



The Florida Society of the
Sons of the American Revolution
Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter
website: www.learnwebskills.com/sar/index.html



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Organized November 26, 1966

FEB 2009

Volume 42 Number 2

President's Message

Dear Compatriots,

It's hard to believe that another year has passed. Last year, our chapter accomplished many good things, including JROTC, Eagle Scout Programs, support of CAR activities, attendance at BOM meetings, and Veteran Retirement Home programs, just to name a few.

I would like to encourage all compatriots to take a more active role this year. We could help Joe Motes in the presentation of JROTC medals or Ed Spencer and Charles Crowell with Swamp Fox Society C.A.R. activities. We could do a Liberty Tree. We could help with programs for the Veterans' Nursing Home. Also, it would be nice if we could form a color guard to participate in various ceremonies, parades, etc.

I know in talking to each of you, you did not join SAR just to join another organization. I know that you want to participate, so I will be calling upon you to do so.

One of my jobs will be to bring interesting and educational speakers to our meetings. I will do my best. Please help me with your suggestions. In addition, your attendance is needed.

I appreciate your efforts and support of the Ft. Lauderdale Chapter.

Respectfully,
Jim Lohmeyer- President



Joseph Motes Post 385 of the American Legion and the 9th District throws a wreath over the stern of the US Coast Guard Cutter Gannet at their Station in John Lloyd Park, Dania Beach. The celebration was of the 66th anniversary of "The Four Chaplains" and the 672 heroes of the USAT Dorchester that was sunk in WWII of the coast of Greenland Feb. 3, 1943.

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Our speaker will be Saul Montes-Bradley, Past President of the Miami Chapter SAR, who will present an interesting talk on a topic of historical interest.

NEXT MEETING - FEBRUARY 28, 2009

***** FUTURE MEETING DATES *****

MARCH 28, 2009

APRIL 25, 2009

MAY 23, 2009

"Flaming Pit"

1150 N. Federal Hwy., Pompano Beach

(11 blocks north of Atlantic Blvd.)

Time: 11:30AM social gathering; Lunch at noon

Buffet luncheon - \$16.00

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:

954-441-8735

or e-mail Joe Motes at: joemotes@aol.com

Eyewitness 1753: Washington gets to The Point

By Len Barcoucky, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Heavy rains and a “vast Quantity of Snow” made travel difficult for **George Washington** in the late fall of 1753. Major Washington, age 21, was leading a small expedition through what would become western Pennsylvania on orders from Robert Dinwiddie.

Dinwiddie, the lieutenant governor of Washington’s home state of Virginia, had given the young man a delicate and dangerous diplomatic task on Oct. 31.

Washington was to take messages to the commander of newly built French outposts in the Ohio Country, telling him to withdraw from lands claimed by Great Britain. He was also to foster alliances with local Indian tribes and to bring back intelligence on French economic and military intentions.

Dull words that describe a 11-week journey that took him and Christopher Gist through 1,000 miles of mostly wilderness. As he traveled by horse, canoe and on foot, Washington kept a journal. When that journal was published in 1754, just weeks after his return to Williamsburg, then Virginia’s capital, it gave Washington his first taste of fame.

Shot at and almost drowned, he came close to death twice during his trip. Trained as a surveyor, he paid close attention to topography, keeping his eye out for both fertile farmlands and places of military importance.

While Washington was not the first European to visit what became Pittsburgh’s Point -- where the Monongahela and the Allegheny join to form the Ohio River -- he was the first to describe it.

He arrived on Nov. 22, 1753. “I spent some Time in viewing the Rivers, and the Land in the Fork, which I think extremely well situated for a Fort, as it has the absolute Command of both Rivers,” he wrote.

”The Land at the Point is 20 or 25 Feet above the common Surface of the Water, and a considerable bottom of flat, well-timbered Land all around it, very convenient for Building.

”The Rivers are each a Quarter of a Mile, or more, across, and run here very near at right Angles: Alligany bearing N.E. and Monogahela S.E. [T]he former of these two is very rapid and swift running Water, the other deep and still without and perceptible Fall.”

Washington’s diplomatic party of seven white men and a varying number of Indian companions included Gist, an experienced woodsman, and a Dutchman named Jacob VanBraam, who spoke some French, to serve as interpreter. The best known Native American to accompany Washington was Tanacharison. Known as the Half-King, he represented the powerful Iroquois Confederacy in the area around what became Pittsburgh.

The French commander at Fort LeBoeuf, Jacques Legardeur de Saint-Pierre, was not impressed. In a reply Washington carried back to Dinwiddie, Saint-Pierre wrote to Dinwiddie that while he received Washington “with a distinction suitable to your Dignity, and his Quality and great Merit,” the French had no plans to leave.

Deep snow made Washington’s trip back even more difficult and slower. Leaving their horses and the rest of their party behind, Washington and Gist set out alone and on foot on Dec. 26.

The next few days presented danger from humans and nature. On Dec. 27 Washington and Gist had reached what is now Butler County. Washington wrote that he and Gist “fell in with a Party of French Indians, who had lain in Wait for us; one of them fired at Mr. Gist or me not 15 Steps [away], but fortunately missed.”

Worried about another attack, Washington and Gist “walked all the remaining Part of the Night without making any Stop ...”

