



The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter

FORT LAUDERDALE CHAPTER ORGANIZED NOVEMBER 26, 1966

APRIL 1996

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Broward's First Circuit Judge

SAR Welcomes Fort Lauderdale Attorney William G Crawford, Jr.

BY RICK AIKEN, PRESIDENT

Vincent C. Giblin was appointed by the governor in 1927 as Broward County's first Circuit Judge. A very colorful figure around South Florida courthouses for more than 40 years Judge Giblin served only a little more than two years as Broward's first judge. He was required to run for election in 1929 and lost to George Tedder, Sr.. However he refused to step down, believing or at least saying that the governor had appointed him for a six year term. Needless to say the governor had a different opinion than Vincent Giblin and the matter was eventually resolved with Giblin moving to Dade County.

Fort Lauderdale attorney William G. Crawford, Jr. has researched the life and times of Judge Giblin and will be our speaker at the April 11 luncheon. Born and raised in Ft. Lauderdale, Mr. Crawford is Vice Chairman of the Broward County Historical Commission and has served on this board since 1980. He is recognized as an expert of Broward Courthouse history and virtually every judge we've had.

An exciting speaker, Mr. Crawford will continue his thoroughly researched tale of Vincent Giblin's career, telling us how he served as Al Capone's attorney, as well as a Dade County Circuit Judge in the 1950's. He thus became the only judge in Florida history to serve as Circuit Judge in two different counties.

Mr. Crawford has probably researched, written and spoken on Broward Courthouse history more than anyone alive today. You will not want to miss his well developed program at the Tower Club, April 11.

REMINDER:

WE MUST GUARANTEE OUR RESERVATIONS 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE.

You could be billed for the cost of the lunch if you reserve and fail to attend. If you don't reserve, you can attend -- come anyway -- we can't promise that you can be fed, but no one has gone away hungry yet!

Let Us Hear From You

It is your President's belief that interesting and sometimes innovative speakers will bring out of the woodwork more of our members to the monthly luncheons. Guests are always welcome and encouraged. What is also encouraged is feedback to your President regarding the programs and possible suggestions for future speakers. Some compatriots have been helpful in this regard, having the advantage of belonging to one or more other organizations that regularly have speakers at their meetings. Based on our past history we generally have governmental or historical program topics which is probably in line with the nature of our organization but an occasional "off beat" program would be perfectly acceptable as well as desired. So, please don't be shy. Your President welcomes comments and suggestions. He will seriously consider all suggested speakers and programs for future dates. Let him hear from you.

NEXT MEETING - APRIL 11

TOWER CLUB !!!

\$15.00 INCL. TAX AND TIP

11:30 SOCIAL 12:00 LUNCH

28TH FLOOR NATIONS BANK

1 FINANCIAL TOWER

SE 3RD AVE & BROWARD BLVD

FORT LAUDERDALE

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:

RICHARD AIKEN 568-0143

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

March 14, 1996 - Tower Club; Minutes by Oscar Kraehenbuhl

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Aiken and the invocation given by Chaplain Fred Topper. Forty -three members and guests were present including 9 oration contestants and 14 teachers and parents.

The Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration Contest was the main event and Chairman Rich Jones conducted the balance of the meeting. The contest's benefactor, Compatriot Joe Rumbaugh, was present and gave greetings and encouragement to the candidates. Judges for the contest were: Bill Casson, Ed Sullivan and Oscar Kraehenbuehl. Timekeeper: Joe Motes. Prompter: Stuart Browne. It was a pleasure to hear and see these nine outstanding students from four high schools compete. The winner was Paul Hembd, with second and third places going to Marla Grant and Tara Rosenblum. It just happened that all three attended Hollywood Hills HS. Joe Rumbaugh presented the winner with a \$100 check and a medallion. Others received \$50 for second place and all others \$25. A certificate of appreciation was given to all participants.

It was apparent from the comments by the students, teachers and parents that participation in this contest was appreciated and of value to them. Paul Hembd will be a worthy participant in the Florida contest in May.

The meeting was adjourned about 2 pm.

Coming Next Month

Folks, do we have a treat in store for you! At the May 9 luncheon, Philosophical Humorist and worldwide nightclub comedian Art Collier will be appearing on our stage. Also known as Artie Sax, he presently appears nightly at Ireland's Inn on Ft. Lauderdale beach.



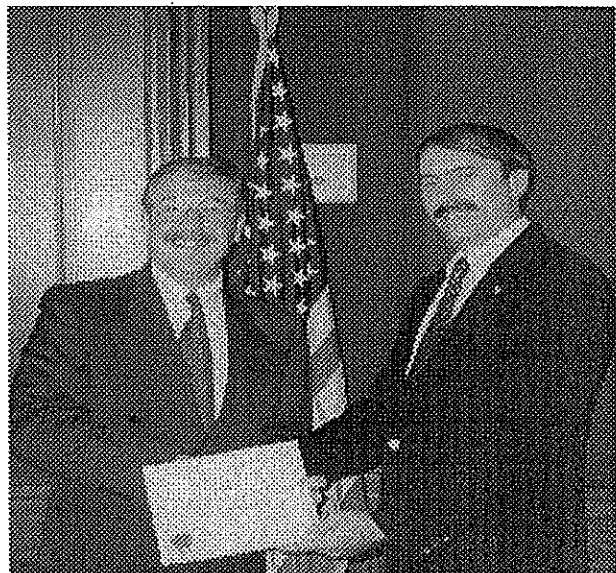
Third place winner Tara Rosenblum, Mr Joseph S. Rumbaugh, first place winner Paul Hembd, and second place winner Marla Grant.



