



The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter



website: <http://www.learnwebskills.com/sar/index.html>

FEB 2015

Fort Lauderdale Chapter chartered December 8, 1966

Volume 48 Number 1

President's Message

Compatriots:

Our January 17th meeting was comprised of two events. The Naval Sea Cadets made a presentation to the group. It was most impressive. Our Chapter can take pride in the fact that we have supported this wonderful program for many years. The meeting concluded with Ted Duay inducting the new officers for 2015.

The February 21st meeting will be quite special. As I have written in the past, we will be hosting First Person Interpreters of George and Martha Washington. The presentation is titled "Washington Lives". This will be a timely event as it coincides with Washington's Birthday. We are hosting the C.A.R. and have invited other hereditary organizations to join us.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Fraternally,

William W. Zimmer
954 783 0887
Email: wwz2620@gamil.com

The Ft. Lauderdale Chapter of the S.A.R. cordially invites you to join us for this special event.

Saturday February 21, 2015

EVENT: First person interpreters of George and Martha Washington
PLACE: Primavera Restaurant, 830 E. Oakland Park Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334

TIME: 11:30 AM social gathering; lunch at noon

COST: \$25 payable to Ft. Lauderdale Chapter S.A.R. You can pay at the door.

RSVP: Due Monday February 16th. For reservations call 954-559-3202 or email Joe Motes at joemotes@aol.com

For your added information you can view their website at www.georgeandmarthawashington.com

January 2015 Minutes

OPENING

Meeting called to order by President Bill Zimmer.

Invocation by Chaplin David Kramer.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America followed by the Pledge to the Sons of the American Revolution lead by President Bill Zimmer.

Members and guest introduced themselves.

MEETING

President Zimmer's reported 4 new members; 2 applicants for Rumbaugh speech contest. Dropped because not in compliance.. DAR, Good citizen luncheon Sat. Feb. 7, 2015 @ 11:00 A.M. Tropical Acres. \$25.00 Call to make reservation E-mail KTALLEN75@att.net.

Bill and Cara Elder as George and Martha, interpreters will present "Washington Lives" The CAR, DAR, UDC, and DCW have been extended invitations.

Vice President.: no report. Secretary: no report

Treasurer, Joe Motes issued trustee account check for \$1,100.

Joe stated 287 Eagle Scout Certificates of Appreciation issued since 2006 and 17 processed this past Quarter.

Genealogist Ted Duay stated 3 applications being processed.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim Lohmeyer moved that we support two activities Veterans appreciation and VA Volunteer appreciation by contributing \$50.00 to them. Ted Duay seconded, Motion approved.

Program

Sea Cadet's M/Chief, Alan Starr presented information about the inter workings of the Sea Cadets. All volunteers, ages 10 -18, male and female, "Lives Lesson" are being taught, education is the way to get off the street, earn your way every day, proper appearance, dress codes, M/Sgt Starr reported that many have gone on to colleges, Naval, Air force, Army, and Coast Guard. Some in the services and are serving over seas now.

Cadet Aaron Diener spoke about the benefits of the program to him and others.

Cadet Diener followed the teachings of M/Chief Starr i.e. 1st rule, always direct eye contact, head up and make sure you know what's going on about you at all times, and attention to your personal appearance. Very good presentation.

President Zimmer presented Certificates of Appreciation to M/Chief Starr and Cadet Aaron Diener. Pictures were taken.

Certificates given to last year's officers in appreciation for their work.

Past State President Ted Duay installed 2015 officers and Presented Bill Zimmer with Gravel.

Motion to adjourn by all to stand. SAR recessional Benediction by David Kramer.

Charles Crowell won 50/50.

Submitted by Secretary Jim Lohmeyer

NEXT MEETING - FEBRUARY 21, 2014

Primavera Restaurant

830 E. Oakland Park Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334
954-564-6363

Future Dates:

Saturday, 03/21/15

Saturday, 04/18/15

Saturday, 03/16/15

Time: 11:30AM social gathering; Lunch at noon
Luncheon - \$30.00

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: **954-559-3202**
or e-mail **Joe Motes at: joemotes@aol.com**



Joe Motes, a U.S. Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran and volunteer at the Broward County VA Outpatient Clinic, was recently named Broward Veteran of the Year by the American Military Organization at a dinner co-hosted by Congressmen Ted Deutch and Allen West.



Congressman Ted Deutch, left, presenting Joe Motes his award.

Joe is very active with several Veterans and community organizations, including the American Legion, The Marine Corps League, Disabled American Veterans, and the Sons of the American Revolution.

Not Your Ordinary
Joe

Broward County
Veteran of the Year

Motes also joined other VA volunteers from around South Florida at the annual Veterans Day tradition of laying wreaths at the South Florida National Cemetery in Lake Worth, Fl. These volunteers placed more than 11,000 wreaths, all of which were paid for through fundraising and donations.

This year they were able to increase their coverage dramatically with the help of the Margate Chapter of AmVets, which donated an additional 8,000 wreaths. Altogether they were able to lay wreaths on more than 95% of the grave sites. "Next year, we plan to shoot for 100%, and we'll need more organizations on board to meet this goal," Motes said.

