



Florida Society of the Children of the American Revolution



The Orange Blossom

July 2025, Issue # 1

N.S.C.A.R. website: www.NSCAR.ORG

In This Issue

- Messages from our National and State President and learn about "Hooves of Freedom."
- SE Regional and Packet Meeting
- Society updates



National President's Project

This year, C.A.R. will explore the life and legacy of "America's Founding Martyr," Dr. Joseph Warren. Members will work to celebrate and honor his early contributions to American independence as we continue to celebrate the ongoing 250th anniversary of the USA event. Visit www.nscar.org for details!

-Reese Holmes
National President, 2025-2026



What is America 250?

Hold onto your hats, folks! America is getting ready to throw a massive bash for our 250th birthday since we signed that fancy Declaration of Independence back in 1776. Our "Semiquincentennial" is coming up, and festivities will be popping up everywhere!

★ Editor's Corner:

Dear Readers,
I hope you enjoy the first Orange Blossom Newsletter of the 2025-2026 year. I'm excited to be serving as 2nd Vice President and Editor. Please send pictures, short articles, and society updates for inclusion in the Orange Blossom.
Email: orangeblossomfscar@gmail.com

Social Media News:

Remember to use these hashtags for all your posts during the 2025-2026 C.A.R. Year!

- #RevolutionaryValor
- #UnSungPatriots
- #NSCAR1893

Florida Society of the Children of the American Revolution



State President Jaelyn Tillman

Senior State President JoAnn Burns Welker



Senior State President's Message

Hello Florida C.A.R. Members, Seniors and families,

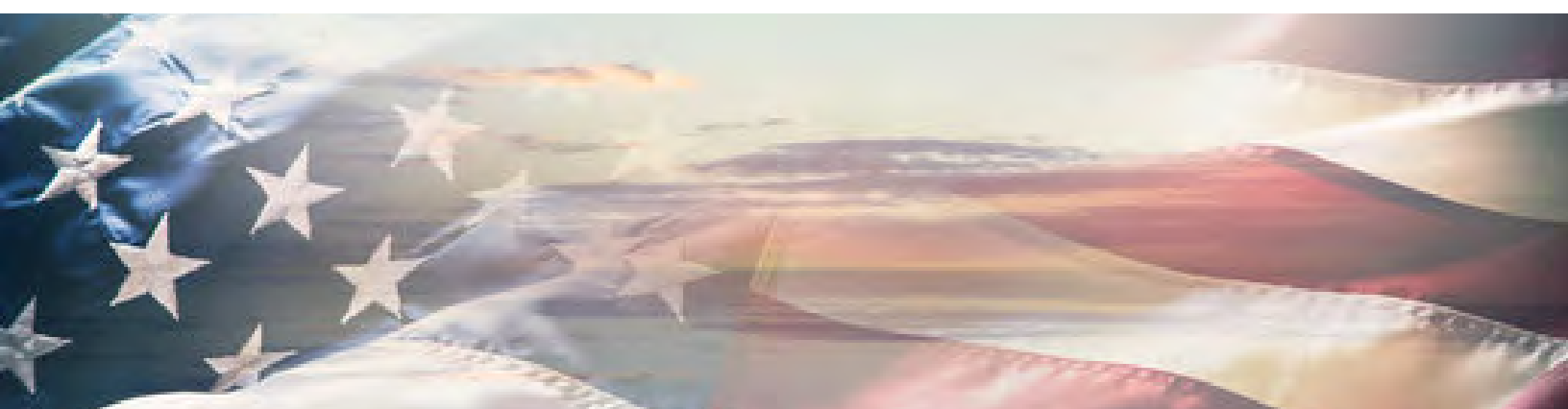
This is the year of the horse and the new **State Packet** is “out of the barn” ! Go to the State Website; Look at all the Contest opportunities. Engage in State and National initiatives as we “gallop” toward the celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. See what is going on in your community “arenas” to honor the occasion and participate in patriotic events. Start your planning meetings with the **State and National Merit Awards** and “spur” members on to enter at least one **Contest**. Encourage new societies and invite them to your “ranch.” Florida C.A.R. has so much to offer and our members are achievers. **James Hamilton** is National Vice President of the Southeastern Region, **Sydney Rigaud** is National Chaplain and “Hay, “ did you see Past President **Caleb Golden's** full-page article in the National Magazine? Now that's some C.A.R. ‘horsepower!’”

