



# 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

Oct 2023

Fort Lauderdale Chapter chartered December 8, 1966

Volume 54 Number 9

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Compatriots and Friends,

At our last meeting we inducted two out of three of our newest members. Peter DeWick and Lincoln Pero were inducted on September 16, 2023, and Jim McHugh will be inducted on October 14, 2023. Currently, we have three applications under review in SAR. Two of these applications were submitted by brothers, Blair and Newton Collins, and the other by Eric Knott. I expect that they will be approved by late October 2023. I am also working on three other family plan applications. By the end of this month, the applications for Ken Williams and his son Konor will be signed and submitted. The others will be done over the next month but probably will not be approved until the beginning of 2024. Since starting the year with 59 members, our 2023 net membership is now at 76. As we complete 2024 membership renewals, after adjusting for non-renewals and additional new members, I suspect that our year end number will be between 72 and 75.

A lot has been going on over this last month. Among the current information in the October 2023 Newsletter, be sure and review:

Page 2. The column 1 article on the *SAR Educational Center and Museum* provides the status on member donations to our 2024 Chapter 1776 Campaign which assists in the funding of the new SAR Museum scheduled to open in 2026. The column 2 report of the Executive Committee meeting held on October 9, 2023, provides the recommended slate of 2024 Chapter Officers.

Page 3. See Kevin Shurte's article on *Nathanael Greene – Commander of the Southern Continental Army*. In observance of SAR's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Recognition Program, each publication month we examine and report on a key person or event of the Revolutionary War era (1764 – 1783).

Page 4. See the September 16, 2023 General Membership Meeting Summary.

Page 5. See the article, *In the News*, which is a must read. Here you will get updates on youth education initiatives, the Swamp Fox Society C.A.R., the Chapter's Liberty Tree Dedication Project, and more.

Page 6. See photos of various presentations made at the September 16, 2023 General Membership Meeting, including new member inductions and 250 Bronze Medal recipients.

Page 7. See this month's New Member Profile on H. Lincoln Pero along with photos of our Chapter Color Guardsmen. Note: for the profiles of new members Peter H. DeWick and R. James McHugh, see the September 2023 Chapter Newsletter.

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.

Chuck Adams  
President and Registrar/Genealogist  
Fort Lauderdale Chapter SAR



### NEXT MEETING - October 14, 2023

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

#### Future Dates:

Saturday, 11/11/2023  
Saturday, 01/20/2024  
Saturday, 02/17/2024  
Saturday, 03/16/2024  
Saturday, 04/20/2024

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)

**SAR EDUCATION CENTER AND MUSEUM  
2024 FORT LAUDERDALE CHAPTER  
1776 CAMPAIGN**

As collections for 2024 SAR annual dues are underway, out of 76 current members, we have 70 paid or pledged for next year.

Late last year, the Chapter established a four year goal to contribute \$1,776 annually to the SAR Education Center and Museum starting in 2023 and continuing to the planned opening of the museum in 2026. In 2023, fifteen Chapter Compatriots along with a donation from the John Copanos Estate participated. Our contribution was recognized at the July 2023 National Congress where the Chapter received the Signer Level 1776 Society Certificate. All of our contributing 2023 Compatriots were named and recognized in the September 2023 Chapter Newsletter.

For 2024, we already have nearly met our goal with twenty-four Compatriots to date having made contributions to the project. With five or more new applicants estimated to be approved for membership before the end of this year, we can project with confidence that the remaining balance will be received. The presentation of the Chapter's 2024 check for \$1,776 will be made at the FLSSAR S.E. Regional Meeting scheduled for January 20, 2024 which we will host at our Outback Steakhouse.

The preliminary list of 2024 Chapter Compatriot contributors follows with our thanks: Chuck Adams, Tom Carpenter Jr, Jim Clark, Paul DeBold, Steve De Paul, Martin Hollick, Kenneth Jessel, Daniel Kvarnberg, Andrew Lewis, Jim Lohmeyer, Tim McLane, Scott Moore, Lance Pfeifer, Todd Roemer, Tom Shepherd, Kevin Shurte, Ed Sisson, Mark Snider, Michael Spear, Pete Stevenson, Michael Stevenson, Jeffrey Watts, John Wynkoop, and William Zimmer.

For members who have already paid your dues and now wish to contribute to the 2024 Campaign, you can send in a check for \$50 or the balance needed when counting your original 2024 chapter donation. For new members approved on or after September 1, 2023, you can also participate by making a \$50 contribution payable to the Fort Lauderdale Chapter SAR.

You can learn more about the SAR museum project on YouTube: [SAR Education Center and Museum - YouTube](#).



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
OCTOBER 9, 2023  
NOMINATION OF 2024 CHAPTER OFFICERS**



The Fort Lauderdale Chapter Executive Committee met on October 9, 2023. In accordance with our bylaws it acted to recommend and nominate the slate of 2024 Chapter officers as follows:

Chuck Adams, President, Treasurer, Registrar/Genealogist;  
Steven De Paul, Vice President;  
Mark Snider, Secretary;  
Joe Motes, Editor;  
Kevin Shurte, Historian;  
Tim McLane, Chaplain.

The slate of recommended 2024 Chapter officers will be announced at the next Chapter meeting scheduled for October 14, 2024. The recommended nominees will also be advertised in the November 2024 Newsletter. Elections of the 2024 Chapter officers will be held at the November 11, 2024, Chapter meeting. Any additional member wishing to be considered can make his candidacy known for the consideration of the membership in attendance at the November 2023 Chapter meeting.

The Executive Committee also approved the Amended Budget as of September 30, 2023. In addition to miscellaneous adjustments among line items for revised actual and projected receipts or disbursements, the new or revised expenditure authorizations include: 1) \$1,000 for the Liberty Tree Dedication Project, and 2) up to \$720 in new or amended donations to support the local C.A.R. Swamp Fox Society, the Florida Society C.A.R., and South Florida Boy Scout Council. All of these new or amended initiatives are eligible for partial reimbursement from the Florida Society Endowment Trust Fund. Our investment and advance of these \$1,720 in funds is eligible for FLSSAR grant reimbursements of just under \$1,040 meaning that the Chapter's actual net costs in funding and assisting in these initiatives will be approximately \$680.

## AMERICA 250 NATHANAEL GREENE – COMMANDER OF THE SOUTHERN CONTINENTAL ARMY

By Kevin Shurte



Nathanael Greene, portrait by Charles Willson Peale, c. 1783  
Image: Courtesy of the Independence National Historical Park Collection, Philadelphia.

George Washington's close friend and most-trusted general, Major-General Nathanael Greene never won a major battle as Commander of the Southern Continental Army yet won the war. Born into a Quaker family in Potowomut, Rhode Island on July 27, 1742, Greene, despite Quaker restrictions on extensive learning, was a self-educated man and an avid reader interested in studying mathematics and law, but his true calling was military science. This passion led to his eventual disownment by the Society of Friends after he attended a military parade in Connecticut and openly supported armed rebellion against England.

Following his expulsion from the church, Greene assisted in forming the Kentish Guards in 1774. The Kentish Guards are a military unit that served in both the American Revolution and Civil War and remains active today under its original Rhode Island charter. The group was organized to protect East Greenwich, Rhode Island from loyalist attacks, but when war erupted in 1775, the Rhode Island legislature appointed Greene commander of the Rhode Island Army of Observation. With Congress' confirmation on June 22, 1775, Greene became the Continental army's youngest general officer.

General George Washington also received his congressional appointment as commander-in-chief in the same month. He and Greene met for the first time a month later in Massachusetts during the Siege of Boston, where they began to develop a lasting friendship. Greene would faithfully serve under Washington in various military campaigns including Boston, Long Island, Trenton, Princeton, Fort Washington, and Fort Lee. While he experienced success at Boston, Trenton and Princeton, the army suffered several setbacks under Greene's leadership in New York and New Jersey. He was out-of-action at the lost Battle of Long Island due to illness, and he is generally considered responsible for the losses of forts Washington and Lee. Despite these losses, General Washington's faith in Greene was unwavering, and he appointed Greene to other important, high-ranking positions including Quartermaster General (1778-1780) and Commander of West Point (1780) following the discovery of Benedict Arnold's treasonable plot. For a short time, General Greene successfully served as overall commander of the entire Continental Army while Washington was away collaborating with French forces.



By mid-1778, the war in the north had reached a stalemate, and by June 1780 the war in the south was "going south" for our new nation. British forces had captured the crucial port cities of Savannah and Charles Town and inflicted mass casualties without quarter on the Virginia Continentals at the Battle of Waxhaws. Finally, on August 16, 1780, the Continental Army and militia under the command of Major General Horatio Gates suffered a devastating defeat at the Battle of Camden which culminated in the army's collapse and disorganized retreat and Gates' infamous 170-mile skedaddle to the north.

Congress and Washington had had enough. In October 1780, Congress yielded to Washington's will and affirmed Major General Nathanael Greene as Commander of the Southern Continental Army. Greene had inherited a small army in an extreme state of disarray but quickly employed his organizational and tactical skills to reform his army into a highly mobile fighting force that adopted hit-and-run tactics to disrupt British supply lines and communications. In a bold move, Greene divided his already small army into yet smaller independent fighting units which forced Lord Cornwallis to do the same. This strategy allowed Greene to engage Cornwallis in isolated skirmishes rather than confronting his consolidated force in masse. Greene's tactics were successful in securing important patriot victories especially at the Battle of Cowpens and the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in 1781 which forced the depleted British army to retreat to the relative safety of Charles Town. By autumn of that year, Greene's army had drawn the British to Yorktown where the combined forces of approximately 14,000 Continentals and 36 French warships forced Cornwallis' surrender on October 19, 1781, ultimately securing America's independence. Despite his numerous defeats, throughout the war Nathanael Greene remained dedicated to the cause of liberty and steadfast in his efforts towards achieving it. As Greene once commented about his own success, "We fight, get beat, rise, and fight again" (New England Historical Society).

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## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SUMMARY—SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

At our September 16, 2023, meeting we had 17 members and 2 guests. Members (17): Chuck Adams,<sup>ca</sup> President & Registrar/Genealogist; Steve De Paul, Vice President & Sergeant-at-Arms; Mark Snider,<sup>ca</sup> Secretary; Kevin Shurte,<sup>ca</sup> Historian; Tim McLane,<sup>ca</sup> Chaplain; Jim Clark; Paul DeBold; Peter DeWick; Ted Duay; Ron Goodale; Daniel Kvarnberg; Martin Hollick; Barry Moss; Lincoln Pero; John Sauerwald; Michael Spear; and Pete Stevenson. Prospective Members / Guests (2): Kenneth Williams, Prospect; and Ronna Adams. The subscript <sup>ca</sup> records compatriots attending in colonial attire and participating in the Color Guard.

Color Guardsmen Tim McLane, Kevin Shurte, & Mark Snider presented the colors with Chuck Adams leading the assembly in the SAR Pledge and the Pledge of Allegiance. Tim McLane conducted the POW – MIA “Missing Man” Table Ceremony.

Chuck Adams recognized the presence of our newest members Peter H. DeWick and H. Lincoln Pero. He also welcomed to the meeting our newest prospect, Kenneth Williams. He said that year to date, our membership has increased from 59 to a net 76. Chuck Adams stated that the Fall BOM will be held October 20 – 21, 2023 at Kissimmee, FL. He along with Steve De Paul and Kevin Shurte plan to attend.

Mark Snider stated that the Executive Committee met on September 12, 2023. It adopted the amended budget as of August 31, 2023, and the 2023 Revised Calendar for the remaining year.

Mark Snider stated that 2,851 points have been accumulated by the Chapter for the 2023 Stark Awards Program. He and Chuck Adams attended the celebration of life for Compatriot Earl Higginbotham held on September 9, 2023. On September 13, 2023, he along with Steve De Paul and Tim McLane attended the reburial ceremony for WW II soldier, U.S. Army Pfc Roy J. Searle, held at the South Florida National Cemetery, Lake Worth, FL. He reported that the remaining South Florida Honor Flights for this year will be on September 23, 2023, and October 28, 2023, and that both will depart from and return to the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. Chapter Color Guardsmen plan to participate at the welcome home, and all Compatriots are also invited to attend.

Chuck Adams gave the Status of Fund Report as of July 31, 2023. He stated that the September 2023 Newsletter includes the Member Profiles of Peter H. DeWick and R. James McHugh. It also has an article on the special farewell lunch held for Joe Motes focusing on his contributions to the Chapter for which he was awarded the Bronze Meritorious Service Award on July 27, 2023. On 2023 youth programs, he reported that the Swamp Fox Society C.A.R. will be starting their 2023-24 program. They will meet once every month from October to January, participate in the State Conference held in February, and resume meetings held in March and April. He and Kevin Shurte will attend as senior advisors.

Chuck Adams congratulated Kevin Shurte on his recent appointment as Chairman of the FLSSAR Education Outreach Committee. Kevin Shurte presented the 250 Anniversary Recognition Program Report. This month he summarized his report on *First Continental Congress – September 5, 1774*, which is also published in the September 2023 Newsletter.

