



# The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

## Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter



website: [www.fortlauderdale.sar.org](http://www.fortlauderdale.sar.org)

Facebook page: [Fort Lauderdale Chapter Sons of the American Revolution](https://www.facebook.com/FortLauderdaleChapterSonsOfTheAmericanRevolution)

JANUARY 2023

Fort Lauderdale Chapter chartered December 8, 1966

Volume 54 Number 1

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Compatriots and Friends,

I am happy to welcome newly approved Compatriots into our Chapter: Michael A. Spear, Kevin R. Shurte, and John L. Wynkoop. They all received final approval on December 2, 2022. In mid-November 2022, we welcomed into our Chapter the Primiano-Carpenter family: Mason Primiano (age 12), his father, Austin Primiano, his maternal grandfather, Thomas Carpenter Jr., and great grandfather, Thomas Carpenter Sr. Also, late in December, Compatriot Howard W. Shannon transferred into our Chapter pending reinstatement by NS-SAR. Finally, I regret to inform the membership of the passing of Compatriot Ronald Basil Lavergne. He had been a member of our Chapter since 2009 and died on December 2, 2022.

At our November 19, 2022 meeting, the 2023 Chapter Officers were elected and inducted. See the Meeting Summary which follows for the details. The Chapter's Executive Committee is comprised of the elected officers, the immediate past president (Thomas Shepherd), and a member-at-large appointed by the President. Since that meeting, Pete Stevenson has agreed to serve as the member-at-large during the interim period until I make the permanent appointment. The Executive Committee last met on December 4, 2022. Among the actions taken, the 2023 Annual Calendar for General Membership Lunch Meetings was approved. We will continue to meet at the Outback Steakhouse (Davie, S. University Drive location) on the third Saturday of the month from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. from February to November 2023, except that there is no meeting in August. For 2023, the Chapter will host the January Southeast Regional meeting at the same time and location but the date of that meeting is January 14, 2023. Finally, as has been our tradition for many years, in lieu of a December 2023 lunch meeting, the membership is encouraged to attend the Wreaths Across America ceremony that is anticipated to be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 16, 2023 at the Forest Lawn North Memorial Gardens, 200 W. Copans Road in Pompano Beach.

On December 15, 2022, Joe Motes and I finalized the 2022 Annual Report which is the report to FLSSAR of our starting active membership for 2023. When compared to last year, we start off the new year with a net increase of seven which is a 13.7% increase over last year. 2023 new members added is also starting strong with four applications pending review and approval (Tim McLane, Robert Bowling, R. Collier Bowling, Jr., and Paul DeBold) and three new ones just submitted (Ed Sisson and his two sons John and Mathew Sisson).

As previously mentioned, our next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2023, when we will host the Southeast Regional meeting comprised of attending members from the Miami, Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale Chapters. The meeting will be chaired by William "Bill" Wicks, FLSSAR Vice President for the Southeast Region. Also in attendance will be the current FLSSAR President, Earl F. Mathews who is scheduled to induct our three new members, first mentioned above, and September 2022 transferee, Daniel Kvarnberg. For the most current information on upcoming meetings or for information and links to prior Chapter activity, visit us at [www.fortlauderdale.sar.org](http://www.fortlauderdale.sar.org).

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting. Happy New Year.

Chuck Adams  
President and Registrar/Genealogist  
Fort Lauderdale Chapter SAR



### NEXT MEETING - January 14, 2023

**Davie Outback Steak House**  
2725 South University Dr. Davie, Florida 33328

#### Future Dates:

- Saturday, 01/14/2023
- Saturday, 02/18/2023
- Saturday, 03/18/2023
- Saturday, 04/15/2023
- Saturday, 05/20/2023

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

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 954-345-6276  
or e-mail Chuck Adams at: [chuckadams1808@gmail.com](mailto:chuckadams1808@gmail.com)

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SUMMARY NOVEMBER 19, 2022

At our November 19, 2022, meeting we had 13 members and 6 guests. **Members:** Chuck Adams, President & Registrar/Genealogist; Pete Stevenson, Secretary & Parliamentarian; Joe Motes, Treasurer, Historian/Editor & Sergeant-at-Arms; Jim Lohmeyer, Chaplain; Steve De Paul; Ted Duay; Herb Gardner; Earl Higginbotham; Martin Hollick; Barry Moss; John Sauerwald; Tom Shepherd; and Mark Snider. **Guests:** William Wicks, FLSSAR Vice President, Southeast (SE) Region; Paul DeBold; Michael Spear; Kevin Shurte; Shelley Gardner; and Ronna Adams.

In honor of Veterans Day (Nov. 11th), Chuck recognized all the veterans present: Earl Higginbotham, Jim Lohmeyer, Joe Motes, John Sauerwald, Michael Spear, and Paul DeBold. Chuck also recognized William "Bill" Wicks who is the FLSSAR Vice President for the Southeast Region.

