



Florida Society of the Children of the American Revolution



The Orange Blossom

December 2025, Issue # 2

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

In This Issue

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- Society Updates
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NATIONAL PRESIDENT 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

America 250 what's happening around Florida?

<https://america250fl.com/>

Check out this site for upcoming America 250 community events.. you can also "Submit an event" — inviting anyone (community organizations, local groups) to add their event to the Florida 250 calendar.



What's happening around our Nation?

AMERICA Visit: <https://america250.org/americas-250th/>



On July 4, 2026, our nation will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

★ Editor's Corner:

Dear Readers,
I hope you enjoy the second 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,

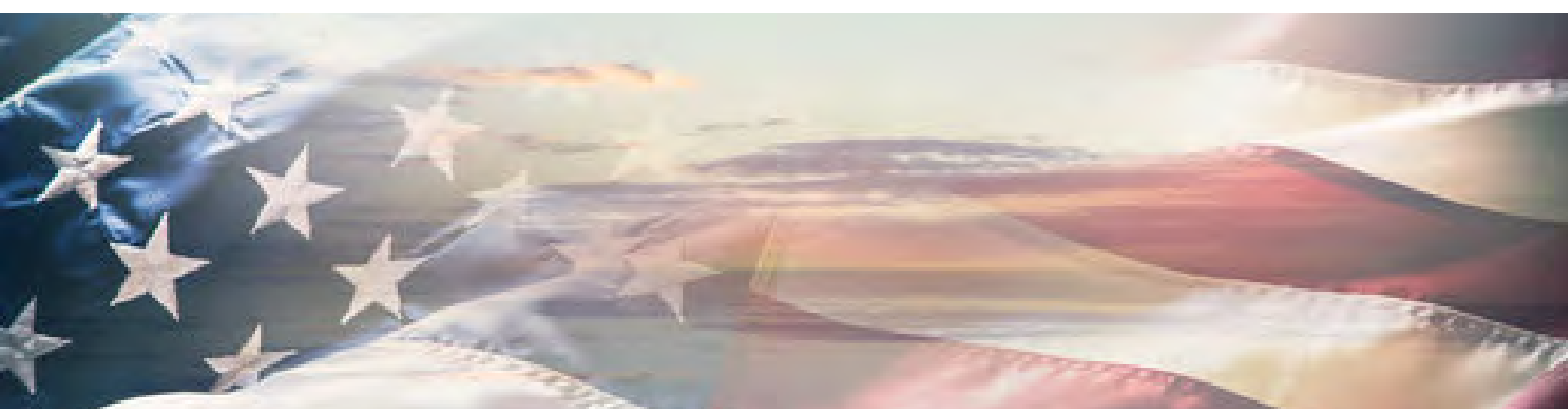
This is the year of the horse and the new **State Packet** is “out of the barn” ! Go to the State Website; Look at all the Contest opportunities. Engage in State and National initiatives as we “gallop” toward the celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. 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

