



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



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Organized November 26, 1966

JULY 2002

Volume 35 Number 7

## Highlights of June Chapter Meeting

President George Dennis called the June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. VP Joe Motes reported that presentations of SAR certificates and medals of commendation had been completed to Jr. ROTC cadets at 19 local high schools. Two additional schools will be in the program next year. As always, this is a rewarding and enjoyable program and well received by the cadets and their leaders. -- Pres. Dennis read a letter from Howard Griffin acknowledging receipt and appreciation for the SAR Flag Certificate. Members are reminded to provide the names of other individuals or organizations for exceptional and proper display of the American flag.

With Flag Day being on the 14<sup>th</sup>, the Secretary injected a few reminders about our flag's adoption by the Continental Congress in 1777. Did you know that the most common arrangement of the flag's 13 stars at that time was 3-2-3-2-3, not a circle? It was 1795 when the number of stripes was increased to 15 and 1818 when the number was returned to 13 and the stars increased to 20. We have many reasons to be proud of our country and its flag... Long may it wave !!

It was a pleasure to meet and visit with our guest speaker, Commander Dave Warkentein, head of the Navy JROTC unit at Ft. Lauderdale High School. He spoke about the objectives of the JROTC program and, just importantly, the impact and significance the program plays in the lives of many of the cadets. It provides camaraderie and emotional and personal support that many of the students don't get elsewhere. Participation has changed some of their youthful lives, not necessarily related to military service. --- His talk

was followed by introducing senior Cadet Jeffrey Womack, our special guest of the day. Jeffrey was an impressive and self-assured young man who recounted his unexpected experience of physically preventing a student from committing suicide by jumping from the roof of his school. For his actions, initiative and personal risk, he was presented with the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship certificate and medal. Both men received our appreciation and applause for spending this time with us.



Chapter President George Dennis presented awards to Cmdr Dave Warkentein and Cadet Jeffrey Womack during our June chapter meeting.

*NEXT MEETING - JULY 11<sup>th</sup>  
TOWER CLUB !!!*

*\$20.00 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*



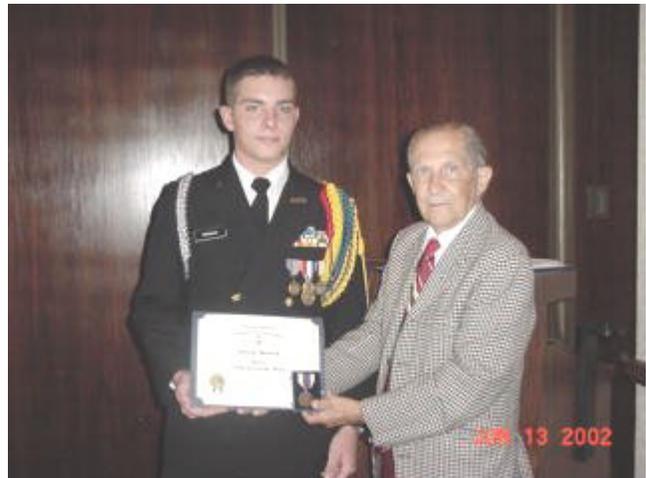
**ROTC Chairman Joseph Motes presents the ROTC Medal to Cadet Steven Tasse from Stranahan High School.**



**Chapter President George Dennis presents a Certificate of Appreciation to guest speaker Cmdr Dave Warkentein during our June meeting .**



**ROTC Chairman Joseph Motes presents the ROTC Medal to Cadet Jerrial Rosario from Boyd Anderson High School.**



**Chapter President George Dennis presents the Bronze Good Citizenship Award to ROTC Cadet Jeffrey Womack.**



**Chapter President George Dennis presents the ROTC Medal to Cadet Michael Kelly from Pompano Beach High School.**



**Chapter President George Dennis presents the ROTC Medal to Cadet Durrell Jenkins from Northeast High School.**

**The following was said to be written by a dentist in Australia.)**

### **An American**

"You probably missed it in the rush of news last week, but there was actually a report that someone in Pakistan had published in a newspaper an offer of a reward to anyone who killed an American, any American. So I just thought I would write to let them know what an American is, so they would know when they found one.

