

250th Anniversary of The Declaration of Independence Signing



Members of the DAR & SAR at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell

The 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence was commemorated with a special ceremony at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell at 10:00 a.m. Members of the DAR, American Legion, veterans groups, and the Sons of the American Revolution gathered to honor the patriots who helped secure American independence. The Villages Chapter SAR was represented by Compatriots Don Hansen and Bill Barton. The ceremony began with an opening prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a short address reflecting on the importance of the Declaration of Independence and the sacrifices made in the cause of liberty. The observance concluded with a solemn moment of silence and the playing of "Taps." The setting was especially meaningful because the Florida National Cemetery contains grave markers honoring two Revolutionary War soldiers, providing a lasting connection between the ideals of 1776 and those who served in the struggle for American independence.



Dr William Ziobro receives a certificate of Appreciation from Chapter President Pat Taylor

Guest Speaker at August Chapter Meeting by Jerry Byers

Our guest presenter at our August meeting was Dr. William Ziobro, who spoke about Thomas Jefferson, the architect. Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), our nation's third president, author of the Declaration of Independence, renowned politician and statesman, was also the first American architect of world-class stature - one of the premier architects of the early United States.

August Chapter Meeting by Jerry Byers

The Villages Chapter of SAR met in the Captiva Recreation Center on Saturday, August 8, 2026, and the meeting was called to order by President Pat Taylor. We had sixty people in attendance.

The Pledge to the US flag was led by VP Don Hansen, the SAR pledge was led by John Moore, and Jerry Byers gave the invocation. Treasurer Lee Duff gave treasurer's report, and noted that we now have 119 members with 22 applications in process.

Sergeant at Arms Chuck Opferman told about Revolutionary War events for August in 1776, including how George Washington's 9000 troops managed to escape from the 20,000 highly trained British as they were invading Long Island.

We were pleased to have our new SAR Regional Vice-President, David Hitchcock, with us, and he addressed the membership concerning the upcoming BOM meeting in October. David is also the President of the Withlacoochee chapter.

Our guest presenter was Dr. William Ziobro, who spoke about Thomas Jefferson, the architect. President Pat Taylor presented Dr. Ziobro with the SAR Certificate of Appreciation.



SAR Regional Vice-President, David Hitchcock addresses the Chapter



Chuck Opferman presented the events of August 1776



Left: Colonial Era Items on display at the August meeting of The Villages SAR

**Next Meeting of The Villages Chapter SAR will be
November 11, 2026 at Captiva Rec Center 10:00 am
658 Pinellas Place, The Villages, Florida**



Hand painted Revolutionary War dioramas on display at the August meeting of The Villages SAR

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.

Get Involved!



The Villages Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution Needs You!
Discover how you can support our committees dedicated to our mission.
By volunteering your time and talents, you can help preserve our nation's history and honor the sacrifices of our Patriot ancestors.

See any Chapter Officer for more information on how you can help.