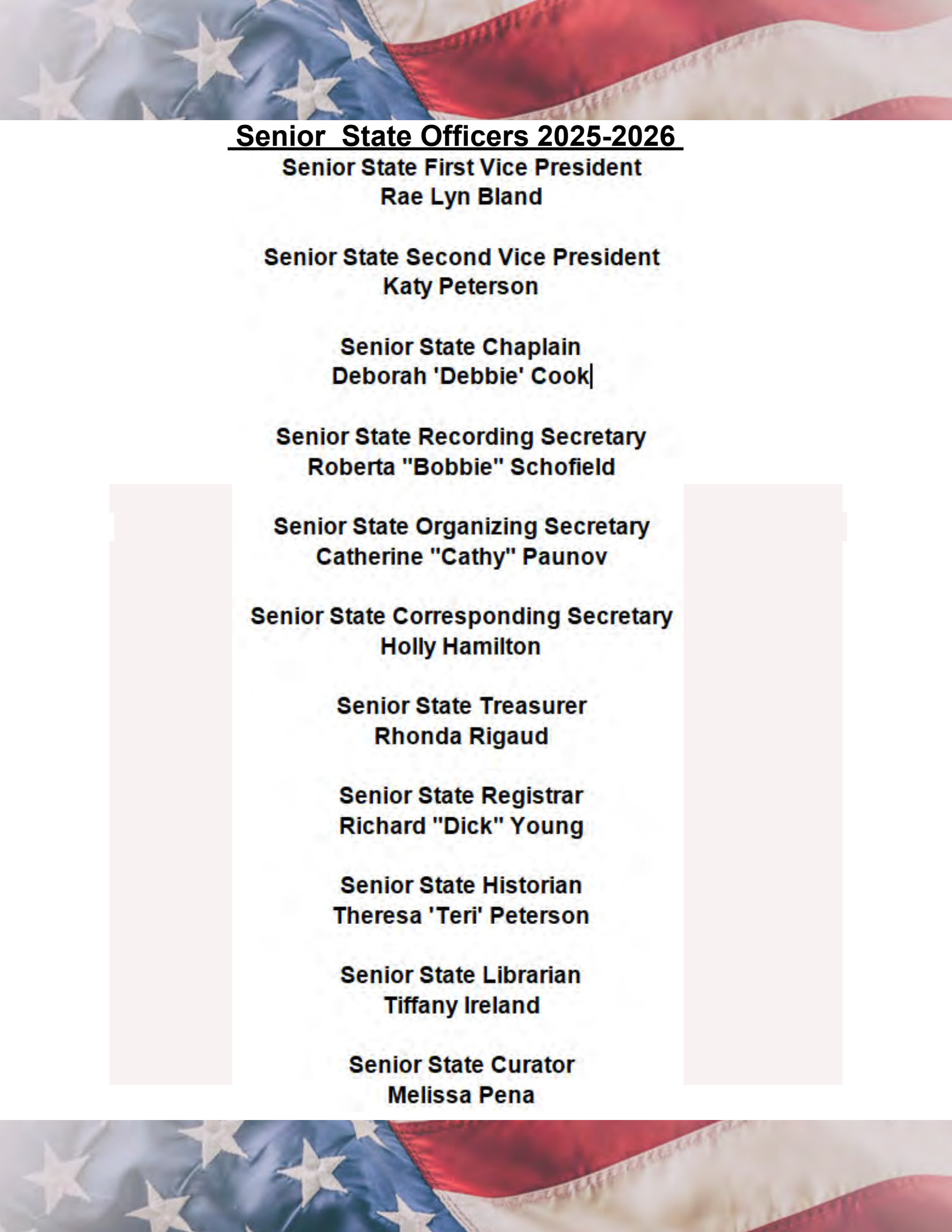
State Registrar: Audrey Golden

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

The Great Debate

Vaughan-Latham Society



Dr. Warren debates Governor Hutchinson Video on the Florida Society Facebook Page

Vaughan-Latham Society hosted a debate between Patriot Dr. Joseph Warren, (Eli Maddox), and Loyalist Governor Thomas Hutchinson, (Landon Alexander). As we celebrate America 250!, it is important to understand not just the Colonists' urgent need for change, but also their fear of a yet untried future government. The American Revolution was a passionate commitment of our ancestors to engage in a right cause, no matter the consequences.



Vaughan-Latham Society

Conservation and Community

Annual Clean Up



October 26, 2025



Treasure Coast Society

We Salute You



The Treasure Coast Society C.A.R. joined with the Pelican Island Chapter DAR and cleaned headstones of veterans at the Brookside Historic Cemetery this afternoon. Shortly after, we re-flagged for Veteran's Day. The Pelican Island Chapter was organized with a concentration on conservation and also as a sponsor of the Treasure Coast Society C.A.R. so we fulfilled both of those today.



Fall Forum



Members of the Treasure Coast Society attended and paged at FSSDAR Fall Forum in Orlando, FL from 9/5-9/7/2025. Members paging included Sydney Rigaud, Kayley Kelly, and Layla Burch. Members Sydney Rigaud and Kayley Kelly are also members of the Pelican Island Chapter DAR.



Swamp Fox Society

CAR/SAR RELATIONS



Fort Lauderdale Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution (FTL SAR). Together, we proudly participated in the Pompano Beach Memorial Day Parade, honoring the men and women who have served our nation. Members also attended an FTL SAR chapter meeting, where Braeden Shurte and Amanda Barnes were recognized with medals for their outstanding volunteer service and contributions toward America 250 initiatives. Before our summer break, we welcomed FTL



SAR members to our final in-person meeting of the season, where we presented the Colors and listened to an inspiring America 250 address by Kevin Shurte, followed by Braeden Shurte's America 250 Minute. It was a wonderful season of collaboration, fellowship, and patriotic reflection as we continue working together to honor our nation's history and those who preserve its legacy.



