



# The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter



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## DAR Constitution Week

Fontenada Chapter, NSDAR, is looking forward to the members of the Ft. Lauderdale Chapter, NSSAR, the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge and the Lighthouse Point Chapter, NSDAR, joining them on Tuesday, September 11th at 11:30 AM at the Elks Lodge, 700 NE 10th Street, Pompano Beach to celebrate 214th Anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States on September 17, 1787. Constitution Week is observed each year during the week of September 17th.

Robert Spencer, a member of the Ft. Lauderdale Chapter, NSSAR, will be our Guest Speaker. He is very knowledgeable about the Constitution and our Founding Fathers. There will also be Proclamations for Constitution Week presented from some of our local City Governments.

Reservations should be sent to Vice Regent Pat Courant with a check made out to: Fontenada Chapter for \$13, (for the 13 Colonies).

R.S.V.P by September 5th to:  
Mrs. Pat Courant  
1957 Hollows Trail  
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442  
(954) 571-6611

## The American Constitution: Alive in Our Hearts and Minds

Our Founding Fathers gathered in Philadelphia in the summer of 1776 to draft our Declaration of Independence from Great Britain. On July 4 of that year, a free and independent United States of America was born. After the American patriots won independence on the battlefield, our Founding Fathers met again in 1787 to draft a plan for the governing of our new nation. That plan - our Constitution - was ratified in 1789, and our new government was established. For more than two hundred years, our Constitution has proven to be an enduring guide in our quest to secure our Founding Fathers' vision of a free and democratic America.

Every year during the week of September 17- 23, our nation observes Constitution Week. This week is devoted to celebrating and understanding our responsibility as

Americans to protect, defend and preserve our Constitution for future generations. While this celebration may not be accompanied by the grand fanfare of our national holidays, it is every bit as important to reflect upon its meaning. After all, our Constitution is the safeguard of our liberties, the champion of our freedoms, our nation's fundamental law.

We celebrate our Constitution because it recognizes and protects both the sovereignty of our nation and our sovereignty as individual Americans. Under the Constitution, our Founding Fathers crafted a form of government that would be strong enough to secure our rights against domestic and foreign oppression and yet not so strong or extensive as to be oppressive itself.

Our Constitution is successful in this regard because it divides the power of government between the national and state governments, leaving most power with the states or people. It restrains the power of our national government by separating the legislative, executive and judicial branches and instituting a series of checks and balances.

This week we also celebrate the underlying principles of our Constitution set forth in the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration is the moral foundation of our free society. For more than two centuries its ringing phrases have inspired millions of people around the world -- "that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness -- That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed."

*continued on page 2*

**NEXT MEETING - OCTOBER 11th  
TOWER CLUB !!!**

**\$18.00 INCL. TAX AND TIP  
11:30 SOCIAL 12:00 LUNCH  
28TH FLOOR BANK OF AMERICA  
1 FINANCIAL TOWER  
SE 3RD AVE & BROWARD BLVD  
FORT LAUDERDALE**

**FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:  
954-441-8735**

*Members living in North Broward need to dial the  
area code plus the phone number,  
or e-mail me at: joemotes@aol.com*

## Children of the American Revolution News

The Fontenada Chapter of NSDAR is organizing a new society of the Children of the American Revolution. We need at least 6 applications for new members and as many of your children, grandchildren or other family members as possible.

We also need the assistance of adults as Senior members to act as mentors working with the young C.A.R. officers, teaching them how to function in every office and conduct a proper meeting.

Who may become a member? C.A.R. membership is open to all children between the ages of birth to 22 years old, who can prove that their ancestor served during the Revolutionary in some respect for the American cause. When the child reaches age 22, his/her lineage will be already established so that they may become a member of the corresponding adult hereditary societies: NSDAR, NSSAR and/or S.R. However, between the ages of 18 to 22, they may have dual membership in the C.A.R. and SAR or DAR.

What does it do? C.A.R. helps to train young people to become good citizens, to develop our future leaders and to promotes the love and respect of the U.S.A., its flag, and its heritage among young people.

The 2001-2002 Theme for the Florida C.A.R. is "Everglades Forever". The members will have an opportunity to discover a National Treasure of our Country.

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What does it do? C.A.R. helps to train young people to become good citizens, to develop our future leaders and to promotes the love and respect of the U.S.A., its flag, and its heritage among young people.

The 2001-2002 Theme for the Florida C.A.R. is "Everglades Forever". The members will have an opportunity to discover a National Treasure of our Country. They will learn about the unique beauty of the Everglades and its importance as a natural water reservoir for the preservation of the wildlife, their freshwater and saltwater habitats. They will learn about the efforts being made to repair, protect and preserve the Everglades for future generations.

This year the C.A.R. will be selling the State C.A.R. pins, using the proceeds to help support the Everglades National Park signage in the visitors center detailing the Everglades Restoration project and associated educational materials for children.

For more information, contact:

C.A.R. Organizing President, Alice Carlson at (954) 941-3226 or DAR Chapter Regent, Opal Spencer at (954) 566-3719

*continued from page 1*

Another integral component of our Constitution to celebrate is the Bill of Rights. In 1789, the First Congress of the United States adopted the first ten amendments to the Constitution, collectively known as the Bill of Rights. These Rights restrict government invasion of certain individual liberties, including freedom of speech, press, assembly, and religion, and the right to bear arms. It also safeguards the rights of individuals suspected or accused of crime. The Bill of Rights ensures that everyone is afforded the due process of law, a fair trial, and freedom from self-incrimination and protects individuals from cruel and unusual punishment.

The Constitution is our great heritage and the foundation of our free lives as Americans. Resting on a firm moral foundation, the principles of the Declaration and Constitution were meant to serve not just the 18th Century America of our Founding Fathers, but also generations of Americans to come.

While these documents will serve us well as we move through the 21st Century, it is important to remember that in the end, no constitution can be self-enforcing. Government officials must respect their oaths to uphold the Constitution. And we the people must be vigilant in seeing that they do. The Founders drafted an extraordinarily thoughtful plan of government, but it is up to us, each generation of Americans, to preserve and protect it for ourselves and for future generations. After all, the Constitution will live only if it is alive in the hearts and minds of the American people. That, perhaps, is the most important thought to reflect upon during this Constitution Week.

(United States Representative Jo Ann Emerson, Missouri's 8th District, September 10, 1999)