An American is English, or French, or Italian, Irish, German, Spanish, Polish, Russian or Greek. An American may also be Mexican, African, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Australian, Iranian, Asian, or Arab, or Pakistani, or Afghan. An American may also be a Cherokee, Osage, Blackfoot, Navaho, Apache, or one of the many other tribes known as native Americans.

An American is Christian, or he could be Jewish, or Buddhist, or Muslim. In fact, there are more Muslims in America than in Afghanistan. The only difference is that in America they are free to worship as each of them chooses. An American is also free to believe in no religion. For that he will answer only to God, not to the government, or to armed thugs claiming to speak for the government and for God.

An American is from the most prosperous land in the history of the world. The root of that prosperity can be found in the Declaration of Independence, which recognizes the God given right of each man and woman to the pursuit of happiness.

An American is generous. Americans have helped out just about every other nation in the world in their time of need. When Afghanistan was overrun by the Soviet army 20 years ago, Americans came with arms and supplies to enable the people to win back their country. As of the morning of September 11, Americans had given more than any other nation to the poor in Afghanistan. The best products, the best books, the best music, the best food, the best athletes.

Americans welcome the best, but they also welcome the least. The national symbol of America welcomes your tired and your poor, the wretched refuse of your teeming shores, the homeless, tempest tossed. These in fact are the people who built America. Some of them were working in the Twin Towers in the morning of September 11, earning a better life for their families.

[I've been told that the people in the Towers were from at least 30, and maybe many more, other countries, cultures, and first languages, including those that aided and abetted the terrorists. ]

So you can try to kill an American if you must. Hitler did. So did General Tojo, and Stalin, and Mao Tse-Tung, and every bloodthirsty tyrant in the history of the world. But, in doing so you would just be killing yourself. Because Americans are not a particular people from a particular place. They are the embodiment of the human spirit of freedom. Everyone who holds to that spirit, everywhere, is an American.

So look around you. You may find more Americans in your land than you thought were there. One day they will rise up and overthrow the old, ignorant, tired tyrants that trouble too many lands. Then those lands, too, will join the community of free and prosperous nations. And America will welcome them!

Let's pass this around the World!

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**Here's a good book to get for your grandkids: "America: A Patriotic Primer" by Lynn Cheney, the Vice President's Wife.**

**It's a children's book that tells the story of our country.**

**This book is good for ages 3-7, costs about \$13.00 and is available at most bookstores.**





Chapter President George Dennis presents the SAR Eagle Scout award to Eagle Scout Joseph Thomas on March 10, 2002.



Chapter President George Dennis presents the SAR Eagle Scout award to Eagle Scout Joseph Thomas on June 9, 2002.

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## Highlight from minutes of May 10th BOM and Annual Meetings at Panama City

+ Pres. General McClanahan emphasized some of the additional info available on the NSSAR website (). E.g.: status of applications and supplements, merchandise, minutes of Trustee meetings, budgets, et al. He spoke on the importance of the Census Project and urged the return in information by members when the request is received. It was noted that total society membership is now about 27,000 and he hoped it would rise to 700,000 in the future. ( Wow ??? Secy's comment.) Fund raising efforts were reviewed and the campaign has already produced \$300,000. The building program is progressing such that construction of the new library is expected to begin within a year. -- Members will be receiving a letter request their support.

+ Report by FLSSAR Secretary Wilson was not as positive re. membership as the Pres. General's. Florida Society membership was 1676, 1610, 1559 for the years 1999, 2000, 2001.

+ A ruling by the Executive Committee noted that individuals who are not bona fide SAR members cannot hold office at any level.

+ In the future, the Rumbaugh Oration Contest will be held at the Winter BOM and the award given at the Annual Meeting (which will be held at a central location).

+ An Education Committee was formed to create a proactive program that will attempt to influence school officials and politicians to include appropriate US history instruction in public schools.

+ A bylaw proposal to change the number of BOM meetings from 4 to 3 did not pass.

+ Former FLSSAR President Dr. Arthur Chapman (now living in GA) was recognized and gave his candid opinion about the affairs, management and future of the NSSAR as seen from his experience and perspective as its Executive Director several years ago. It wasn't pretty but reportedly he received virtually a standing ovation. (I suspect the Pres. General wasn't among them.)

The new FLSSAR officers were duly elected and are listed in the recent issue of the Florida Patriot. If wanted, Secretary Oscar K. has the mailing address, phone numbers and e-mail address of all state officers and committee members and for all current chapter presidents and secretaries.