Check out our Newsletter

Copy to browser:



<file:///C:/Users/James/Dropbox/Swamp%20Fox%20Newsletter/Fall%202025%20Issue.pdf>



Fort Brooke Society

Fort Brooke Society attended the Tampa SAR Chapter meeting to tell the members about the National and State projects. The chapter gave our society a generous donation and President Lulu gave chapter president Roger Roscoe a C.A.R. Cares certificate and pin.

Lisette Young
Senior Society President
Fort Brooke Society

CAR/SAR Relations



CHICHI-OKOBEE SOCIETY

On October 11, 2025, the Chichi-Okobee Society C.A.R. met at the Bay Park in downtown by the Sarasota Bay to commentate our society founding day. We created sailboats because it was the founding day of Chichi-Okobee Society. Chichi-Okobee lived a long time in Sarasota. The sailboats were made out of cardboard. We drew on them with markers. Then, we gave them to Mrs. Ashton Bontrager (Senior Society President) to assemble it with packing tape. We put them in the water. They did not sink. They floated. Chloe's favorite part was sailing the boats and the sand that helped them float. Adam liked that secret of filling the boats with sand, too. Mavrick had a big cardboard boat that he could fit in. He tried to sail but he fell into the bay. We liked watching him. We found cool things from the ocean by the shore which was my favorite part. Mary and Emma liked when we played on the playground after. By Luke (age 6), Society Historian, with help from his mother, Erin Alton, Senior Society Historian

CHICHI-OKOBEE CARDBOARD CANOES



CHICHI-OKOBEE SOCIETY

On November 8, 2025, the Chichi-Okobee Society of C.A.R. gathered together at the Sara de Soto DAR Chapter house in Pioneer Park for a reading campout. After the enjoyment of last year's initial activity, we continued the relaxed outdoor event with a "First Thanksgiving" theme and American history books. First, we set up the tents - one for boys and one for girls. Some kids were wearing pajamas. Then, we ate the food. There was garlic bread, crescent rolls, cranberry sauce, applesauce, cookies, and lemonade. Next, we read books. Adults (from DAR and SAR) were reading them to us. The first book was read by Chloe's grandmother, Deborah Thomas of Sara de Soto DAR. It was about the Pilgrims having the first Thanksgiving with Indians. The readers were in the middle of the circle of chairs by the tents where we were eating. There was a book about the Boston Tea Party. We received a book about George Washington and his troops' dog. Next, we had a s'mores packet. The boys found sticks and branches. We tried to build a fire but there were no rocks there. There were three girls and six boys.

By Luke (age 6), Society Historian, with help from his mother, Erin Alton, Senior Society Historian

CHICHI-OKOBEE READING CAMP-OUT



Phoebe Cunningham Society

The Phoebe Cunningham Society met for its annual meeting on March 2, 2025. At the meeting, we elected and installed a new slate of officers for 2025-2026, who begin their terms on June 1. We did the C.A.R. Ritual, shared facts about our Patriots, and awarded C.A.R. C.A.R.E.S. Certificates and pins to 6 women who are members of our sponsoring DAR Chapters. After our meeting, we had snacks and a program from "Abigail Adams" on our country's first flags, and she gave each member in attendance a kit to create their own unique flag! For our C.A.R. Day of Service Project, we did two activities: we signed "Thank You For Your Service" cards for veterans, and we collected items for military working dogs. Over \$500.00 worth of items were donated to military K9 units!

Annual Meeting



CAPTAIN JOHN BARRY SOCIETY

The Captain John Barry Society of Merritt Island, Florida joined Daughters of the American Revolution Cape Canaveral Chapter, Florida for the Ringing of the Bells on September 17, 2025, to celebrate the signing of the Constitution on September 17, 1787, at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Telephones had not been invented and the only way to let other people know the Constitution was voted on approved and signed was to ring bells outside Independence Hall and citizens a few blocks over would hear the bells and start ringing their bells, people farther away would hear the bells and ring their bells and that's how the people learned that our Constitution was approved.