The next morning they reached the ice-filled Allegheny River and, still without sleep, spent most of the day building a crude raft “with one poor Hatchet.” They were using long poles to push themselves across when Washington was thrown into the freezing water. He grabbed onto the raft as Gist maneuvered it to a island in the middle of the river. By next morning it had frozen over and they walked across to the south shore.

After a quick diplomatic meeting, near present-day McKeesport, with the Indian Queen Aliquippa, Washington hurried back to Williamsburg to report to Dinwiddie.

His journal was published in both Virginia and Great Britain, pretty much as he wrote it. “I think I can do no less than apologize, in some measure, for the numberless Imperfections of it,” he said.





The American Legion 9th District Commander Joseph Motes and Post 385 gives his life jacket to Sea Cadet Nicholas Hauser from Coral Glades HS in Coral Springs. They were part of a celebration of the 66th anniversary of “The Four Chaplains” and 672 heroes of the ship USAT *Dorchester* that was sunk off of Greenland in 1943. (Nicholas R. Von Staden, Sun Sentinel / February 15, 2009)

Dania Beach service honors Four Chaplains of WWII

On sinking ship, they gave away their life jackets

By John Holland | South Florida Sun-Sentinel

February 16, 2009

HOLLYWOOD - They stood at attention in the hot sun to honor four men they never knew and an act of courage they hope is never forgotten.

Sixty-six years have passed since four U.S. Army chaplains — a Catholic priest, a rabbi and two Protestant pastors — gave their lives trying to save soldiers and Marines aboard the USAT *Dorchester*. But the memorials continue nationwide, including the one Sunday in John U. Lloyd Beach State Park.

A German submarine struck the transport ship in the icy North Atlantic waters off Greenland on Feb. 3, 1943, sinking the vessel with its 902 passengers and crew in just 27 minutes.

As hundreds of young soldiers panicked and raced for lifeboats and vests, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Father John P. Washington and the Revs. George L. Fox and Clark V. Poling stayed aboard, handing out life vests and providing calming voices in the hysteria. When no more vests remained, the chaplains — all lieutenants — removed their own and passed them along, sealing their deaths but creating an enduring legacy.

Crews of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutters *Comanche* and *Escanaba* scrambled for survivors but, in the end, 672 people were killed, many frozen to death clinging to the oars of crowded lifeboats.

“Those four chaplains assured themselves a seat in heaven, that’s for sure,” said Patrick Campbell, 80, of Pompano Beach, who was a Marine corporal in the final days of World War II. He served on the honor guard Sunday, shifting his feet under the bright sun during the 60-minute ceremony but never easing up. “It was a selfless act, and that’s why we’re all here.”

The gathering at the U.S. Coast Guard Station was one of dozens around the country.

In 1943, the chaplains quickly became national heroes, particularly as some of the 230 survivors recounted seeing the four on the bow, holding hands and praying for the troops as the ship sank into the water. Survivor after survivor had similar tales of the four men. All four were awarded the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross and, in 1948, the U.S. Post Office Department issued a stamp in their honor.

Sunday’s event was sponsored by the American Legion, 9th District, out of Broward County, with a reception afterward at Post 304 in Dania Beach.

“Any time you have people giving up their lives to save others, it’s always special,” said John Vazquez, of Dania Beach, who serves as the commander of the guard. “It’s days like this that remind us not only of their heroics, but the men and women fighting for all of us in Iraq and Afghanistan today.”

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FIRST CLASS MAIL



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The Ft. Lauderdale Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution meeting was held January 24, 2009 at the Flaming Pit restaurant at 1150 N. Federal Highway, Pompano Beach, Florida.

The meeting began with the invocation by chapter Chaplin Rob Joynt. Immediately after, the attendees broke for lunch.

The meeting resumed with the Pledge of Allegiance and the S.A.R. Pledge.

There were 15 members and guest present. All were asked to introduce themselves.

President Ted Duay spoke about efforts to change the recent S.A.R. ruling disallowing the use of D.A.R. records for S.A.R. membership applications. There is a move to have the new rule rescinded.

Ted then presented the treasurers report in the absence of Treasurer Joe Motes.

Guest Gary Meeks, Florida State S.A.R. Vice President, took a moment to remind members why we come to these S.A.R. meetings. He stated, "Our forefathers would be disappointed with a lot of things going on". He talked about the sacrifices our ancestors made, sometimes losing everything and dying penniless.

Gary then conducted the installation of officers for the next year and administered the oath.

President – Jim Lohmeyer

Vice President – Ed Spencer

Secretary – Charlie Crowell

Registrar/Genealogist - Ted Duay

Chancellor - Ed Sullivan

Treasurer & Sgt-at-Arms – Joe Motes

Chaplin – Rob Joynt

Ed Spencer and Joe Motes, being absent, were not officially sworn in.

Upon conclusion of official business, guest speaker Debbie Duay was introduced. Her presentation was on various other hereditary societies and what their membership requirements are. Among those discussed were General Society of Mayflower Descendants, The Society of Cincinnati, Baronial Order of the Magna Charta, and others.

Debbie provided a handout and passed around some other materials as she spoke about the various societies. The presentation was well received and lead to some lively discussions.

Following the presentation, the meeting was adorned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlie Crowell, Secretary

Ft. Lauderdale Chapter of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution