# The Pensacola Patriot

Pensacola Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution
Chartered March 14, 1896

March 2025

**Chapter Officers**

**2025-2026**

| | |
|---|---|
| President | Ben Findley |
| Vice Pres. | Jeremy Findley |
| Secretary | Bob Canavello |
| Treasurer | Bill Lies |
| Registrar | Chris Washler |
| Genealogist | Vacant |
| Chaplain | John Matthews |
| Sergeant-at-Arms | Bill Nobles |
| Historian | Chris Washler |
| Member-at-large | John Matthews |

## President's Message

Hello Compatriots and Friends!

One of the major activities now in early March as I write this... is our progress toward our very significant celebration of events and activities that commemorate the formation and existence of our great country... the 250th Anniversary of the birth of our United States of America... and our Time Capsule project. Our **SAR Chapter's 250th Time Capsule Committee** is very active and a lot is happening now in cooperation with the two DAR Chapters, the CAR, the City, and vendors, etc. If you get a chance, please let your SAR representatives on that Committee know you appreciate their work on this tremendous project. We shall have a joint meeting with the DAR ladies this week to prepare our joint approach with the City and that meeting in about 10 days. Your active 250th Anniversary Commemoration Time Capsule Committee is:

**Wesley Odum, Geo Pittman, Woody Barnes, Chris Washler**, and me.

My dream of an SAR Time Capsule legacy for our future compatriots and friends is being planned and will leave indelible messages about our values of freedom, liberty, independence, and respect for the patriots that helped form our great nation and our principles. Please continue to support it for something that will benefit a lot of folks.

Well, our beautiful gold enameled **Chapter Coin** has been designed, manufactured, and sales of it began. The first batch of coins sold out in just 2 weeks to our members primarily or were given to award recipients and speaker. There are many of you who have not purchased this fine coin, so please contact any of the Executive Committee members to **purchase this legacy 250th Coin memory** for only $15. Or send your check to **Bill Lies**, our Treasurer, and **Bob Canavello**, our Secretary, will mail it to you. I just received the second coin order and it will be distributed to Executive Committee members to, hopefully, get sales started to you and external friends and Anniversary supporters in 3 days. It is special that our SAR Mission is intentionally included on our Coin... **Patriotism, History, and Education**. ***(Continued on page 2)***

# President's Message *(continued from p. 1)*

If you buy the coin you can pick it up at a Chapter meeting or have it mailed to you at a nominal cost.

Another goal for 2025 is to have at least four outside informative **Guest Speakers** for our Chapter meetings and we already have **five scheduled**, thanks to **Jeremy Findley**. The WW II Propaganda presentation by our DAR friend in February was very nice and she loved our Chapter coin. I just today talked with our Wreaths Across America speaker for next week and he is anxious to present and meet our members, so PLEASE attend his WAA presentation, since he is with the Founding WAA Family. This week I talked to the SAR Foundation Executive Director and he confirmed he will speak at our April Chapter meeting. My Chapter Goal was to have at least 4 new Fellows this year. Director Phil Bloyd will present information about our SAR George Washington Fellows Program and pin our (just confirmed) **5 (YES FIVE) new George Washington Fellows** then. This will help our Meek Award numbers. There are other speakers thanks to **Jeremy**. And thanks to Jeremy for all his fine work with the Youth Contests. I enjoyed recognizing our Youth Escambia County History Fair award winner at the Washington High School Ceremony.

Another goal I have is for our Chapter members to buy or promote others to buy Wreaths for the **Wreaths Across America** campaign to place Wreaths on patriotic veterans' graves at Pensacola's Barrancas National Cemetery. Sadly last year, we were about 20,000 Wreaths short for placing them on graves of fallen heroes just here in our area. I would like for our Chapter to record at least 40 Wreaths bought and placed on the Cemetery's veterans' graves this year. As of this date, we are not there, so need your help to meet this goal. But, I want to surpass it, so no veteran's grave is left without a Wreath. Please help and **contact Bill Lies our Treasurer to purchase a wreath!** Thanks Bill for your fine work on this. The area Director for WAA will speak at out March 17 meeting, please attend.

Still another goal is to have our Chapter work with the **Veterans Affairs Department of our Pensacola United Way to help needy local veterans** through various services, projects, and activities. Well, I have been discussing ways to help our Pensacola area veterans with the United Way Veterans Director and found some. One is by visiting our veterans in nursing homes, hospitals, and rehab centers. I had an opportunity a couple of weeks ago to talk with a veteran in the hospital and then **visit in a rehab center a Navy veteran** for two hours. What a great experience to learn about his submarine experiences and his jobs after the Navy. He was a professional window washer. I presented him with our SAR Certificate of Appreciation, a Florida Veterans Association Veterans Medal and Ribbon, a coin and pin. If you want to volunteer to work in this area, please contact me and I shall be glad to help you get involved.

Also, thanks to **Chris Matrone, our Awards and Medals Chair,** for his work on arranging a medal and Certificate presentation to a Civil Air Patrol (CAP) outstanding cadet. It will be my honor to recognize and award this cadet with Chris at tomorrow's CAP ceremony.

Well, I have to get my coonskin hat (no, my tricorn) ready for my historical presentation to the kiddos at **Beaulah Elementary School** on March 24 and my speech ready for the **UWF AFROTC cadets** at their military ball on March 29. Bless these future leaders and prospective SAR members for their early dedication to our country.

Still another SAR activity is the new **Youth Protection Training (YPT)**. I shall present a related short training program for our Executive Committee this week. This training is mandatory by NSSAR for all compatriots in leadership positions who work with young people. Phase I of the 4 Phases requires verification that prospective SAR members are not on sex offender registries. The excellent intent of YPT is to create and maintain a safe environment for all youth in SAR activities. I completed my online training and hope you might be interested and complete yours as well. Sign in at **SAR.org**, click on SAR University, and got to YPT.

Well, there are other stellar Chapter activities and projects ongoing. We have bold goals for this year and our progressing quite well so far. Your Executive Committee members are doing great work! But, we need your participation as a member for success with our very worthy projects and activities. Our Chapter's Mission will not be successful in helping others and meeting the related goals without **YOUR PARTICIPATION**. Please take just a short amount of time and help our Chapter and help others more fully recognize what we are about and how we want to help others... for a **Win-Win-Win** result for all involved. Don't ever hesitate to contact me to help with any SAR Chapter matter or to participate.

All the Best, Many Blessings, & Continued Success My Fellow Compatriots!

*Ben Findley*

## Chapter Meetings

***Meeting Date:*** The chapter meeting is on the **Third Monday of the Month.**

***Meeting Location:*** We are meeting at Calvert's in the Heights (670 Scenic Highway)

## Pensacola SAR on the Internet

Chapter Website: www.pensacolasar.org

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/PensacolaSAR

Instagram: sarpensacola

# Sons of the American Revolution Mission Statement

*The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.*

## New Compatriots

Please welcome these new Compatriots who joined the Pensacola Chapter in 2024!

| ***Compatriot*** | ***Month Approved:*** | ***Patriot:*** |
|---|---|---|
| Tyler McKee | March | Adam Wetzel (PA) |

*This space looks a little empty… Help us fill this space over the course of the year - talk to your friends, neighbors, and stranger you meet about membership in the SAR!! It's an easy conversation starter - just ask, "Where does your American story begin?"*

Pensacola Chapter President, Ben Findley, and Asst. Secretary, Chris Matrone, presenting Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Landon Dahlin with the Bronze Good Citizenship medal in recognition of his outstanding leadership in the Civil Air Patrol.

## Did You Know?

"Revolutionary War Rarities" is a production of the NSSAR and they are short 10 minute podcasts that discuss little known facts about the Revolution. Check it out on Facebook, www.fastfunhistory.com, YouTube, and wherever you listen to podcasts!

# Patriot Chest

The Pensacola Chapter has begun to put together a Patriot Chest to use at community events as well as to be used for in-classroom presentations for our local schools. Several compatriots have asked how they can help with the effort to build on what we already have. Below is a list of items that we currently have in the chest, and a list of items that we would like to add. Compatriots who would like to help with this effort can either purchase items from our "wish list" or send a donation to the chapter that is specifically designated for the Patriot Chest. Special thanks to Chris Matrone and Bill Nobles for their recent contributions to the Patriot Chest!!