The first location we went to was 520 and US1 it was raining so hard we were soaked in minutes. It was difficult to see us next to the road and for safety's sake we left quickly. The other location was by the Baptist Church in Cocoa. It has an old fashion Bell on a rocker. The pictures are of (Dad) Bobby Adamson, Sons of the American Revolution, Brevard County Chapter, (Son) Noah Adamson Children of the American Revolution, Captain John Barry Society, Merritt Island and (Mom) Julie Adamson, Daughters of the American Revolution, Cape Canaveral Chapter, in Cape Canaveral, Florida

Written by Linda S. Jensen



CAPTAIN JOHN BARRY SOCIETY

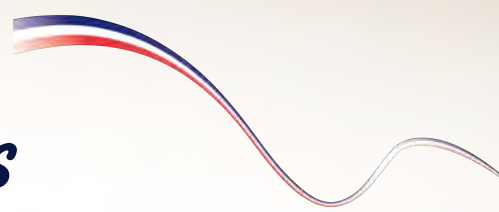
The Captain John Barry Society has been around for quite some time; however, I am new at being a Senior Society President and many of our members are young and never had the pleasure of being at a CAR meeting. Therefore, I am comfortable at saying we are young and exploring the things we can do. On September 22nd, 2025, we had our first meeting at our newly designated hopefully permanent location. It is the Brevard Veterans Museum on Merritt Island. Nice to have a place we can call our home. It was a nice turnout. My Senior Vice President, Julie Adamson and I created Captain John Barry folders with important information to help guide the group in our endeavors, goals, beliefs and all the important things to achieve, both short term and long term. The folders were given out to the members and leaders, our parents got their own copies, too. After all children don't drive, and they can't get to the meetings without the adults. We had several Job Titles filled by the members and leaders. A mascot was chosen; his name is Barry the Bald Eagle. Notice how Barry's name matches Captain John Barry Society? Each member will have a chance to take him home till the next meeting. Something like the school hamster goes home with the child who was chosen to feed and care for him during the week. Our New Chaplain quoted the 23 psalms for our opening prayer and near the end of the meeting the children colored pictures and donated them to be sent with "Thank you Cards" for the Space Coast Honor Flight Veterans. I brought pages to color of the American Flag, Eagle and Map of the United States, however being a grandmother with teenage grandchildren I had no crayons so before the meeting I put out phone calls asking for coloring pencils or crayons. I was pleasantly surprised when a box of crayons was left in my C.A.R. wagon with the letters, C.A.R. on the lid. Before the meeting was adjourned our New Vice President asked if we could do a Beach Clean-up. The President and I are searching for a way that we could manage this, and this we shall see.

Written by Linda S. Jensen





Welcome New Members



<u>Name</u>	<u>Society</u>	<u>Patriot</u>
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Charlotte Ohl	Vaughan-Latham	Solomon Brecount
Emmeline Ohl	Vaughan-Latham	Solomon Brecount
William Ohl	Vaughan-Latham	Solomon Brecount





DATES TO REMEMBER

* Dues Deadline
December 31st, 2025

* State Contests Deadline
January 10, 2026

Register!! * State Conference
February 13-15, 2026

* National Conference
April 17-19, 2026





Florida State Conference

"HORSES FOR HEROS"

COUNTRY



Patriotic



Classy



Guide to "....so what do I wear?"

**For the afternoon outing on Saturday
please wear C.A.R. t- Shirts or nice casual red, white and blue**

*for the Sunday Memorial Service
please wear subtle business attire.*

Giddy up!

February
13th-15th



Was Florida Part of the Revolutionary War?

You might be surprised... yes! Some battles from the American Revolution happened right here in Florida. After the Seven Years' War ended in 1763, Spain gave Florida to Great Britain. During the Revolution, the British controlled Florida's east coast, including St. Augustine and what we now call Jacksonville—or as some call it, “Duuuval.” Most people think the war only happened up north, but a few important battles took place in Florida—the very southernmost battles of the Revolution!

The Battle of Thomas Creek

In 1777, Colonel Samuel Elbert wanted to capture St. Augustine. Colonel John Baker led 109 soldiers from Georgia into Florida, but they ran into a much bigger force of British soldiers, loyalists called Tories, and Creek Indian allies near Thomas Creek (between today's Nassau and Duval Counties). Outnumbered, the Americans had to retreat. Some were captured, and several died. Today, a historic marker on U.S. Highway 1 remembers this battle.