Kevin Shurte reported that he has received permission to offer the SAR Middle School Brochure Contest at Ramblewood Middle School, Coral Springs, FL. There are potentially 600 students that will participate with the Chapter to get the final 24 best submissions to judge early in 2024. Three cash awards totaling between \$300 - \$500 will be given to the first, second and third place winners. He also reported on special presentations on Revolutionary War era history that he is giving at the school so that he may qualify for the SAR Youth Education Medal. Any Compatriot may qualify by giving 15 presentation to a recognized group of school age children.

Chuck Adams, assisted by Ted Duay, inducted Compatriots Peter H. DeWick and H. Lincoln Pero. Chuck Adams presented Kevin Shurte his first SAR Supplemental Ancestor Certificate.

Chuck Adams explained the medal criteria for recognition under the SAR 250 Anniversary Program. Those who have qualified for the Bronze Medal are: Tom Shepherd, Mark Snider, Kevin Shurte, Steve De Paul, and himself. He stated that the bronze medal and certificate are on back order, but that Kevin Shurte was able to get his. Chuck Adams presented Kevin Shurte with the SAR 250 Anniversary Program Bronze Medal. He stated that he along with Mark Snider, Kevin Shurte, Steve De Paul have also qualified for the Silver Medal and applications have been submitted to the Florida Society for award later this year.

To read the complete set of the minutes of general members meeting held on the September 16, 2023, open the document sent to you by e-mail, or review it at the archives subpage for minutes and agendas which are maintained at the Chapter website: [www.fortlauderdale-sar.org](http://www.fortlauderdale-sar.org).

### REBURIAL CEREMONY FOR WW II SOLDIER, U.S. ARMY PFC ROY J. SEARLE



Center: Florida Society President, Steve Fields with Steve De Paul.  
Right end: Tim McLane and Mark Snider

**IN THE NEWS**

At the beginning of the 2023 school year, **Kevin Shurte** received school administration permission to offer the SAR Middle School Brochure Contest at Ramblewood Middle School in Coral Springs. Kevin has also set forth on a personal mission to earn the SAR Youth Education Medal which is awarded to a compatriot upon completion of fifteen educational presentations to preschool or school-aged children. On September 15, 2023, in celebration of Constitution Day, Kevin completed 5 educational youth presentations at Ramblewood Middle School. Ninety-six seventh-grade students participated in the lessons. After watching the Schoolhouse Rocks video “The Preamble,” students worked collaboratively to read and analyze the original document and identify and paraphrase the six purposes of the U.S. Constitution as stated in the Preamble. Groups then posted their responses on flipcharts to share in whole-class discussions.



Left: Kevin Shurte with three middle school students

On October 5, 2023, **Steve De Paul** presented Craig and Debbie Danto, owners of Danto Builders, LLC, the Fort Lauderdale Chapter’s Certificate of Appreciation for the company’s donation of \$2,000 to help support the Chapter in carrying out its annual programs and initiatives. Danto Builders is a family owned, full service design-build construction management company which has operated in the South Florida area for four generations. At the Chapter’s General Membership Meeting held on July 29, 2023, we recognized all four of our corporate donors having contributed a total to date of \$3,750. Steve’s most recent visit to the Danto’s at their company headquarters in Fort Lauderdale was done to personally present to them their certificate and to bring them up to date on Chapter activities.



Left: Craig Danto, Debbie Danto, Steve De Paul

On October 8, 2023, **Chuck Adams** and his wife, Ronna, attended the first meeting for the 2023–2024 school year of the Swamp Fox Society C.A.R. **Kevin Shurte** also attended for the Chapter. Kevin’s grandson, Braeden Shurte was present as a new applicant to the C.A.R. At this meeting, Kevin gave an address on Abraham Lincoln and the significance of the Gettysburg Address. Chuck Adams presented the Chapter’s semi-annual check for \$350.00 as part of its annual commitment to support the activities of the C.A.R. Chuck also discussed the Chapter’s proposal for a joint SAR – C.A.R. initiative to contribute to a Broward County organization helping children. It was agreed that a donation of \$500 coming from both the SAR and C.A.R. would be made to Tomorrow’s Rainbow ([www.tomorrowsrainbow.org](http://www.tomorrowsrainbow.org)) from additional funds provided by the Fort Lauderdale Chapter.



