



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



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Organized November 26, 1966

MARCH 2004

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Highlights of February 12th Chapter Meeting

President George Dennis called the meeting to order at noon. Members and guests were welcomed. First-time guest John Harrington, originating from Mass., introduced himself and indicated interest in joining the society.

The secretary reported that chapter currently has 43 members and that one membership is awaiting NSSAR approval. Most members who did not submit their dues before the December deadline have reinstated. A \$120 refund of dues has been received from the Florida Society for having received the chapter's annual report and payment in a timely manner. It was moved and passed unanimously that these funds were needed and should be retained in the chapter's working account.

Those present were reminded of the opportunities outlined in the last newsletter for SAR members to help the youth and others in the community to become better aware of the country's history and to elevate awareness of the SAR and its goals. The American Heritage CD will be made available for use at local schools as soon as a copy is received. It was urged that presentations of the SAR Flag Certificate be made to neighbors or anywhere proper flag display is seen. Secy. Oscar Kraehenbuehl has a supply of these certificates.

Compatriot Edward Sullivan related the history and current activities being pursued by some of the society's officers that would diminish the authority of the National Trustees and state Presidents to have a meaningful voice in the operation and regulation of the society. Florida's National Trustee, Frank Hodalski, was given directions at the recent BOM to express at the next Trustees Meeting the opposition of the Florida Society to these actions. Comp. Sullivan urged as many members as possible to attend and vote at the Annual Congress in Pittsburgh, July 3-7th, where this subject will be raised and resolved.

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Don't Miss The Program for March 11th !!

The guest speaker will be Stuart B. McIver. He has worked for 3 newspapers and produced industrial and documentary films (2 won national awards). He was editor of "South Florida History Magazine" for 22 years and has written 14 nonfiction books and some 500 magazine stories, most of them historical and set in Florida or the South. He will tell a little about his latest book, "Death In the Everglades" and others but mostly his talk will concern information he has accumulated for a future book involving "Florida's Strange Role in the American Revolution". --- Plan to attend this exceptional meeting.

Special Notice and Congratulations !

It should be noted that our chapter president, George R. Dennis, celebrated a youthful 90-years birthday on February 22nd. The event was observed with numerous family members and friends. -- We all send our best wishes for this and the coming years (as President ?).

NEXT MEETING - MARCH 11th

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

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

Compatriot Richard Jones was the featured speaker. He is a Production Editor with the Sun-Sentinel newspaper and has been in this area for 29 years. He related the history and growth of the newspaper and described the mechanics of how the daily newspaper is produced. He began with a simple quiz – “Name a product that hasn’t had a price increase in 35 years?” His newspaper was the only answer anyone could think of. The first local newspaper, Florida News, was started in 1911. It was later combined with another paper and renamed the Sun-Sentinel. The owner was Robert Haynes Gore who also became governor of Puerto Rico, a land baron and an insurance entrepreneur. The paper was bought by the (Chicago) Tribune media giant in 1963 but its management didn’t take over for another 12 years. Today this paper has the largest circulation in south Florida and has the only full time reporter in Cuba. Presently the paper information is assembled in the downtown Ft. Lauderdale offices and electronically transmitted the production facility in Deerfield Beach. The presses there are 5 stories high. Richard displayed photo negatives that are used to produce 3-color printing and for transfer of the news pages to aluminum sheets for the presses. --- Numerous questions were asked to end this informative and interesting presentation. Those not there missed a treat.

CAR Newsletter is available Online

The Florida Society of the Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) newsletter, “The Orange Blossom,” for December 2003 is now online and can be seen by going to the FLSSAR Newsletter Index page at <http://www.flssar.org/nlindex.htm>. “The Orange Blossom” is being made available so we can all learn more about the C.A.R. and find out how we can give them our support.

Support the Children of the American Revolution. They are our future.



*Compatriot Richard A.
Jones
Speaker – Production
Editor,
Sun-Sentinel Newspaper*



AN AMERICAN HERO
PRIVATE GREGORY P. HUXLEY, JR.
B COMPANY, 317TH ENGINEER BATTALION
1984 - 2003

Why We’re Proud To Be Americans

(This article was copied from “The Headquarters Dispatch”, Jan/Feb 2004 issued by NSSAR.)