Florida has officially “bolted out of the starting gate.” There was a lot of “horsing around” at the State Packet Meeting in Orlando where we tested our “horse sense” and “horse racing” abilities at the “**1st (Not likely to be annual) C.A.R. Horse Show**”. “Wahoo”! to all who participated and “Whoopie!” to all competitors who won Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Ribbons. Thank you to all our officials and timers and a special thank you to the “**Tillman Tabletop Barn Building Company**” and the “**Howson Ring Set Up and Midnight Moving Service.**”

“Saddle up Florida.” I am challenging every Society to **send at least one member to the State Conference** this year, and I am urging every Society to “round-up” at least **one new member**. For 2 years in a row Florida is the **National winner of most dual C.A.R./SAR Members. This year let's also have the most C.A.R./DAR dual Members in the Nation.** State Conference is February 13-15 at the Gainesville U of F Hilton Conference Center, and National Conference is in Washington D.C. , April 17-19 “Nail those dates to your barn door”.

Wishing you “Happy Trails,”

JoAnn “Nana Jo” Welker, Senior State President



State President's Message



To the Members of the Florida Society, Children of the American Revolution,

My name is Jaelyn Tillman, and I am honored to serve you as your Florida State President 2025-2026 as we move forward together in our shared mission to preserve history, honor patriotism, and serve our communities with purpose.

This year, I am proud to introduce my State Project: "Soldiers' Freedom Outdoors." This initiative is close to my heart, as it supports healing and recovery for our veterans by connecting them with the peaceful power of the outdoors. Nature has long been a place of reflection and restoration—and through this project; we can offer our heroes the opportunity to find freedom beyond the battlefield.

My State Theme, "HOVES OF FREEDOM," also reminds us of the often-overlooked roles animals—especially horses—have played in America's fight for liberty. From the Revolutionary War to today's service animals, these faithful companions have helped carry the burdens of war and the hopes of peace.

As we work together this year, I hope to dive deeper into the wounds of war—not just the physical, but the emotional and invisible wounds our soldiers carry. Through compassion, education, and action, we can raise awareness, support healing, and ensure our veterans feel seen, valued, and appreciated.

I would love for everyone to have fun and find what they love to learn about, whether that is nature, animals, how they made black powder, or how did they care for the soldiers in the American Revolution. There is something for everyone, and I can't wait to see what it is!!

Let us serve boldly and honor deeply.

This year, the National Project will support the Dr. Joseph Warren Foundation (DJWF). The DJWF is a 501 (c)(3) organization dedicated to honoring and celebrating the legacy of 'America's Founding Martyr', Dr. Joseph Warren. Funds raised from the National Project will go to support the creation of a Dr. Joseph Warren Documentary film, highlighting and honoring his sacrifices and contributions during the beginning of the American Revolutionary War. Dr. Joseph Warren exemplifies values of respect, service and, integrity and a commitment to freedom – values we strive to embody every day in C.A.R.! This project allows N.S.C.A.R. to engage with an essential chapter of our nation's history as we celebrate its active 250th anniversary celebrations.