Left: Kevin Shurte, Braeden Shurte, Kyle Peterson, Chuck Adams

On October 10, 2023, **Mark Snider** listed with the National War Memorial Registry the Chapter’s Liberty Tree and commemorative plaque dedicated in March 2012, at the Rae Carole Armstrong Park in Plantation. This database is a digital repository operated by The Memorial Day Foundation. The mission of the Foundation is to increase and restore patriotic awareness and respect for Memorial Day by maintaining a tradition of public honor and remembrance and to preserve, protect, honor and remember our nation’s war memorials. The Plantation Liberty Tree qualifies to be recognized as a memorial to Revolutionary War Patriots. As reported by **Ted Duay**, the first Liberty Tree was an elm tree planted in Boston Commons on August 14, 1765, in protest of the British Stamp Tax. Future Liberty Trees dedicated by the Chapter will also be qualified to be added to the registry. Currently, **Steve De Paul** is leading the Chapter’s effort in coordinating the dedication of a Liberty Tree and commemorative plaque in early 2024 at the Dania Beach City Hall.



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Plantation Liberty Tree & Plaque  
Photos taken in 2022 courtesy of Ted Duay

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – SEPTEMBER 16, 2023 PRESENTATIONS**

**NEW MEMBER INDUCTIONS**

New members Peter H. DeWick and H. Lincoln Pero were inducted by President Chuck Adams. Past President and Past Florida Society President, Ted Duay, assisted.



Left: Peter H. DeWick and Chuck Adams



Left: H. Lincoln Pero and Chuck Adams



Left: Chuck Adams, Peter H. DeWick, H. Lincoln Pero, Ted Duay

**SUPPLEMENTAL ANCESTOR CERTIFICATE**

Chuck Adams presented Kevin Shurte with his first Supplemental Ancestor Certificate.



Left: Kevin R. Shurte and Chuck Adams

**SAR 250 ANNIVERSARY BRONZE MEDAL**

Also at the September 16, 2023, General Membership Meeting, Chuck Adams recognized the Chapter Compatriots who have qualified for the SAR 250 Bronze Medal. Chuck Adams then presented Kevin Shurte his Bronze Medal and Certificate.



Left: Kevin Shurte, Mark Snider, Chuck Adams, Steve De Paul. Not shown, Tom Shepherd



Left: Kevin Shurte and Chuck Adams

**OPENING CEREMONIES – SEPTEMBER 16, 2023**



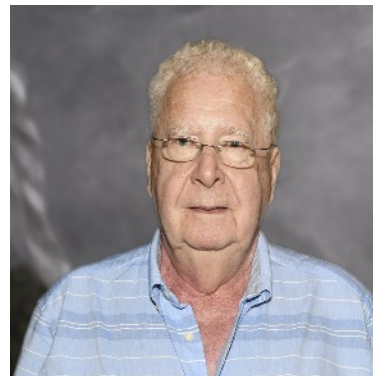
Missing Man Open Table & Left Presentation of Colors: Kevin Shurte, Mark Snider, Tim McLane



Left Chapter Guardsmen: Kevin Shurte, Mark Snider, Chuck Adams, Tim McLane

**SAR MEMBER PROFILE – H. LINCOLN PERO**

By Chuck Adams



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

A. I was born in 1947 in Taunton, Massachusetts where I grew up and graduated from Taunton High School. I graduated in 1970 with a degree in textile chemistry from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth.

Q. What was your occupation before retirement?

A. I worked for Eastman Kodak Chemical for thirty-six years. I started out in Kingsport, TN and worked in research and development for many years. I transferred into marketing and chemical sales working at various operations in New York City, New Jersey, Burlington, VT and finally Providence, RI. I retired in 2002. For ten years I resided between Rhode Island and Florida. Since about 2018 I have been a full time Florida resident, and I currently live in Pompano Beach.

Q. Can you tell us about some of your recreational interests?

A. I enjoy gardening as well as classical and pop music. I play the organ and was a church organist. As a hobby, I worked for a man who rebuilt theater pipe organs. Having learned the trade, I purchased and rebuilt a 1927 pipe organ used in a theater during the silent movie era.

Q. Who is your Patriot ancestor?

A. Ebenezer Walker of Dighton, Massachusetts was a private in the Bristol County Militia who served on the alarm of December 8, 1776, and the alarm of August 2, 1780.

Q. Do you plan to help with Chapter development?

A. I enjoy attending the Chapter lunch meetings and plan to continue attending those functions.

Thanks, Lincoln, for sharing.

**U.S. MILITARY KEY EVENTS**

The United States Navy was established on 13 Oct 1775 by the Continental Congress through a resolution that reads: “That a swift sailing vessel, to carry ten carriage guns, and a proportionable number of swivels, with eighty men, be fitted, with all possible dispatch, for a cruise of three months....”



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