# The Pensacola Patriot

Pensacola Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

Chartered March 14, 1896

**Chapter Officers**

**2015-2017**

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| President | Bill Lies |
| 1st VP | Chris Washler |
| 2nd VP | Bill Nobles |
| Secretary | Bob Canavello |
| Treasurer | David Matthews |
| Registrar | Ray Judd |
| Chaplain | John Matthews |
| Genealogist | Vacant |
| Historian | Alvin Bellamy |
| Member-at-large | Ray Lantz |

## Welcome to the new Pensacola Patriot

Welcome to the new look of The Pensacola Patriot—the newsletter of the Pensacola Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution! As part of our efforts to reinvigorate Florida's first SAR chapter, we've been working to re-vamp and revitalize our programming and our communications. This newsletter is the last piece of that puzzle.

Just over a year ago, our chapter had hit the point that we had to make a critical decision. We either needed to commit to rebuilding our chapter, or we had to let Florida's First Chapter fold. At that meeting, Bill Nobles, Bob Canavello, David Matthews, Ray Judd, John Matthews, Alvin Bellamy and Ray Lantz all agreed to stay on the board to help in the rebuilding effort and Bill Lies and Chris Washler stepped forward to volunteer to take fill in the remaining two board positions.

I think I can speak on behalf of the board when I say that the rebuilding effort is well underway and meeting with great success. Our meeting attendance is on the rise, we have been having regular programs again, interest in new chapter activities has started increasing. Florida's First is definitely back! If you haven't been to a chapter meeting in the past few months, you may have missed some of the changes that we've put in place. Last fall, we developed a new chapter brochure that will help with attracting new members, and in October of last year, we officially launched the chapter website—www.pensacolasar.org! On the website you can find out all about the chapter, our activities, our past meetings and there's more to come!

I encourage everyone to come out to some of the chapter activities and if there's something you want to get involved in, just let us know!

## 2016 First Responder Awards

**SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal:**

Trooper Loren Slick, Florida Highway Patrol

Deputy Sergeant David Ingram, Escambia Sheriff's Office

Police Officer Amy Parsons, Pensacola Police Department

**SAR Fire Safety Commendation Medal:**

Deputy Chief Jon Paul Williams, Escambia Fire Rescue

**SAR Emergency Medical Services Medal**

Paramedic Kelly Beecher, Escambia Emergency Medical Services

**2016 First Responder Award Recipients**

Paramedic Kelly Beecher, Trooper Loren Slick, Deputy Chief Jon Paul Williams, Deputy Sergeant David Ingram, Police Officer Amy Parsons, SAR Vice President, Chris Washler

Chapter Secretary, Bob Canavello with guest speaker, Pensacola Chief of Police, David Alexander

## Upcoming Events

April 12, 2016 - Chapter Meeting

May 7, 2016 - Dedication of Minuteman Statue and Commemoration of the Battle of Pensacola

May 13-15, 2016 - Florida Society Annual Meeting - Orlando, FL

June 7, 2016 - Chapter Meeting - Former National SAR President General, Judge Ed Butler

July 8-13, 2016 - National Society 126th National Congress - Boston, MA

July 12, 2016 - Chapter Meeting

August 9, 2016 - Chapter Meeting

## Pensacola SAR on the Internet

Did you know that the Pensacola Chapter is active on Facebook and we have just recently launched a brand new website? If you are on Facebook, you can find us and like the chapter page at https://www.facebook.com/PensacolaSAR. Our website is www.pensacolasar.org. We are striving to keep both formats up to date and informative for both existing and prospective members.

One on-going project for the website is to have a complete listing of the Patriot Ancestors for all of our members. To that end, we are asking each member to send us the following information on your patriot: the patriot's name, and their rank and other service information. The information can be sent to Compatriot Washler at cwashler@cox.net.

We encourage all of our current members and any prospective members to visit our Facebook page and web-

## Call for Patriot Biographies

Do you have a biographical sketch of your patriot ancestor? Would you like to write one? If so, we want to publish it!! What's a biographical sketch, you ask? Nothing more than a short story or outline of your patriot ancestor's life. In future newsletters, we would like to highlight our members' ancestors by publishing whatever information you care to share about their life. There is no minimum length, but we do ask that the biographies be no more than 500 words in length.

## Genealogy Corner

Ever wondered where to find an elusive record for your genealogy research? Do you have questions about how to submit a supplemental ancestor for the SAR? Do you just need some advice on how to break down a genealogical "brick wall"? In future newsletters, Compatriot Ray Lantz will be offering advice and helping you answer those questions and more.

If you have genealogy questions that you need help with, please send them to info@pensacolasar.org and you will see them answered in future newsletters!

# 2016 First Responders Citations

What follows is the full citation that was submitted to the chapter for each of our 2016 First Responder Award Recipients. Each of these public servants was recognized by their respective departments for going above and beyond in their jobs.