The Skirmish at Alligator Creek

A year later, in 1778, about 300 Americans tried to attack 450 British troops near Callahan, Florida. The British were ready with strong defenses. Colonel Elijah Clarke was hurt, and the Americans had to pull back. The British left the next day. You can still see a marker along U.S. Highway 1 in Callahan telling the story.

The Tories of Cow Ford

Some Floridians stayed loyal to Britain—they were called Tories. In Jacksonville, they had trouble getting supplies, so they tried to escape north to Georgia. Captain William Cone and his militia chased them in 1781. Cone and some men were captured and locked up in St. Augustine, but they later escaped and were rewarded with land in Georgia for their bravery.

Famous Prisoners in Florida

Even famous leaders were held in Florida! Three men who signed the Declaration of Independence—Thomas Heyward Jr., Arthur Middleton, and Edward Rutledge—were captured and held in St. Augustine until 1781.

Reference: <https://flssar.org/Docs/RevWarFla.pdf>

National President's Project Trivia

Question: Who is the man in the painting below who met his unfortunate fate, and where was this battle?



The Death of General Warren at the Battle of Bunker's Hill, June 17, 1775-Painting by John Trumbull

Answer: It portrays the fate of Dr. Joseph Warren's at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

More Interesting Facts: Joseph Warren was a doctor in Massachusetts who became a hero of the American Revolution. He was smart, brave, and even ran a secret spy network! He sent Paul Revere and William Dawes on their famous midnight ride to warn the colonists that the British were coming. Warren fought alongside soldiers in the Battle of Bunker Hill and was sadly killed in action. For a long time, people remembered him as a hero, but today he isn't as famous as some of the other founding fathers. Let's make him famous by sharing his story!

State President's Project Trivia/Famous "Hooves of Freedom"



Interesting facts about a few famous “warhorses” of the American Revolution

Nelson – George Washington’s Brave Battle Horse. Nelson was Washington’s favorite horse in battle because he stayed calm even when cannons were firing! He safely carried Washington through many dangerous fights, making him a true hero on four legs.

Blueskin – Washington’s Stylish Parade Horse. Blueskin was a gray horse who loved showing off in parades! He wasn’t used much in battle, but he made Washington look super impressive in paintings and ceremonies.

Marengo – Lafayette’s Quick Messenger. Lafayette’s horse helped him move fast across the battlefield, carrying messages and leading troops! This stealth horse made it easier for American and French forces to work together.

Nathanael Greene’s Loyal Mount – General Greene had a horse that never got spooked, even when the battlefield was loud and smoky! Brave horses like this helped officers stay in control and make smart battle plans.

Covert Operations – Secret Heroes (Messenger Horses) Not all famous horses had names! Some carried secret messages through forests and enemy lines. These quiet, clever horses helped spread important news that could change the course of the war.

The midnight ride of Paul Revere – The horse he rode was borrowed from a man by the name of John Larkin. The horse had no official name but there is some evidence the hoofed hero was known as Brown Beauty. Without its willingness to gallop to its death, the Battle of Concord might have had a less than victorious outcome.

DID YOU KNOW?



Apple Slice Pin

N.S.C.A.R. offers several pins to honor and reward accomplishments in C.A.R., as well as promotional items to raise money for the national project. These pins and items are available at any time throughout the year, and may be ordered directly from N.S.C.A.R. Headquarters. <https://nscar.org/>



Celebrate C.A.R.! Carnation Pin



Celebrate C.A.R.! Fireworks Sparkle Pin



Celebrate C.A.R.! Gavel w/Fireworks Pin



Celebrate C.A.R.! Wreath Pin



Endowment Benefactor Pin - Lady's



Endowment Benefactor Pin – Men



Endowment Fund Pin - Lady's



Endowment Fund Pin Men's



Endowment Legacy Pin - Lady's



Endowment Legacy Pin - Men's



Library Fund Pin



Magazine Fund Pin



Mountain Schools Pin



Museum Major Benefactor Red Apple Pin and Plaque



Niebell Fund Pin



Operation Fund Majestic Eagle Pin



Operations Fund Eagle Pin



Operations Fund We're Members of the C.A.R. Pin



Voyager Fund Pin

Honor someone with a C.A.R. pin!



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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.