Oration Contest Chairman Rich Jones, contest winner Paul Hembd, and Mr. Joseph S. Rumbaugh.



Guest speaker, "Chase" Adams is presented a Certificate of Appreciation by President Rick Aiken for his presentation during the February meeting.



YOUR MEMBERS IN PROFILE

Rich Jones was born 44 years ago and spent the first 23 years of his life in the Show Me state of Missouri.

Much of that youth was spent playing baseball and riding a bicycle all over the small town of Brunswick—outside of Kansas City—where everyone knew everyone and Leave It To Beaver and Donna Reed seemed as though they were living next-door.

The old black-and-white Admiral TV stood on four wooden legs in the living room and received three channels—all of the networks! Every Friday night there was Rawhide (with Clint Eastwood). Sunday night brought The Wonderful World of Disney (in living color).

Summer nights were spent listening to baseball games on the radio with my grandfather and hearing his stories of growing up in Kansas City with friends such as Harry Truman and Walt Disney. One of my earliest childhood memories is grandpa taking me to Harry Truman's office in Independence, Missouri, when I was four years old and having the former president autograph a portrait of himself for me. It still hangs in my house in Coral Springs.

As for Walt Disney, my grandfather and he were newspaper delivery boys and both picked up their papers at the same place each day. They also boxed at the same club as boys.

My early years included serving as an altar boy at the Catholic Church—most of which was dreaded due to the consistently surely nature of the priests and an intense desire to get on with more important things such as goofing off with my friends. It was dreary work for a kid except when Father Walsh conducted the 7 a.m. Mass. While all other priests barely sipped at the wine at that early hour you could always count on Father Walsh to guzzle the entire thing and woe to the boy that didn't have enough wine on hand for a full refill. It was an eye-opening experience for an 11-year-old boy.

Looking back, most of my early education came not at school but hanging out at my Dad's barber shop and listening to the men talk politics, sports and shoot the breeze about how they won World War II. I was of course there in my official capacity as floor-sweeper-upper at closing time—salary of 15-cents per day.

Around the corner was the pool hall where more of my specialized training took place. There I learned the fine art of snooker and 8-ball.

Down the street was the weekly newspaper where my mother worked as a secretary and the editor seemed friendly. When I was in high school the editor called me in one day and said he knew I liked sports and wondered if I would be interested in becoming the sports editor. My duties would include writing stories about the baseball and basketball games at our high school.

I said yes, and it turned out to be the start of a newspaper career that continues 30 years later. Then came stints as sports editor of my college newspaper at Central Missouri State University and as sports editor of the college yearbook my senior year. By this time I was majoring in Communications and had become proficient in another line of work—short-order cook.

For two summers during my college years I worked the overnight shift as a cook at a 24-hour diner. My specialty was breakfast (I can still fry eggs in my sleep) and breaking up fights between drunks that the waitresses didn't want to kick out because they tipped well. There is nobody alive who has heard "Stand By Your Man" and "Folsom Prison Blues" on a jukebox more than I have.

The day after my college graduation in 1973 I started work as a reporter for the Sedalia, Missouri "Democrat-Capital" newspaper. After a year I moved on to Hallmark Cards in Kansas City where I wrote, edited and produced the company's daily employee newspaper that circulates to six different countries and to 20,000 employees.

In January 1975, I accepted a position as a copy editor at the Fort Lauderdale News and checked the map to see where exactly in Florida that Fort Lauderdale was located. Being single and young I loaded my life's possessions into my little Mercury Capri and headed south.

At the time the old Fort Lauderdale News was the largest small-time newspaper in the country—run by the Gore family for their personal profit with little concern for the quality of the paper. That soon changed with the sale of the paper to the Tribune and the boom that Broward County experienced in the 1970s and 80s.

The News merged with the morning Sun-Sentinel in 1981 and by that time I had been promoted to assistant city editor. Through the years I have also worked as news editor, metro editor, and editor of the paper's West Broward bureau.

In August, 1985 a Delta Airlines jet from Fort Lauderdale crashed during a storm in Dallas, killing some 150 passengers including the Broward school board chairman, several teachers on their way to a convention and the IBM executives from Boca Raton who had invented the personal computer.

Less than an hour later I was on a flight to Dallas as the editor in charge of a team of Sun-Sentinel reporters and photographers. We worked around the clock for four days covering the crash and its aftermath. Incidentally, one of my reporters on that mission was Michael Connelly, now a world-famous bestselling author of murder-mysteries. Our work in covering that disaster was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize that year.

Since 1988 I have been production editor for the Sun-Sentinel, the editor in charge of continuity and making sure that all of the other editors make their deadlines.

We're at home in Coral Springs where Barb's three grown daughters come to visit occasionally and I keep busy mowing the lawn, cleaning the pool and goofing off with Spike, my wire-haired fox terrier.

My main hobby is still baseball and I attend as many Marlins games as possible. My dad has also gotten me interested in genealogy and has turned over his extensive family research material to me.

Next Month Profile Fred Topper and Past President Stu Browne.



Back row: **Lenny Marine**, Western High.; **Tara Rosenblum**, Hollywood Hills; **Paul Hembd**, Hollywood Hills; **Joy Marie Roberts**, Stranahan High; **David Elsheimer**, Stranahan High.
 Front row: **Marla Grant**, Hollywood Hills; **Magy Rechani**, McArthur High; **Nafi Khan**, McArthur; **Mary Geus**, McArthur High.

**Fort Lauderdale Chapter of the
Sons of the American Revolution**

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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
TIME DATED MATERIAL**

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