**FHP - Trooper Slick**

On October 3, 2O15, Trooper Slick was traveling to a court appearance in Walton County. Florida. He observed a vehicle stopped on the north side of U.S. Highway 90 at Four Lakes Road. The vehicle appeared to have been involved in a traffic crash. Trooper Slick stopped with the vehicle to see if it was occupied and notified the Tallahassee Regional Communications Center. After further examination, the vehicle appeared to be unoccupied and was possibly a crime scene. The windows were taped up and a hose was taped from the exhaust pipe to the trunk area. He requested the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office have a deputy respond. Upon their arrival the Sheriff's office took over the investigation as a possible crime scene. Trooper Slick completed the crash investigation responsibilities associated with this incident. Emergency Medical Services arrived on scene and made forced entry into both the passenger compartment and trunk of the vehicle. The vehicle was found to be unoccupied. Further efforts by the Sheriff's office did not result in any contact with the listed, owner of the vehicle for a welfare check, Trooper Slick took the initiative to continue to try, and locate the owner. By using social media, Facebook, he located the owner's place of employment. The results were relayed to the Sheriff's office. The current employer was able to lead the Sheriff's office to a motel where the owner was staying. The deputies entered the motel to find the owner who had unsuccessfully attempted suicide in the vehicle. At the motel she had cut her arms and neck, she was subsequently taken to the hospital and then Baker Acted. The extra efforts of Trooper Slick are possibly the direct result of this person's life being saved and her receiving the proper medical and psychiatric attention.

Trooper Slick acted on his instincts, as well as his training. He has represented this agency professionally and honorably while fulfilling the motto of making Florida a Safer State and reaffirms the Agency's commitment to the motoring public.

**Sergeant David Ingram**

Last year, Sergeant David Ingram began streamlining the evidence intake process for the Escambia County Sheriff's Office. Sgt. Ingram instituted a program wherein the evidence techs would receive Florida Certification from the Property and Evidence Association of Florida. To date, he has gone from one certified evidence tech to five. Sgt. Ingram has been instrumental in establishing an evidence training program for newly hired evidence techs, newly hired deputies and Field Training Officers.

In less than six months, under Sgt. Ingram's direction his team has completed a complete inventory of all evidence items. This inventory and review revealed that the sheriff's office had several years of evidence in which the case life had expired, thus allowing a safe and lawful destruction of these items, freeing up much needed space.

Sgt. Ingram took advantage of new technology to help streamline the intake of both digital and physical evidence. He also established a new procedure of bringing in firearms in a safer manner. Sgt. Ingram continually consolidates and reorganizes existing evidence in accordance with the updated evidence policy he put in place.

Starting in February 2016, the State Attorney's Office will have access to the Watch Guard video system, a system that produces video evidence from in-car cameras. Sgt. Ingram has been a driving force in the push for the State Attorney's Office to gain access to the system. Under a program Sgt. Ingram put in place, the State Attorney's Office will have thorough training on the system.

Sgt. David Ingram exemplifies the values of dedication and professionalism, performing above and beyond the call of duty.

**Police Officer Amy Parsons**

Police Officer Parsons was hired by the Pensacola Police Department as a police officer on November 21, 2005 and has repeatedly demonstrated her dedication to go above and beyond what is expected in the performance of her duties.

Among her assignments have been Uniform Patrol and Neighborhood Services and Investigations, where she is currently assigned as a detective.

As a detective, she has proven herself to be a valuable asset not only to the department but also to the community. Her interview skills and patience while talking with suspects contribute to her successes.

Her cases are sought after by the State Attorney's Office because of her accuracy and thoroughness. In October 2015 we received a letter from the State Attorney's Office commending her investigation of a pre-meditated homicide that resulted in conviction with a life sentence of the suspect.

In February 2015 she also received a Meritorious Service award from the Pensacola Police Department for a long-term investigation she conducted on bank and business burglaries within city limits, Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. Six suspects were arrested and two have received convictions with sentences of 10 and 25 years while the rest are awaiting trial.

Detective Parsons is one of the department's "go to" detectives for major crime cases. She takes time to mentor newly assigned detectives to Criminal Investigations, is a team player and volunteers for extra assignments while maintaining her case load.

She also worked several major cases in 2015 that included a homicide, an attempted homicide, a home invasion and kidnapping, residential burglaries, and grand thefts.

**Deputy Chief Jon Paul Williams**

Deputy Chief Jon Paul Williams Chief Williams serves as the fire department executive officer. His duties range from the handling of our personnel issues and the corresponding discipline that goes with it. He is responsible for fleet purchasing/maintenance, he works as the fire department communications coordinator, executes the promotional process for our lieutenants and battalion chiefs, as well as the hiring of new firefighters. He also manages the ordering and distribution of all the member's uniforms.

Chief Williams has been in charge of the annual awards ceremony and writes most of our standard operating guidelines.

In a nutshell, Deputy Chief Paul Williams is the straw that stirs the drink. He makes the fire department run smoothly and he does a wonderful job of it.

The citizens of Escambia County are extremely fortunate to have Paul Williams working for them and protecting them from the dangers of fire.

**EMS Paramedic, Kelly Beecher**

Kelly Beecher has been a Paramedic with Escambia County Public Safety since August of 2010. This year she has received the distinguished award of "Employee of the Year" for the Emergency Medical Services Division of Escambia County Public Safety. Kelly has displayed integrity, professionalism, and dedication.

Over this past year, Kelly has received several letters from the public and hospitals for a job well done. She recently had a patient who required Cardioversion (shocking the heart with electricity), who made a remarkable recovery and was discharged with a positive prognosis. Kelly serves as an Instructor in Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Basic Heart Saver, and is an Instructor for the Principles of Ethics and Personal Leadership (PEPL), which is a National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians for professional ethics of emergency responders.

Kelly also has an important role within the Department as a Field Training Officer. She mentors, trains, and teaches students from Pensacola State College and new hires to the department.

She also serves as an Alternate Paramedic Supervisor. Her skills and knowledge has placed in her positions such as Medical Command of the Blue Angel Air show. She has been our go to person when we need to do a public service announcement and recently did a television interview on car seat safety.

She is a wonderful employee who works hard and makes a difference for her patients and the community she serves.