**Current Patriot Chest Inventory:**

- Powder Horn
- Two Tricorn Hats
- Musket balls with leather pouch
- Flint
- Wooden Bowl
- Betsy Ross Flag
- Small Frying Pan
- Spanish Pieces of Eight
- Pot scrubber
- Horn spoon
- Quill Pen and inkwell
- Colonial Era Doll
- Colonial Era paper money
- Linstock (used to fire cannons)
- Fife
- Deck of colonial era playing cards

**Additional Items we would like to add:**

- Small Linen Haversack (https://www.townsends.us)
- Replica Flintlock pistols (https://replicaweaponry.com)
- Child's sized Hunting Frock or Revolutionary War Coat (https://www.townsends.us)
- Girls' Colonial Cap (https://www.townsends.us)
- Girls' Hooded Cape (https://www.townsends.us)
- Reproduction Colonial Era Glasses (https://www.townsends.us)
- Wood canteen
- Lye Soap
- Men's Work Cap (https://www.townsends.us)
- Hair comb made of horn
- Brick of tea
- Tin Cup
- Colonial Lantern

# America 250—The Last Naval Battle

The Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution took place on March 10, 1783 off the coast of Cap Canaveral. The battle took place as two American ships, the Alliance and the *Duc de Lauzun* were headed back to the colonies from Cuba on a secret mission carrying 72,000 Spanish silver dollars intended to be used to pay the Continental Soldiers. The two American ships were intercepted by the British ships, *HMS Alarm, Sybil,* and *Tobago*. As the *Sybil* closed on the slower *Duc de Lauzun,* Captain John Berry, aboard the *Alliance* reversed course and caught *Sybil* in a broadside attack.

The 28-gun frigate *Sybil* under Captain James Vauchon, was hopelessly outgunned by the much larger 36-gun frigate *Alliance*. With neither of the other British ships engaging in the fight, the battle lasted less than an hour before the damaged *Sybil* disengaged and withdrew, allowing the two American ships to escape and continue their mission to bring the Spanish currency north.

Ironically, the battle took place more than a month after the Treaty of Paris had been signed, officially ending the American Revolution, but no one in the colonies had yet received word of the peace treaty.

# 250 by the 250th

We're almost there! Our 250 by the 250th project has officially crossed the 200 mark! If we keep this up, we are on track to reach our 250 goal nearly a full year ahead of schedule! Don't let up now - if we surpass our goal, that's even better!

If you are driving by a house and it looks like their flag may qualify for recognition, write down the address and send in the nomination—we will even help you figure out who the homeowner is!! Someone from the committee will do a drive by after dark to ensure the flag is properly lit, and then we can recognize the community member.

We will be taking nominations from now until July 1, 2026, and anyone (even non-compatriots) can nominate and individual, business, or organization. Presentations will be done on a rolling basis, and can be scheduled at any time that is convenient for the recipient. If a compatriot wants to be part of the presentation, please just let the committee know!

Nominations can be emailed to flags@pensacolasar.org or through the form on the chapter website at https://pensacolasar.org/250-by-the-250th/.

In addition to nominations, the committee needs assistance in presenting certificates to businesses. Currently, we are mailing all of the residential certificates directly to the recipients, but we are trying to do presentations to businesses in person. If you are interested in helping out with this project, please reach out to John Matthews (johnmatthews@cox.net) and he will tell you what all is involved!

# The Genealogy Corner

By Ray Lantz NSSAR #166163

**Research Source Topics:**

All recommendations given in this section are strictly based on the author's opinion and are not in any way sponsored or influenced by any entity associated now or previously with the research source or product being discussed or recommended.

Recommended Genealogical Database Software:

Author's Top Choice – Family Tree Maker (FTM) by The Software MacKiev Company (**Software MacKiev - Family Tree Maker**)

Recommended Online Genealogical Research Sources (Pay):

Author's Top Choice – **Ancestry.com**

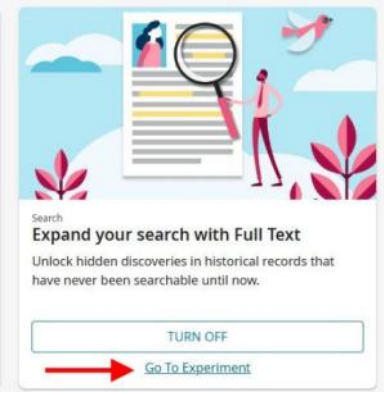
Recommended Online Genealogical Research Sources (Free):

Author's Top Choice – **FamilySearch.org**

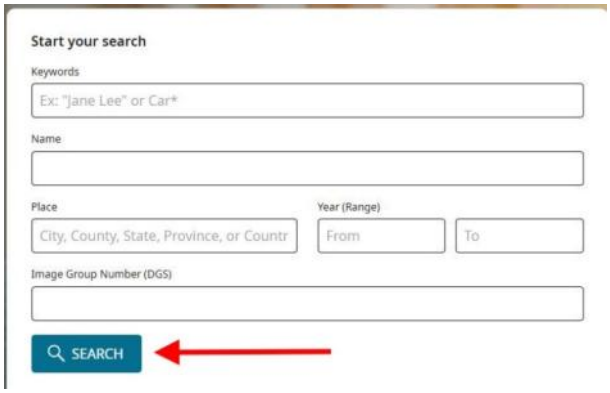
**Recommended Research Tips:**

Now that you have signed up for a free account at FamilySearch.org you will now be able to take advantage of the newest free genealogy research AI experiment available anywhere. Just click the following link and login with your Family Search user name and password for a truly AI genealogical experience never before seen: **https://www.familysearch.org/en/labs/**

