



The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter

Meeting Place -- Tower Club, 28th Floor of the Nations Bank Building

1 Financial Tower, SE Third Avenue & Broward Blvd.

(Parking inside building is \$ 2.00 from 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM if ticket is stamped by the Receptionist)

DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1994

TIME: SOCIAL - 11:30 am LUNCH - 12:00 Noon

COST: \$ 12.00 per PERSON (Make checks payable to: Tower Club)

For RESERVATIONS : Call Oscar Kraehenbuehl at **564-2813**
by **Noon, TUESDAY, May 10th**

PROGRAM : Guest Speaker will be Dr. Harry Calevas, who will share his personal experiences and vignettes about John D. Mac Arthur.

Our speaker is an administrator and author who had the experience of being the right-hand man (VP) and confidant of John D. Mac Arthur, owner of Bankers Life and Casualty. During this relationship, there were many exciting, funny and bizarre experiences, some of which he will share with us. This topic has proven so rich and interesting that he is writing a book about it. Harry is a compatriot, and those who have heard him speak previously are enthusiastic about his return. - You won't want to miss this opportunity.

+++ Come and support your Chapter. Bring your friends !! +++

NEWS :

- + Our April meeting had a surprising twist; the speaker didn't show up. (It turned out she had a change of employment a few days earlier and our program was overlooked.) HOWEVER, not to worry, Gib Buckbee agreed to provide some extemporaneous highlights of his recent trip (not a tour) to India. His observations on its people, country and customs were interesting and informative. The meeting was just as successful as if it had been planned that way. -- Thanks Gib !!
- + Another highlight of the meeting was the awarding of the Martha Washington Medal to Susan Young in recognition of her outstanding service and assistance to the SAR for many years. In making the award, Ed Frisinger, Medals and Awards Chairman, noted Susan's dedicated attendance to the state meetings, National Congresses and Trustee Meetings in support and assistance to Harry in his many offices and duties. All our members should be aware of her contributions and join in congratulations for this well deserved award.
- + Those who didn't make reservations for the banquets or shipboard luncheon at the May 6 -7, Annual FLSSAR Meeting can still attend the Board of Management meetings, the Oration Contest and mingle with members from throughout the state. (Note: the Oration Contest starts at 9:30 AM on Saturday, not the time given in the Florida Patriot.) - Come see how your Society functions and meet the new state officers, et al.)

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



DID YOU KNOW ?



Myth of the Minutemen

The minutemen of Massachusetts loom large in legends surrounding the Revolution. They are often depicted as crack shots who could pick off redcoats at great distances and as having played a decisive role in the ever-growing conflict. Actually, most minutemen were very poor soldiers who seldom, if ever, became engaged in a real battle. From organization to dissolution the bands made up of these fighting men had a life span of just six months.

On October 14, 1774, the Continental Congress took a bold forward step by adopting a "Declaration of Rights and Grievances." This held that self-government was an inherent right of each British colony—and was an open invitation to armed reprisal.

Massachusetts leaders, nearly always in the forefront of those revolutionary activities, recognized their situation to be particularly precarious. About half of the colony's thirty companies of militia were under the command of staunch Loyalists. The military organization would have to be changed before patriots would have any chance of success.

First through the Worcester Convention, and then in other regional conclaves, patriots succeeded in bringing pressure on Tory colonels. Once resignations of many such officers were secured, the militia was reorganized under new officers—with the express provision that one-third of the men in each company were to be ready to act "at a minute's notice."

A few companies of minutemen were organized in the fall of 1774; others came into existence as late as April, 1775. That month, the colony's Provincial Congress scrapped the minutemen organization in favor of an army of 13,000 volunteers who were urged to enlist for eight months. No patriot played the role of minuteman for more than six months; some had the title for only a few days.