With gratitude and C.A.R. spirit,

Jaelyn Tillman





Jaelyn Tillman

State President 2025-2026

Senior State President: JoAnn Burns Welker

State Theme: "Hooves of Freedom"

State Officers 2025-2026

State 1st Vice President: Levi Golden,

State 2nd Vice President: Eli Maddox

State Chaplain: Rosemary Gabriel

State Recording Secretary: JT Kwak

State Organizing Secretary: Layla Burch

State Corresponding Secretary: Braeden Shurte

State Treasurer: Landon Alexander

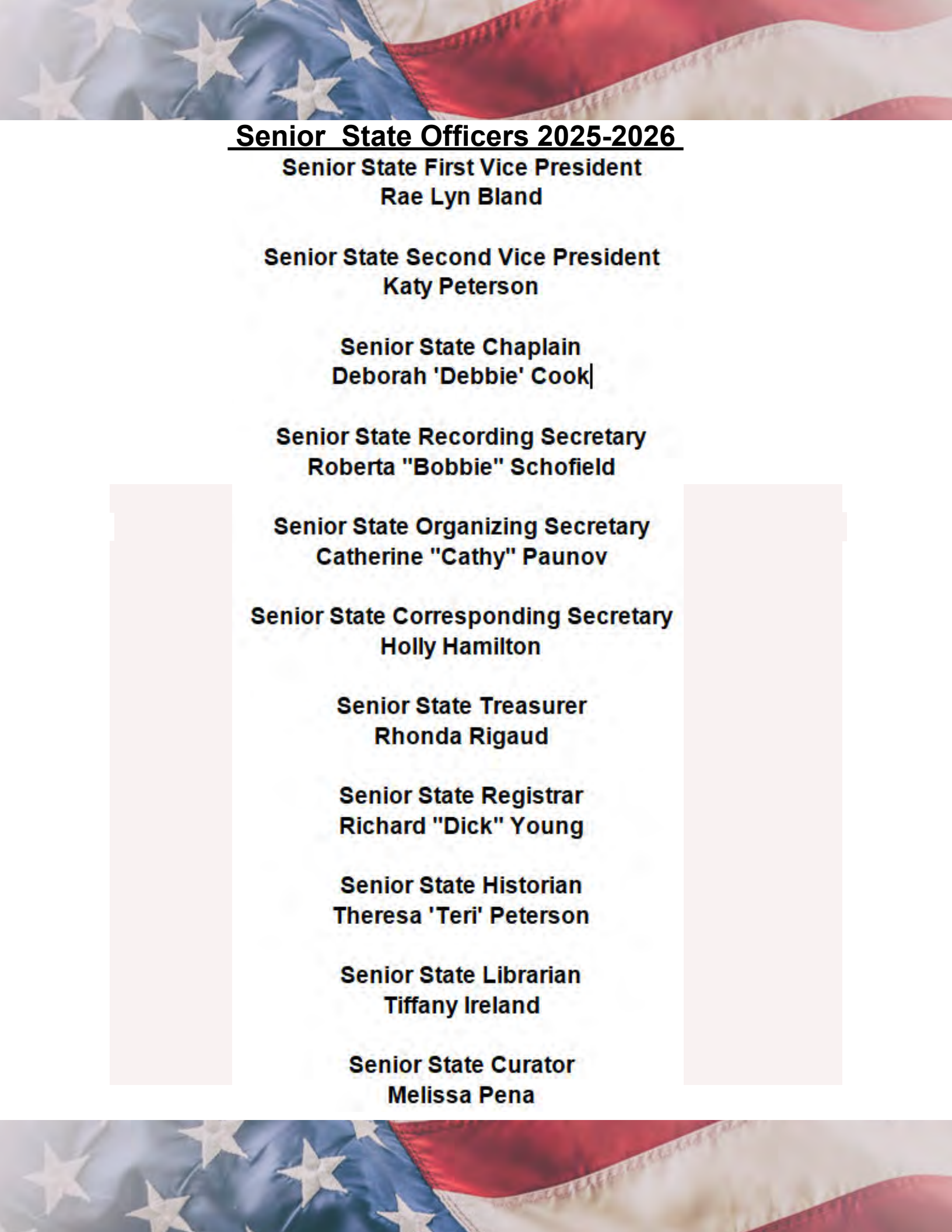
State Registrar: Audrey Golden

State Historian: Kayley Kelly

State Librarian: Ruth Gabriel

State Curator: Colin Matthews



The background of the entire page is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes. The stars are white on a blue field, and the stripes are red and white.