Once you are logged in click the

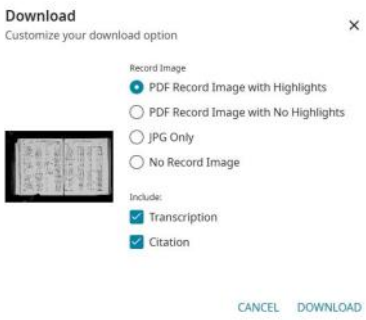



Step 1 – Click Go To Experiment




Step 2 – Enter Initial Search Parameters & Click Search

Step 3 – Review search results for the information for which you are searching. You can click on a result link to view the source document in another window to preserve your result list. After reviewing the source document, you have the option to close the window and return to the results list or click the download button selecting the following options, once you finish close the window and return to the results list:



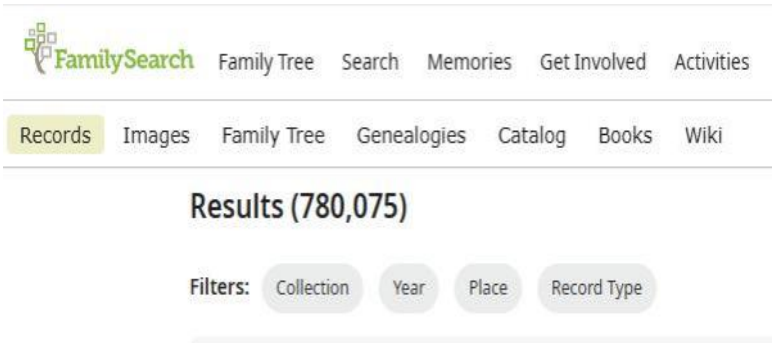

**Continued on the next page….**

**Genealogy Corner (continued)**

If you find that you are initially getting too many hits in your results lists, you will need to adjust your initial search parameters using the following search tips and/or filter your search results using the available filter options shown below:

Located lower right of results list

Search Tips




Located upper left of results list

Result Filter Options

Note: This new experimental AI FULL TEXT search feature searches all documents linked to AI engine, runs an optical character recognition function on all available results, prepares a virtual every word index and matches the search parameters and filters against the virtual index to provide the results list. BEWARE that only a portion, though significant, of the Family Search documents are currently linked to the AI search engine. New batches of linked documents are being added almost daily. So be patient and persistent if you do not find what you need, take a break, and come back another day and search again. I have had it take a month or as much as six months for something I needed but, well worth it when I had already been searched for something for more than 30 years and no one found the answer before I did…

**Member Research Questions:**

These are typically questions of how to or where is it found genealogical research nature of interest to all researchers. Please submit your general genealogical research questions at newsletter@pensacolasar.org

# FLSSAR Spring BOM/Annual Meeting Details

**Date:** May 16-17, 2025

**Location:** Embassy Suites Orlando—Lake Buena Vista South

4955 Kyngs Heath Road Kissimmee, Florida

**Registration Link:** https://www.flssar.org/Docs/BOM/BOMRegForm.pdf

**Hotel Reservations:** https://book.passkey.com/e/50844815

***NSSAR President General Addington will be attending, and our own Compatriot and past Chapter President, Chris Washler, is running for Florida Society President position***

## Ladies Auxiliary

The Florida Society Ladies Auxiliary is seeking more members from across the state. The Ladies Auxiliary usually helps support the activities of the chapter, and they help put together baskets for fundraising at the State level to help support the SAR's Educational programs. If any of your wives are interested, the Membership form is on the following page, and can be emailed to them as a fillable PDF form.

They can contact Becky Washler at beckybray12@gmail.com.

# Veteran's Recognition

The SAR has numerous avenues by which we can recognize and support Veterans. There are three ways in which we have the ability to recognize the service that was rendered to our country by our Compatriot Veterans - membership in the Florida Veterans Battalion, awarding the Military Service Medal, and awarding the War Service Medal.

