



The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter

Next Meeting -- Tower Club, in the C & S Building (Parking inside is \$ 2.00)

DATE: THURSDAY JANUARY 14, 1993
TIME: SOCIAL - 11: 30 am LUNCH - 12:00 Noon
COST: \$ 10.00 per PERSON

For RESERVATIONS : Call Wally Floyd's secretary (California Federal)
by TUESDAY, JAN. 12th at **566-9705**

PROGRAM : *Dr. Charles H. Wolfe will speak to us on:*

" The American Revolution; What It Means Today "

Our speaker is an historian and specialist on the history of American government and economics. He is affiliated with Coral Ridge Ministries . One of his many past activities was that of Executive Director of the 350th anniversary commemorating the landing of the pilgrims. - - - You won't want to miss this provocative and enjoyable presentation ! !

NEWS :

- + The Initiation Banquet on December 10th was a super occasion. Compatriot Bob Vance, NSSAR Secretary General / Treasurer General, was present to accept the incredibly generous gift of \$100,000 from our Compatriot *Joe Rumbaugh*. This will be held in trust, with its proceeds used to fund and enhance the NSSAR's oration contest, which henceforth will be called the "Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest". (*Stuart Browne* is a member of the National Committee for this contest, so use of these funds will receive due consideration.) - - - Comp. Vance also installed your chapter's officers. Comp. Al Snapp, FLSSAR President, and his wife were also present at this event.
- + We wish to acknowledge and extend appreciation to the following members who have contributed to the Ft. Lauderdale Chapter Trust Fund since its inception. The earnings, when large enough, will be used to help defray the rising cost of dues, pay dues for long standing members no longer able to do so, and other worthwhile local activities. Contributions or a commemorative gift of any size will be gratefully accepted by your Treasurer at any time.

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| <i>Stuart Browne</i> | <i>Oscar Kraehenbuehl</i> | <i>Arthur Ralston</i> |
| <i>Robert Feldman</i> | <i>Guy Loomis</i> | <i>Roger Shaffer</i> |
| <i>Edward Frisinger</i> | <i>Winfield Mayne</i> | <i>Brian Sullivan</i> |
| <i>Max Frisinger (memorial)</i> | <i>Jim Organ</i> | <i>Edward Sullivan</i> |
- + A reminder is enclosed to those who have not yet paid their 1993 dues. A report of our active members must be sent to FLSSAR the first of February. - Thanks for attending to this unpleasant matter promptly.
- + The Winter Board of Management Meeting (BOM) will be held January 22-23 in St. Petersburg. If you need a ride, contact your Chapter Secretary at 564-2813.
- + Mailings to the following are being returned. Please advise the Secretary if you know their address.

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| David L. Delarue | Thomas J. Kelly | George A. Chadwick, Jr. |
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Also please let the Secretary know immediately if the address for this notice to you was incorrect.

☞ Hope to see you and your guests at the meeting .. ☜

Please make reservations so adequate seating will be available.

(Turn sheet over for a bit of history and trivia.)



Star - Spangled Banner - The Flag

Everyone knows that Francis Scott Key wrote the words of our national anthem. However, what do you know about the Star-Spangled Banner, the flag ?

Fort McHenry was built about 1800 to protect the sea approaches to Baltimore. In 1813, the Commander of the fort was Major George Armistead. He reported to his superiors that he was ready to defend Baltimore against an invading enemy, except he had no suitable ensign to display over the Star Fort (so-called because of it was in that shape for defensive purposes). It was his desire to have a flag so large that the British would have no difficulty seeing it from a distance.

Thus it was that Mary Young Pickergill, a widow who made flags for merchant ships, was given the assignment to make such a flag. With her 13 year old daughter, she made one of the largest battle flags ever flown, 30 x 42 feet. It was made of long-fiber wool bunting and had 15 stars (each 26" across) and 15 stripes (each 2 feet high). The two extra stars and stripes were for the two newest states, Vermont and Kentucky. (The number of stripes in the United States flag was reduced to 13 by Act of Congress on April 4, 1818.)

On Sunday, Sept. 11, 1814, some 50 British warships approached Ft. McHenry. Their plan was to bomb the fort into submission while General Robert Ross would land and attack Baltimore from the east. Both the resistance and the fire power of the fort proved greater than expected and British Admiral Alexander Cochrane finally gave up and sent orders for the troops to pull back to the ships. So at 4 am, on the morning of the 14th, the bombardment of the fort ceased. Francis Scott Key, who was being held aboard a British ship nearby, wondered what the silence meant. At dawn's early light, out came his field glasses, and Key saw Ft. McHenry's huge American flag waving proudly in the breeze. - This emotional experience resulted in him jotting down his now-famous poem.

In 1815 the flag was presented to Major Armistead when he retired. He bequeathed it to his daughter, Mrs. William Stuart Appleton, who had been born at the fort. It subsequently was passed on to her son, who gave it to the Smithsonian Institution in 1912. It is now displayed at the American History Building of the Institute for all to see every day. -- Do so at your first opportunity.