Senior State Officers 2025-2026

Senior State First Vice President

Rae Lyn Bland

Senior State Second Vice President

Katy Peterson

Senior State Chaplain

Deborah 'Debbie' Cook

Senior State Recording Secretary

Roberta "Bobbie" Schofield

Senior State Organizing Secretary

Catherine "Cathy" Paunov

Senior State Corresponding Secretary

Holly Hamilton

Senior State Treasurer

Rhonda Rigaud

Senior State Registrar

Richard "Dick" Young

Senior State Historian

Theresa 'Teri' Peterson

Senior State Librarian

Tiffany Ireland

Senior State Curator

Melissa Pena



National President's Project

Each year, the National President creates a National Project and Theme in support of educational programs. Led by the National President and Senior National President, the National Officers, State Presidents, and National Chairmen promote the project and theme throughout the country.

National President Reese Holmes

Senior National President Jeffrey R. Voris

National Theme: Revolutionary Valor

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Hello C.A.R.!

What an incredible honor it is to serve as your National President for the 2025-2026 *Revolutionary Valor* administration. Senior National President, Mr. Voris, and I are beyond excited for the year ahead, and we can't wait to share our goals, dreams, and revolutionary fun with all of you.

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Dr. Joseph Warren exemplifies values of respect, service and, integrity and a commitment to freedom – values we strive to embody every day in C.A.R.! This project allows N.S.C.A.R. to engage with an essential chapter of our nation's history as we celebrate its active 250th anniversary celebrations.

This year's National Theme is *Revolutionary Valor*. This theme was chosen to highlight the valiant spirit that C.A.R. cultivates within its membership, and is a hint towards the 250th Anniversary of the USA and its ongoing celebrations. This theme is meant to instill the same values of our patriot ancestors in the members of C.A.R. today.

This year, we want to celebrate YOU, our amazing members, and the incredible history that brings us together! We want to engage and increase our membership far and wide, and we need your help!

This summer's Regional Tour kicks off in Buena Park, California and the National Board is excited to see members from all across the country, spreading the word of the National Program. We hope you are as excited as we are! Be ready to learn and have a revolutionary time!

Thank you again for this opportunity. I am looking forward to a year full of learning, service and FUN!

With *Revolutionary Valor*,

Reese Holmes
National President, 2025-2026



NATIONAL PRESIDENT, REESE HOLMES

National 1st Vice President

Will Elston

National 2nd Vice President

Catherine Jackson

National Chaplain

Sydney Rigaud

National Recording Secretary

Will Tims

National Organizing Secretary

Taylor Watts

National Assistant Organizing Secretary

Bailey Callahan

National Corresponding Secretary

Katie Schaer

National Treasurer

Libby Deakyne

National Registrar

Malorie Voris

National Assistant Registrar

Connor Bragg

National Historian

Catherine Young

National Librarian

Daniel Klinkenberg

National Curator

Lily Wright

National Vice President, New England Region

Lila Elliott

National Vice President, Eastern Region

Andrew Parsley

National Vice President, Mid-Southern Region

Sarah Terpenning

National Vice President, Southeastern Region

James L. Hamilton

National Vice President, Great Lakes Region

Anthony Green

National Vice President, Great Plains Region

Maggie Petersen

National Vice President, South Central Region

Caroline Jackson

National Vice President, Rocky Mountain Region

Elizabeth Young

National Vice President, Western Region

Sophia Kaufman

Southeast Regional and Packet Meeting July 7th & 8th, Orlando, FL



F.S.C.A.R. America 250 Marker Dedication, May 3, 2025

The F.S.C.A.R. dedicated the state society's America 250 marker, located in Sebastian, Florida, recognizing the men, women, and children that fought and/or contributed aid to the American Revolution. What a day it was! Despite the pouring rain through most of the ceremony, it was well attended by members from C.A.R., DAR, SAR, and city officials.



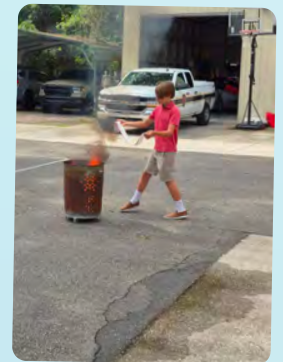
Alligator Creek Bridge, Callahan, Florida



June 28, 2025



Vaughan-Latham Society



The Vaughan-Latham Society, C.A.R. was invited by the Amelia Island NSDAR chapter to participate in their annual Flag Day Service on Saturday, June 14, 2025. With the assistance of the three local UPS stores, the chapter recovered over 150 American flags for retirement. A formal retirement service was conducted at the Nassau Fire and Rescue Station #20. Approximately 25 members of CAR and DAR attended. The program not only included a ceremonial flag retirement/burning, but for the first time encompassed a ceremonial flag folding and narration of the meaning of each fold, as defined by the U.S. Air Force Academy, by DAR with the assistance of Vaughan-Latham C.A.R..



Treasure Coast Society

The Pelican Island Chapter DAR and Treasure Coast Society C.A.R. joined together on 5/18 to reflag the Brookside Historic Cemetery for Memorial Day. The society also had a society meeting to elect officers and to plan some activities for the coming year. They voted to donate \$50 to the State President's project and Society President James Hamilton presented each new officer with one of the state project horses.



Southeastern Regional and State Packet Meeting

The Treasure Coast Society had 5 members present for the Southeastern Regional Meeting and state Packet Meeting from 7/6-7/8/2025. Society members included Society President James Hamilton, Sydney Rigaud, Kayley Kelly, Layla Burch, and Hannah Burch. Members learned about both the state and national projects and met many members from around the country. The Southeastern Regional Meeting was led by the Treasure Coast Society's very own James Hamilton who is also serving as the N.S.C.A.R. National Vice President for the Southeastern Region this year. Sydney Rigaud served as the Regional Chaplain but also is the National Chaplain. A great time was had by all!



Snowden-Horne Society

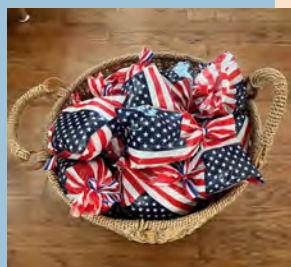
The Snowden-Horne Society, in. Fort Walton Beach, has learned to lead the Pledge of Allegiance using American Sign Language. The group will use their new skills to lead the Pledge at the third annaul Okaloosa Festival County Women Veterans Memorial Day Event. Members are shown expressing how they feel about C.A.R. by saying, "I love you."



As a part of our conservation project, the Snowden-Horne Society enjoyed a program on the importance of Earth Day at their March meeting. Following the presentation, Society members drafted an Earth Day Proclamation to increase community awareness. The proclamation was presented at the April 15 meeting of the Okaloosa County Board of Commissioners.



The Snowden-Horne Society C.A.R. March meeting focused on "Kids Helping Kids." Forty Goodie Bags were prepared and delivered to local school counselors who focus on children of military families. Childhood is challenging enough, but these kids must also deal with leaving friends behind to move to new schools and/or having parents who are deployed. The Goodie Bags, filled with treats and a note of friendship, will be given by the school counselors in hopes of bringing a smile and letting these children know that someone cares.



Swamp Fox Society

Annual State Conference Recap: A Celebration of Tradition, Achievement, and Community

The Florida Society Children of the American Revolution held an unforgettable state conference in Melbourne, FL, filled with camaraderie, celebration, and reflection. Festivities kicked off Friday night



with a lively taco bar, bingo, and crafts, with the candy bar proving to be a hit among the kids. Saturday morning's business meeting, led by State President Caleb Golden, announced the impressive results of the Society Contest, with Swamp Fox excelling in 21 out of 22 entries. Afterward, members enjoyed an exciting afternoon of bowling and arcade games before dressing up for the grand ballroom dinner reception. The evening featured basket raffles, new member inductions, and the meaningful introduction of Wolfhound Legacy's founders, as attendees celebrated President Golden's remarkable achievement in surpassing his state project's funding goal to make a generous donation. The night ended with kids dancing the night away while adults enjoyed some well-earned relaxation. Sunday's commemorative service provided a heartfelt

moment to honor loved ones who have passed. As another successful conference wrapped up, members left with cherished memories and eager anticipation for next year's gathering.



The Swamp Fox Society N.S.C.A.R. proudly joined Fontenada DAR in Pompano Beach and the Fort Lauderdale Chapter Sons of the American Revolution for the Commemorative America 250 Dedication Plaque ceremony, marking a significant moment in honoring America's rich history. This gathering served as a powerful tribute to the nation's journey toward its 250th anniversary, celebrating the enduring legacy of patriotism and service. Members stood together in unity, recognizing the sacrifices of those who shaped the country's foundation and the importance of preserving that heritage for future generations. The event was not



just a dedication but a heartfelt reminder of the strength and perseverance that define American history. It was an immense honor to be part of such a monumental occasion, standing alongside fellow patriots to reflect on the past while looking ahead to the future with pride and reverence.



DAR/CAR Relations

CHICHI-OKOBEE - MAY ACTIVITY

- MYAKKA STATE PARK JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM



On, May 10th, the Chichi-Okobee members ended the year with a trip to Myakka State Park where they participated in the Junior Ranger Program. Each member said the pledge: "As a Junior Ranger, I promise to protect the plants, animals, water, geological features, culture, and history of Florida State Parks. I promise to continue to learn about parks and share what I have learned with others as I explore ...the Real Florida." Then, they received their official membership cards to become Junior Rangers. Each member also received their official badge, passport, and folder with core activities to be completed. Next, the group went to a picnic area to have lunch and then, complete the first worksheet. A stop to a state park wouldn't be complete without a nature walk. The group hiked a trail along the Myakka River where two alligators were spotted along with other wildlife, such as birds and insects.

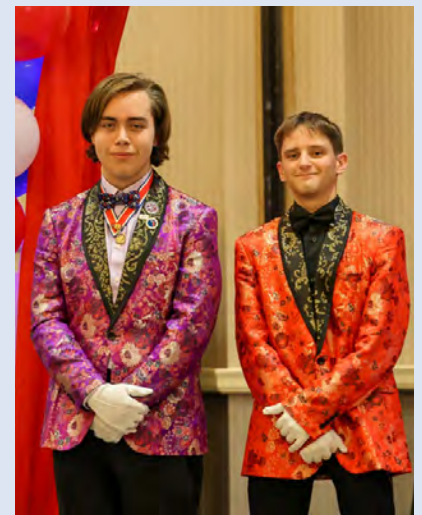
To learn more about Florida's Junior Ranger Program and participating parks visit: <https://www.floridastateparks.org/Junior-Ranger>

CHICHI-OKOBEE - NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE



In keeping with last year's tradition to honor our organization's National Day of Service, our C.A.R. society gave back to our local DAR chapter who gives so much to our program. Their historic chapter house requires a lot of maintenance and we wanted to help out. The property is fairly large and was in need of some clean up. President Nathan said "the cemetery had lots of trash, so we cleaned it up and it looks nice again." Vice President Luke said "I can't believe we found a Jordan sneaker when we cleaned up the DAR's property. Where is the other shoe?" The team collected several bags of trash that had made its way onto the DAR property. Items such as shoes, clothes, and empty food containers were picked up. Not only did the members help others in this effort, it was also a reminder to take care of the environment, as you never know where your trash may end up. By: Society Historian Chloe Westerberg (6) with help from her mother, Senior Society Librarian Sunny Westerberg

F.S.C.A.R. State Convention 2025



A perfect ending to a new beginning.



CHICHI-OKOBEE

The Chichi-Okobee Society took a step back in time—almost 100 years—on April 12, 2025, to tour the 1927 Historic Venice Train Depot and Circus Car Museum. Our private, docent-led tour was conducted by Michael Donnellan, who set the stage by describing what life was like in Venice at that time and how the depot came to fruition. Grand tales of the Ringling Circus train cars were told, and all the C.A.R. members were delighted by the thought of elephants on parade giving rides to local children all those years ago.

Inside one room, a handcar was on display. The docent explained how it was used and even let members lift the heavy hammer that workers used on the railway. This was Adam's favorite part!

After touring the train station, we walked to a restored train car. What seemed like an ordinary passenger train from the outside was anything but ordinary on the inside. The children's faces lit up when they entered, as it had been transformed into a circus museum full of lively artifacts, pictures, models, and replica displays showing how the train was used and decorated. Once again, Mr. Donnellan was very informative and told brilliant stories of famous circus stars and performers—particularly the life of Gunther Gebel-Williams, a world-famous animal trainer and megastar of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. Ella said she liked learning what life was like on the train car the best.

Our contribution to the Venice Train Depot will help cover future maintenance expenses. If you would like to learn more about the Venice Train Depot or take a tour of your own, visit <https://veniceareahistoricalsociety.org/>.

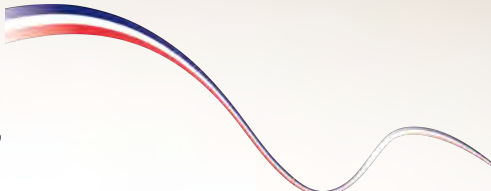
By: Society Historian Chloe Westerberg (7) with help from her mother, Senior Society Librarian Sunny Westerberg.

HISTORIC VENICE TRAIN DEPOT AND CIRCUS CAR MUSEUM





Welcome New Members



<u>Name</u>	<u>Society</u>	<u>Patriot</u>
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Lydia Ann Halulko	Vaughan-Latham	Christian Zug
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Lucy Joy Halulko	Vaughan-Latham	Christian Zug
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Upcoming Events:



Colonial Night Watch 12/6/25:

Colonial Nightwatch and Winter Meeting/St. Augustine

State Conference 2/13/26-2/15/26:

Don't miss the fun and excitement happening in Gainesville, Florida!

National Convention 4/17/26 - 4/19/26

Come and join us in creating memories as we commemorate America 250 in Washington D.C.!





Did you know there are many unknown heroes that fought in the American Revolution? Here are a few of their stories:

Sybil Ludington (1761–1839)

Who she was: The daughter of a militia colonel in New York.

What she did: At age 16, Sybil rode over 40 miles at night through the rain to alert local militias of the British burning Danbury, Connecticut—similar to Paul Revere, but even farther.

James Armistead Lafayette (1748–1830)

Who he was: An enslaved African American who became a double agent.

What he did: He posed as a runaway slave to gain access to British camps and fed crucial intel to American forces—most notably helping secure victory at Yorktown.

He eventually gained his freedom and added “Lafayette” to his name in honor of the Marquis.

Deborah Sampson (1760–1827)

Who she was: A Massachusetts woman who disguised herself as a man to enlist in the Continental Army.

What she did: Fought under the name "Robert Shurtliff," was wounded in battle, and even removed a musket ball from her own leg to avoid discovery!



Test Your Knowledge

Q. What future president wintered with General George Washington and the Continental army in the icy cold of 1777 at Valley Forge, PA?

A. James Monroe.

Q. On what hill was the Battle of Bunker Hill fought?

A. It took place on a neighboring hill called “Breed’s Hill” and was later named Bunker Hill.

Q. What Revolutionary War was named “Swamp Fox”?

A. Francis Marion. He served in both local militia and the Continental Army. This nickname came from his relentless pursuit of the enemy through swampy territories of South Carolina

Q. Where were the first shots of the American Revolution fired?

A. Lexington, MA. Who fired first is still unknown today.



Senior State President JoAnn Welker

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Email: fscarpresident@gmail.com

Thank you to Jaelyn Tillman for her guidance on creating this newsletter and a special thank you to Senior State Second Vice President, Katy Peterson for her leadership.

-Editor and State Second Vice President, Eli Maddox

F.S.C.A.R.