As a volunteer, Joe is someone the patients single out as one they are happy to see upon entering the building. He always has a smile on his face and welcomes his fellow Veterans with open arms.

All above photos, at our January meeting and Installation of Officers and Naval Sea Cadets speakers was a great presentation about the Naval Sea Cadets Spruance Division. Ted Duay swore all the new officers for 2015.

Really interesting, and I never knew this little bit of history:

At Pearl Harbor tour boats ferry people out to the USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii every thirty minutes. We just missed a ferry and had to wait thirty minutes. I went into a small gift shop to kill time.

In the gift shop, I purchased a small book entitled, "Reflections on Pearl Harbor " by Admiral Chester Nimitz.

Sunday, December 7th, 1941--Admiral Chester Nimitz was attending a concert in Washington D.C. He was paged and told there was a phone call for him. When he answered the phone, it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the phone. He told Admiral Nimitz that he (Nimitz) would now be the Commander of the Pacific Fleet.

Admiral Nimitz flew to Hawaii to assume command of the Pacific Fleet. He landed at Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1941.

There was such a spirit of despair, dejection and defeat--you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war.

On Christmas Day, 1941, Adm. Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction wrought on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. Big sunken battleships and navy vessels cluttered the waters everywhere you looked.

As the tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman of the boat asked, "Well Admiral, what do you think after seeing all this destruction?" Admiral Nimitz's reply shocked everyone within the sound of his voice.

Admiral Nimitz said, "The Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or God was taking care of America . Which do you think it was?"

Shocked and surprised, the young helmsman asked, "What do mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made?" Nimitz explained:

Mistake number one: the Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and been sunk--we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800.

Mistake number

two: when the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships, they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow every one of those ships to America to be repaired.

As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America . And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships.

Mistake number three: Every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is in top of the ground storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply.

That's why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make or God was taking care of America.

I've never forgotten what I read in that little book. It is still an inspiration as I reflect upon it. In jest, I might suggest that because Admiral Nimitz was a Texan, born and raised in Fredricksburg , Texas -- he was a born optimist. But anyway you look at it--Admiral Nimitz was able to see a silver lining in a situation and circumstance where everyone else saw only despair and defeatism.

President Roosevelt had chosen the right man for the right job. We desperately needed a leader that could see silver linings in the midst of the clouds of dejection, despair and defeat.

There is a reason that our national motto is, IN GOD WE TRUST. Why have we forgotten?

**Fort Lauderdale Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
2133 NW 208 Terrace
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Van T. Barfoot died Dec 17, 2014

Remember the guy who wouldn't take the flag pole down on his Virginia property a while back?

You might remember the news story several months ago about a crotchety old man in Virginia who defied his local Homeowners Association, and refused to take down the flag pole on his property along with the large American flag he flew on it. Now we learn who that old man was. On June 15, 1919, Van T. Barfoot was born in Edinburg , Texas That probably didn't make news back then.

But twenty-five years later, on May 23, 1944, near Carano, Italy , that same Van T. Barfoot, who had in 1940 enlisted in the U.S. Army, set out alone to flank German machine gun positions from which gunfire was raining down on his fellow soldiers. His advance took him

through a minefield but having done so, he proceeded to single-handedly take out three enemy machine gun positions, returning with 17 prisoners of war.

And if that weren't enough for a day's work, he later took on and destroyed three German tanks sent to retake the machine gun positions.

That probably didn't make much news either, given the scope of the war, but it did earn Van T. Barfoot, who retired as a Colonel after also serving in Korea and Vietnam, a well deserved Congressional Medal of Honor.

What did make news...Was his Neighborhood Association's quibble with how the 90-year-old veteran chose to fly the American flag outside his suburban Virginia home. Seems the HOA rules said it was OK to fly a flag on a house-mounted bracket, but, for decorum, items such as Barfoot's 21-foot flagpole were "unsuitable".

Van Barfoot had been denied a permit for the pole, but erected it anyway and was facing court action unless he agreed to take it down.

Then the HOA story made national TV, and the Neighborhood Association rethought its position and agreed to indulge this aging hero who dwelt among them.

"In the time I have left", he said to the Associated Press, "I plan to continue to fly the American flag without interference."

As well he should.

And if any of his neighbors had taken a notion to contest him further, they might have done well to read his Medal of Honor citation first. Seems it indicates Mr. Van Barfoot wasn't particularly good at backing down.

Van T. Barfoot's Medal of Honor citation: This 1944 Medal of Honor citation, listed with the National Medal of Honor Society, is for Second Lieutenant Van T. Barfoot, 157th Infantry, 45th Infantry:

Do the right thing!

WE ONLY LIVE IN THE LAND OF THE FREE BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE! AND, BECAUSE OF OLD MEN LIKE VAN BARFOOT!

LOVE LIFE AND ENJOY YOURSELF TODAY LIKE THERE WILL BE NO TOMORROW.
"IN GOD WE TRUST"

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