The Pensacola Chapter is undertaking an effort to ensure that all of our members who served in the Armed Forces get the recognition and thanks that they deserve. A few of our members are already members of the FLSSAR Veterans Battalion, and a few have even received one of the two appropriate medals to recognize their service. However, there are many of our compatriots who served in the military who have not yet joined the Veterans Battalion nor received the appropriate medal. All that is required for all of this is simply to provide the chapter with a copy of your DD-214 and fill out a quick form to register for the Veterans Battalion.

If you are a member of the Pensacola Chapter who has served in the Armed Forces, but has not joined the Veterans Battalion or has not received either the Military Service Medal or the War Service Medal, please reach out to Chapter President, Ben Findley at colbff@gmail.com so that we can ensure that you receive proper recognition for the service that you rendered to our country!

## *Involvement Opportunities*

Below are just a few of the opportunities for you to get involved with the Chapter and help us live out our Mission!

- Youth Programs
  - Knight Essay Contest
  - Poster Contest
  - History Fair
  - Brochure Contest
- 250 by the 250th—Flag Recognition
- America 250 Activities
- Color Guard
- Battle of Pensacola Commemoration
- Newsletter
- Website/Social Media

Please contact any member of the Executive Board if you are interested in helping with these projects!

## Member Anniversaries

These are the Pensacola Compatriots who have March and February.

Scott Calvert - 1 year

James Hewette - 1 year

Jeremy Findley - 3 years

Grant Landry - 7 years

Martin Griswold - 8 years

Fred Printiss - 9 years

# Color Guard - Nathan Hale Camp

Back in April of this year, after several years of being officially inactive, the Pensacola Chapter's Color Guard (officially known as the Nathan Hale Camp of the Florida Sons of Liberty Brigade) was reactivated! While the camp has not been very active yet, we are working on adding compatriots to the Color Guard unit, and to that end, during the July meeting, the Board of Directors asked the membership to approve a new budget line item for Color Guard Uniforms.

If any compatriot is interested in obtaining a color guard uniform, the chapter has now designated $1,000 annually to provide assistance for those compatriots who are assembling a color guard uniform. Any compatriot is eligible to receive $100 to help purchase their uniform. This $100 contribution toward a uniform is limited to 10 compatriots per year, and only one per compatriot.

The Color Guard is one of the most visible and effective public relations tools available to the SAR. Every time an SAR Color Guard makes a public appearance, the members are fulfilling all three objectives of the SAR - Historical, Patriotic, and Educational. Just a few examples of where our Color Guard can make public appearances include sporting events (maybe even a Blue Wahoos game?), new citizen swearing in ceremonies, City or County Government meetings, historical events such as the Galvez Day event, and even ceremonies for the re-internment of POW/MIAs who have been identified by the Army Casualty Office.

If you are interested in being part of this fantastic part of the SAR, all that is required is that you have a uniform and be willing to volunteer when called upon! (Oh, and be willing to have LOTS of kids and adults want their picture taken with you!)

Individual compatriots are responsible for obtaining their uniform. There are typically two types of uniforms - Continental or Militia. The Continental uniform is the most recognizable as it is the uniform identified with the soldiers of the regular army during the Revolution. The militia uniform has no specific set requirements because this is what would have been worn by the average citizen when he was called to militia duty. (Pictures of the various types of uniforms appear on the next page of the newsletter.)

Each Color Guardsman can choose which type of uniform they would like to wear, and the Nathan Hale Camp will consist of both types of uniforms. For more information on what all goes into a uniform, you can take a look at this manual that was put together by the Georgia Society Color Guard: https://www.robertforsythsar.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/The-Well-Dressed-Guardsman-2024.pdf

It is also worthy of note that while purchasing a brand new uniform can be an expensive endeavor, Compatriot Wesley Odom has let it be known that he has several uniforms for sale and his "prices are very attractive." If you are interested, contact Wesley at 850-497-6167. (I can personally attest to the fantastic quality and workmanship of these uniforms because my militia uniform is one of them!)

# Color Guard Uniform Requirements

According to the NSSAR Color Guard Handbook, the following are the requirements for Color Guard uniforms:
With respect to the Continental uniform, the basic uniform consists of the following:
· A tricorn hat;
· A blue coat with either a buff, red or white facing and trim;
· White shirt and waistcoat;
· White or buff knee britches or fall-front trousers;
· Buckle shoes;
· A pair of white gloves.