Officer and Committee Reports were given by Chuck Adams and Joe Motes. Bill Wicks gave an update on FLSSAR and the Southeast Region:

- Chuck Adams welcomed the new applicants present including Paul DeBold, Michael Spear and Kevin Shurte. Chuck noted that since the last meeting we have had four new transfer-ins: CAR member, Mason Primiano (age 12), his father, Austin Primiano, his maternal grandfather, Thomas Carpenter Jr., and great grandfather, Thomas Carpenter Sr.

- Joe Motes gave an update on the Chapter's checking account balance. He discussed the upcoming Wreaths Across America Program that will be observed on December 17, 2022, and he went over the logistics for those wishing to attend. He explained the background and asked for anyone interested in serving as the Chapter representative of the Veterans Administration's Volunteer Service (VAVS) Committee to let him know.

- Bill Wicks explained that the FLSSAR Southeast Region is made up of the Miami, Fort Lauderdale and Palm Beach Chapters. He encouraged members that wish to get more involved in State and National affairs to consider attending the May 2023 Florida Board of Management Meeting (May 19-May 20, 2023). He particularly encouraged everyone to consider the unique opportunity available to Floridians by attending the July 2023 133<sup>rd</sup> National Congress (July 15-July 20, 2023).

The Chapter conducted the 2023 Election of Officers. Compatriots elected: Chuck Adams, President and Registrar/Genealogist; Steven De Paul, Vice President; Mark Snider Secretary; Joe Motes, Treasurer and Historian/Editor; and Jim Lohmeyer, Chaplain.

New member, Barry L. Moss, was inducted by Chuck Adams with his Rosette presented by Ted Duay.

Chuck Adams announced that the estate of Compatriot John Copanos has contributed \$1,000 to the Chapter. As he reported last month, Compatriot Copanos had died earlier in the year.

To read the complete set of minutes of the October 15, 2022, members meeting, open the document sent to you by e-mail, or review it at the archives subpage for minutes and agendas maintained at the Chapter website: [www.fortlauderdale.sar.org](http://www.fortlauderdale.sar.org).

## 2022 WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA By Chuck Adams

On Saturday, December 17, 2022, the Wreaths Across America program was observed in Broward County at Forest Lawn North Memorial Gardens, 200 W. Copans Road in Pompano Beach. The event in Broward County is coordinated by the Fontenada Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). It is attended and supported by just about every veterans, youth and civic-oriented group imaginable. It is a program held nationwide to honor deceased veterans by the placement of a holiday wreath at a veterans gravesite.

Our Chapter has foregone its December lunch meeting for many years in order to participate in the Broward ceremony. However, actual representation from the Chapter has not been perhaps what it was intended to be. I am pleased to report that changed this year. At this year's event, we were represented by ten members, two wives, a junior member, and one new applicant.

The actual ceremony started with fife and drums and lasted about an hour. Remarks and presentations were brief and moved right along. The placement of wreaths was well organized and did not involve any excess exertion for those who may have had concerns. The BBQ lunch was delicious although perhaps a little more seating could have been provided.



Standing from left to right: Steve De Paul, Chuck Adams, Paul DeBold (applicant), Michael Spear, John Lohmeyer Sr., Joe Motes, Kyle Peterson (CAR), Katie Peterson (CAR), Mason Primiano (CAR & Junior SAR) & Angela Primiano (CAR).

Sitting left to right: Ronna Adams, James Lohmeyer & Ritz De Paul. Not in the picture but present: Mark Snider, Barry Moss & Kevin Shurte.





**SAR MEMBER PROFILE –  
MICHAEL ANTHONY SPEAR**  
Interviewed by: Chuck Adams

Q. Ok, Michael, can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

A. I was born in 1948 in Ogallala, Nebraska. I attended the local schools and graduated from Ogallala Senior High in 1966. Within three days, I was off to the big city of Denver, Colorado where I resided for two years before my Vietnam tour of duty from 1968-69.

Q. What is or was your occupation, and tell us about some of your recreational interests?

A. After returning from Vietnam, I graduated from the Community College of Baltimore County, Baltimore, Maryland. I then went into the trades. In 1984 I became a merchant seaman and sailed on large tank ships. I sailed the large American flagged ships under the Jones Act. The ships carried gasoline, jet fuel, and refined petroleum chemicals from southern gulf ports to ports all along the eastern seaboard. In nautical terminology, I “came up through the hawse pipe”. I studied for my exams and in 1997 I received my license as a Merchant Marine Officer, which allowed me to sail as Third Mate on any ocean and on any vessel, steam or motor, of any gross tonnage.

I went back to college in 1998 for a two year degree in Computer Science. I studied at what is now Broward College. In 2000, I received an Associate in Science degree in Computer Engineering. I finished my working career in IT as a Network Administrator.

Photography has always been a passion. I still have a very short list of artists that I do image and print reproductions for. I love to see big prints come out of my printer after all the planning and the technical work is done. I like to travel and take pictures. I also try my hand at portrait oil painting. My favorite active sport is golf.

Q. How about your family?

A. My wife’s name is Denise and we have raised her two children, Tim and Tammie. We have been together for 37 years.

Q. Who is your Patriot ancestor?

A. My patriot ancestor is Eli Holcomb. The following is an excerpt from a local genealogist from Bradford County, Pennsylvania. “According to Massachusetts records of the Revolutionary War, Eli was a private in Captain John Parker’s company from New Ipswich, Hillsboro County, New Hampshire. Later, he enlisted with Capt. Isaac Colton’s company of David Brewer’s Regiment. He served that Company as a Corporal and fought in the battle for Bunker Hill. Later in 1775, he was a Captain in Putnam’s 9th Company of Brewer’s Regiment, for which he was awarded a bounty coat (or its cash equivalent) by order issued in Roxbury on December 22, 1775.”

Q. How do you hope to contribute to Chapter development?

A. I plan to contribute to the Chapter by attending meetings and participating in SAR award ceremonies.

Thanks Michael for sharing.



**SAR MEMBER PROFILE –  
KEVIN R. SHURTE**  
Interviewed by: Chuck Adams

Q. Ok Kevin, can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

A. I was born in 1963 in San Bernardino, California where I grew up. In 1992 I moved to Long Island, New York to manage an electronics firm. After 18 months, I relocated to

South Florida where I completed my bachelor’s degree in English at Florida Atlantic University and my master’s degree in educational technology at Nova Southeastern University.

Q. What is your occupation, and can you tell us about some of your recreational interests?

A. After graduating FAU, I began teaching seventh grade English language arts at Ramblewood Middle School (RMS) in Coral Springs. This year begins my 21<sup>st</sup> year at RMS. In my free time, I enjoy travel, vegetable gardening, shooting sports, and fishing.

Q. How about your family?

A. My wife, Kathy, and I married in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea in 2001. I have a daughter, Amanda, who is 31 years old, an 11-year-old grandson, and a 1-year-old granddaughter all of whom reside in Broward County.

Q. Who is your Patriot ancestor?

A. My patriot ancestor is Charles Hobson. He resided in North Carolina where he provided paid services to the militia. He is my first proven patriot of the American Revolution, but I am eager to prove lineage to several others in my family tree who also served.

Q. How do you hope to contribute to Chapter development?

A. I look forward to becoming a SAR member. I plan to regularly attend Chapter monthly meetings, and I hope to participate in SAR ceremonies and other local, state, and national events.

Thanks Kevin for sharing.





Our Saturday November 19 meeting was attended by 19 members and friends. President Chuck Adams inducted new member Barry Moss and Past Chapter / Past State President Ted Duay pinned the SAR Rosette on Barry Moss. Southeast Regional Vice President William R Wicks III installed our 2023 Chapter Officers and presented our Chapter with the 3rd Place Chapter Challenge Award.

**Fort Lauderdale Chapter  
Sons of the American Revolution  
2133 NW 208 Terrace  
Pembroke Pines FL 33029-2320**



**The Chapter's Executive Committee met via Zoom on December 4, 2022**



## 2023 CHAPTER OFFICERS

### **PRESIDENT - CHUCK ADAMS**

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Coral Springs, FL 33071-7887  
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### **VICE-PRESIDENT - STEVEN DE PAUL**

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### **REGISTRAR / GENEALOGIST - CHUCK ADAMS**

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## **WELCOME 2022 NEW MEMBERS AND COMPATRIOTS**

During 2022 we had a steady increase in our membership from applicants who were approved and/or inducted into the Chapter this year. Our increase in active members is also attributed to a substantial number of Compatriots who transferred into our Chapter.

Here is the new member list: James Harn Jr.; Herb Gardner; Steven De Paul; Rick Kidder Jr.; Seth MacCutcheon; Jeffrey Watts and son, Joshua Watts; Barry Moss; Michael Spear; Kevin Shurte; and John Wynkoop.

Those Compatriots that transferred into our Chapter: Earl Higginbotham; Daniel Kravenberg; Mason Primiano (junior member); Austin Primiano; Thomas Carpenter Jr.; and Thomas Carpenter Sr. There are also three Compatriots who submitted applications through us for reinstatement & transfer for whom NSSAR approval is expected shortly: James Clark and his son, Jason Clark; and Howard Shannon. WELCOME ALL!

## **IN MEMORIAM**

We regret to announce the passing during 2022 of two Compatriots that were active members of the Fort Lauderdale Chapter.

Compatriot John Halsey Silvestro Copanos (1970 – 2022) had been a valued member of our Chapter since May 6, 2006. At the time of his death he resided in Sea Ranch Lakes with his mother, Barbara Copanos. An estate was opened for him in Broward County on March 23, 2022. His gift to us of one thousand dollars will be used to help carry-out the Chapter's annual programs consistent with our patriotic, historic and educational goals.

Compatriot Ronald Basil Lavergne (1937 – 2022) had been a valued member of our Chapter since January 14, 2009. We were sorry to learn of his passing on December 2, 2022 at his home in Deerfield Beach from his wife Mary Louise Lavergne.

