In 1780, General John Stark sat as a judge in the court martial of British Major John Andre’, found guilty of spying and conspiring with Benedict Arnold to surrender West Point to the British.

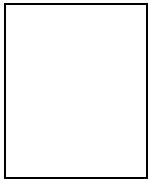
General Stark commanded the Northern Department at times between 1778 and 1781, and was given brevet promotion to Major General at the end of the war.

In 1809, a group of Bennington veterans gathered to commemorate the battle. General Stark was unable to attend due to health, but he sent a paper to be read which included the line “Live free or die: Death is not the worst of evils.” The motto Live Free or Die became the New Hampshire state motto in 1945.

John Stark died on May 8, 1822.



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## **President's Brigade**

### **Gold Medal**

Jay Wise  
Oscar Kraehenbuehl  
Hall Riediger  
Joe Leinbach

### **Silver Medal**

John Auld  
Carl Wade

### **Bronze Medal**

George Lambert