General George Washington is quoted as having said:

“The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war no matter how justified shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of ear-lier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation”. This story exemplifies that sentiment and should make you proud to be an American.

This article is taken from a letter that was written by Senior Investigator Jack Graham of the New York State Police to fellow members of the NY State Police and to the Syracuse Police who participated in a hastily planned ceremonial escort for a soldier killed in Iraq.

On Thursday, April 17, 2003 you participated in an escort detail for Private Gregory P. Huxley, Jr. who was killed in action in Iraq on April 6, 2003. He was assigned to B Company, 317th Engineer Battalion.

The U.S. Army had prom-ised the Huxley family that they would be taken to Dover Air Force Base, to be present when their son arrived from Iraq and there would be a full military ceremony in Dover for Private Huxley. Unfortunately, there was a communication problem and they were not present during that ceremony. Then they were informed that the body of their son was being flown to Syracuse, New York and that the funeral director could pick up the ‘fallen soldier’ at the cargo area of the airport and transport the casket to his hometown, Boonville, NY.

The funeral director felt that unacceptable for a nineteen year old young man that gave his life for this country and for the freedom of so many others. As a family friend he contacted Jack Graham to see if anything could be done.

Graham had six hours before Private Huxley arrived at Syracuse. Phone calls were made to State Police - - North Syracuse and Sergeant Nick Harmatiuk took over from there. What then took place was truly an outstanding display of what Americans can do in very short time. What happened was just visually and emotionally over-whelming. The procession left State Police North Syracuse led by eight Syracuse Police Department motor-cycles, followed by the hearse, four cars with the Huxley family mem-bers and followed by ten State Police and Syracuse police cars. They were able to enter the plane's cargo area and remove the casket, draped with the American flag. When the casket traveled down the conveyor belt, fifteen New York State Troop-ers and the same amount of Syracuse Policemen lined the path to the awaiting hearse-all at attention. A hand salute was executed as six State Troopers proudly bore the flag draped coffin to the hearse. After a short prayer, the family was given time to welcome their son home.

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The entire airport was very quiet. At the concourse windows a hundred or more people were all standing, watching, with their hands over their hearts, saluting a young man that they did not know. Some-how they learned that a fallen soldier had come home and they wanted to honor his sacrifice.

The casket was then placed in the hearse and the procession left the airport in the same fashion as we arrived, only this time with the young hero.

The motorcade was escorted to the thruway entrance by the Syracuse Police Department's motorcycles. AU traffic was stopped for the proces-sion as ii headed east towards Boonville. After getting off the thruway, every intersection that the procession encountered was controlled by State Troopers, allow-ing a safe, unimpeded passage. At each intersection, the State Trooper stood at attention, saluting the fallen soldier and his family, giving him and his family the respect that they deserved.

When entering the Village of Boonville, the main street was decorated with an infinite number of American Flags and yellow ribbons. As the procession approached the center of town, all of the church bells began to peal at once recognizing and saluting Private Huxley's arrival. Hundreds of people holding American flags lined the street, some with their hand over their heart and some weeping for the private for his sacrifice, for us and his country.

As they drove by the village park, the National Anthem was being played for Private Huxley.

At the funeral home, eight vet-erans lifted the casket out of the hearse and into the home with the family. Gregory Huxley had returned home. His family said later that the images just described will always be etched in their hearts, forever. But the one memory that will always be there first, was that of the State Troopers at the airport, stand-ing at attention, saluting, with tears running down their cheeks for their son, a fallen soldier. A hero who those Troopers never personally knew.

Inspector Graham said that their jobs take many different avenues. He hoped he and his fel-low law enforcement officers made a difference, a positive contribution.

On this occasion they did just that. The entire Huxley family knows that their fellow Americans cared and did their very best to honor their son. Their words and expressions told just that.

The rewards received for details like this one do not come from anywhere but from the heart. They can take pride in what they accomplished, because it was distinct and without equal.

Inspector Graham went on to say "I have had so many good things happen since I have been a State Trooper, but in those twenty four years, I have 'never been more proud of the New York State Police as I was yesterday - A fallen soldier, a hero, a son, a brother has finally come home, in grand deserving style".