With respect to the Militia uniform, the basic uniform consists of the following:
· A hat – either tricorn or round;
· A hunting shirt;
· A white or checkered shirt;
· Long britches or fall-front trousers;
· Shoes (not necessarily buckle since the long pants leg will cover the buckle area).

In 2016, a uniform based on Scottish attire was approved by the National Color Guard Committee. This type of uniform is considered a militia uniform the basic uniform consists of the following:
· A hat – either tricorn or round;
· A white or checkered shirt with neck stock
· A waistcoat;
· A kilt (may be of a modern pattern since the actual tartans at the time are unknown);
· Knee socks with buckle shoes or knee socks with boot/moccasins

While these are the basics for each uniform, variations will exist, and participation will not be discouraged based on these variations. Another important consideration of the uniform is the type of fabric used in making the uniform and the accessories that accompany the uniform. Due to the time and expense of obtaining a uniform made from natural and more authentic material, many color guard members chose to obtain a less expensive uniform made from modern fabric, most often polyester or gabardine. These uniforms made from modern fabric are acceptable for all events except where the guardsman will fire a musket. For safety reasons, the SAR does not allow guardsmen in modern fabric uniforms to fire a weapon due the danger of melting fabric causing severe burns.

# Where to obtain a uniform?

Here is a partial list of uniform vendors provided by the NSSAR Color Guard. Just type the listed name into Google, and it should help you find their website. G. Gedney Godwin, Townsends, and C&D Jarnagin Company have full uniform options for both Continental and Militia style. Other vendors listed may require you to piece together your uniform.

Bethlehem Trading Post • Smiling Fox Forge • Avalon Forge • Barkertown Sutlers • Burnley & Trowbridge Co. • C & D Jarnagin Company, • Cobb Creek - Fine Clothing • Custom Wig Company • Flintlocks, etc • MyFlintlocks, LLC • Ft. Downing Trading Co. • Fort Vause Outfitters • Fugawee • G. Gedney Godwin Online • HB Forge • Black Powder 411 • International Guns • Joe's Leather Works, LLC • Livonia Smithery • Loyalist Arms & Repairs • Military Heritage • Panther Primitives - • Samson Historical • Smoke&FireStore • Spring Valley Lodges • Sutlers of Fort Frederick Market Fair (2022 listing) • The Quartermaster General • Tennessee Valley Muzzleloading • Townsends • Track of the Wolf • Turkey Foot Trading Company • VA Flintlocks • Clearwater Hats • Ye Armes Shoppe

# Color Guard Uniform Examples

Example Militia uniform

Colonial Officer's Uniform

Two examples of Colonial Line uniforms (one with knee britches and the other with full pants)

Ladies Auxiliary
Florida Society
Sons of the American Revolution

**All New Membership applications must be mailed to the Registrar:**

Kathy Markoe
294 Blackwater Place
Longwood, FL 32750
407-729-6031
daydreamr613@aol.com

## *Application for Membership*

**PLEASE PRINT OUT THIS FORM and mail to Kathy Markoe.**

Date _____

Name _____

Husband's Name (if applicable) _____

Address + Zip+4 _____

Telephone + Area Code _____

Relationship to SAR Member (if applicable) _____

SAR Member's Name (if applicable) _____

FLSSAR Chapter (if applicable) _____

New Member's Email address _____

NSDAR Chapter (if applicable) _____

| | |
|---|---|
| Application Fee | $10.00 |
| State Membership Pin (optional) | $10.00 |
| National Membership Pin (optional) | $12.00 |
| Postage and Handling (if ordering Pins) | $ 7.00 |
| Payable to: **LAFLSSAR** | Total Due |

For Registrar Use Only:
Date Received Membership Application _____ Check #_____
Date pins mailed to Applicant (if ordered)_____
Registrar Updated Membership Roster Date _____
Date Mailed Copy of Membership Form & Check to Treasurer _____
Date Treasurer Received Membership Form & Check _____

**May 17, 2024**

# 2025 Upcoming Events

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| March 17 | Chapter Meeting<br>Buster Hartford,<br>Wreaths Across America | May 16 - 17 | FLSSAR Spring BOM and Annual Meeting<br>Orlando, FL |
| April 21 | Chapter Meeting<br>Phil Boyd, Exec. Director of NSSAR Foundation | June 16 | Chapter Meeting<br>Program TBD |
| May 9 | Battle of Pensacola Commemoration/ Galvez Day | | |

SAR
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

**Florida Society**
**Pensacola Chapter**
**"Florida's First"**
**Est. 1896**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
250th Anniversary
1776-2026
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION