



Florida Society of the Children of the American Revolution



The Orange Blossom

March 2026, Issue # 3

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

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NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S PROJECT:

This year, C.A.R. members across the nation discovered the courage and sacrifice of "America's Founding Martyr," Joseph Warren. As young patriots, we explored how his bravery and leadership helped shape the fight for American independence. Through this project, members honored his legacy while celebrating the ongoing 250th anniversary of the United States — reminding us that young people have always played an important role in our nation's story. To learn more, visit www.nscar.org
Thank you, 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?

<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 3rd Orange Blossom Newsletter of the 2025-2026 year. I'm honored to have served as 2nd Vice President and Editor. Thank you for sending pictures, short articles, and society updates for inclusion in the Orange Blossom.

Email: orangeblossomfscar@gmail.com

Registration for the 2026 Revolutionary Valor National Convention is open NOW at nscar.org! We cant wait to see you all in DC in April!

Florida Society of the Children of the American Revolution



State President Jaelyn Tillman

Senior State President JoAnn Burns Welker



Florida State Officers, Members, Senior Officers,
families and friends,

What a wonderful year!! Thank you to every one of
you who played a part in our success. Whether you
held an office, rode a stick horse, helped with
activities, or served as chauffeur and luggage
carrier, you made it all happen.

We appreciate you and hope to see you at the
National Conference in April. Be sure to attend the
State Packet Meeting this summer and catch a
Regional Meeting if you can. Plan to have fun at the
winter State Conference and get involved with your
local DAR and SAR Chapters. Let's all celebrate
America 250! together during this next year.

Patriotically and In Friendship,

Jaelyn Tillman, State President 2025-2026

JoAnn Welker, Senior State President, 2024-2026



Senior State President's Message

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

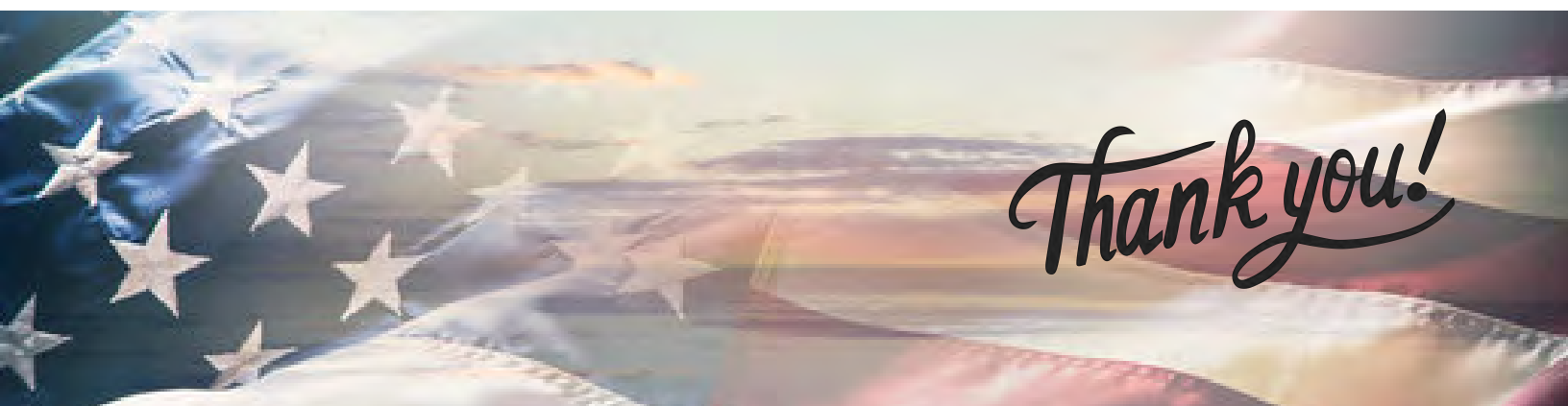
This is the year of the horse and the new **State Packet** is “out of the barn” ! Go to the State Website; Look at all the Contest opportunities. Engage in State and National initiatives as we “gallop” toward the celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.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



Thank you!

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, "HOOVES 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

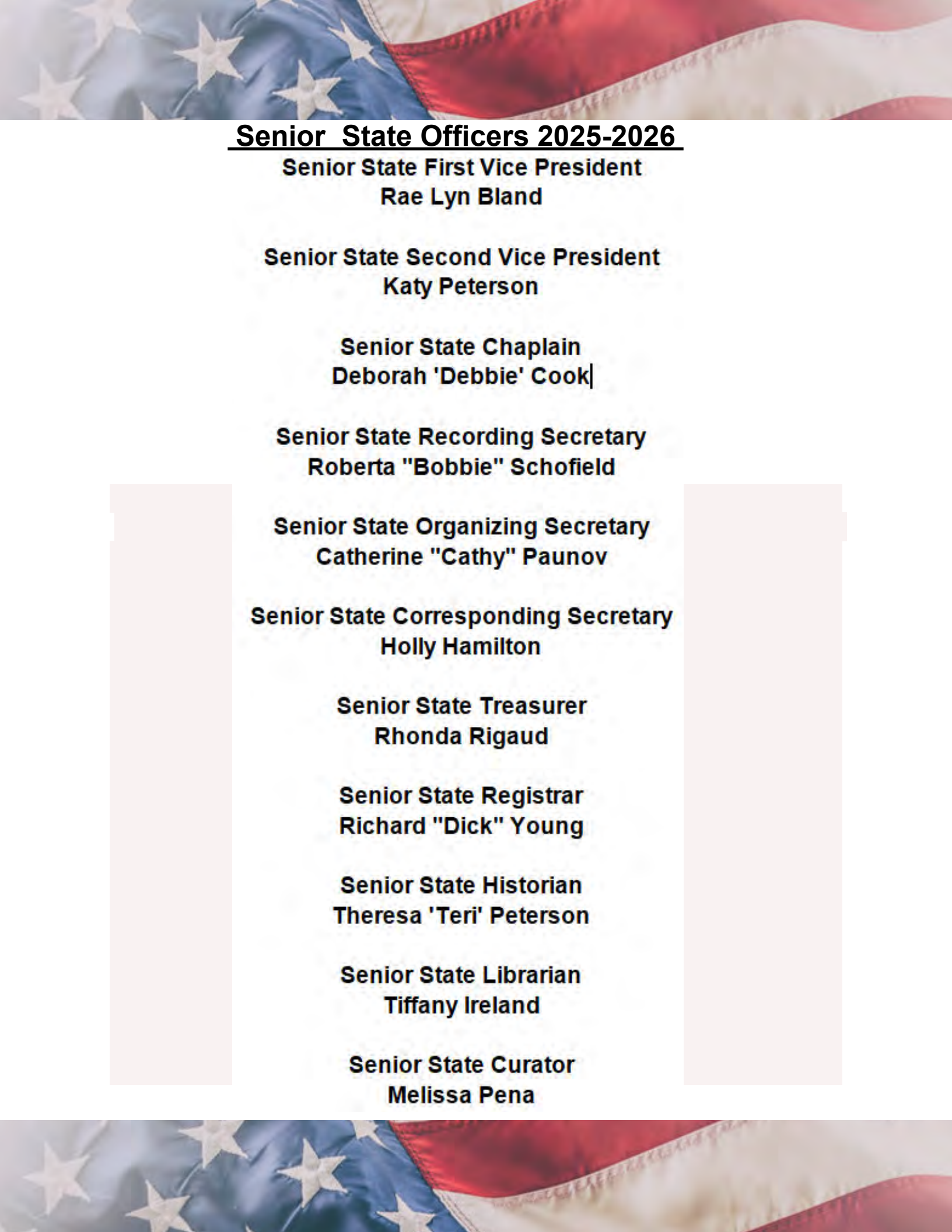
State Registrar: Audrey Golden

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

Vaughan-Latham Society

Saturday, January 24, 2025

Paramount Adaptive Riding Center



Website: <https://paramountarc.org/>

Vaughan-Latham CAR donned boots and met at Paramount Adaptive Riding Center.

After a brief meeting, new member ceremony, and Safety Training, everyone tidied paddocks and mucked out stalls. We were honored to devote our time, talent, and treasure to such a worthwhile organization.

St. Augustine Christmas Parade



December 6, 2025

Treasure Coast Society

Treasure Coast Society members participated in Wreaths Across America on 12/13 in Sebastian, FL with the Pelican Island Chapter DAR and members of the Abigail Wright Chamberlin Chapter DAR. Over 40 graves of veterans were marked and honored during the ceremony. Prior to the ceremony, Society President James Hamilton spoke to a community member that was visiting the cemetery and educated him on the importance of the ceremony and also about the C.A.R.



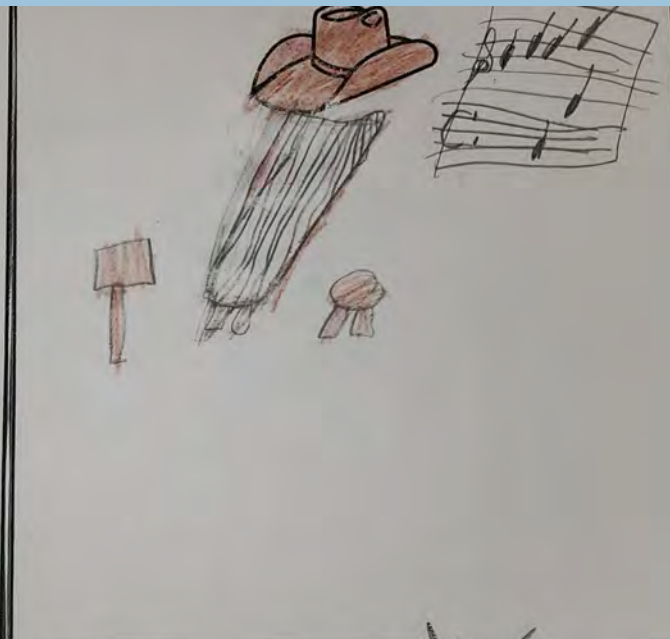
C.A.R./DAR Relations



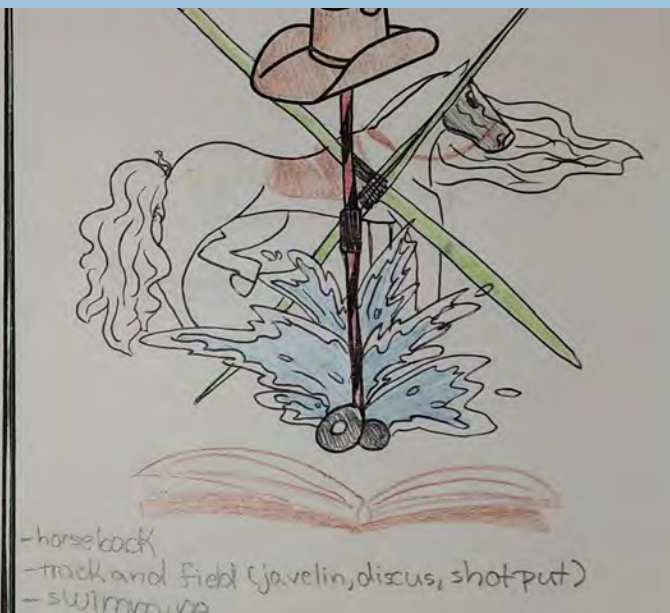


Roselynn Age 9 (Age 0-10)

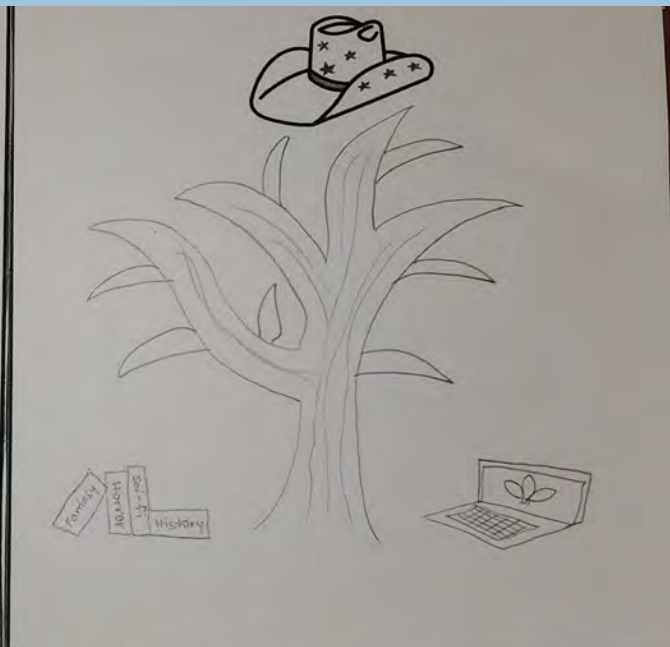
State Conference Winners



Ruby Herman Age 14 (Age 11-22)



Brittany Jenkins (Over 22)



Color Your Horse Doodling Contest

CHICHI-OKOBEE SOCIETY

On December 13, 2025, all local active members of the Chichi-Okobee Society gathered at the Artful Giraffe art studio to paint festive Christmas ornaments or other keepsakes. It was our largest meeting in years with ten members, one prospective member, and new member Leah Phillips being inducted! We were painting at the Artful Giraffe with our friends. I painted a candy cane ornament modeled from clay. Adam chose an ornament ball. Emma chose a Christmas tree. Mary chose a gingerbread character. Ella chose a gnome. Chloe painted a tree with lights that can function. You got to choose your own colors and brushes. You paint the coats three times. There is a magic pencil that will write and not disappear after the item is glazed in the kiln. You have to wait about a week to pick up the ornaments. We got to wear aprons and sign the plastic giraffe at the end. You could also write letters to Santa or draw with chalk. We heard Christmas music in the studio. We ate Christmas cookies and treats from Mrs. Sunny. We had one new member.

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

ARTFUL GIRAFFE



CHICHI-OKOBEE SOCIETY

On December 13, 2025, members of the Chichi-Okobee Society of C.A.R. joined several thousands of others across the country to participate in Wreaths Across America. Families honored those buried at Sarasota National Cemetery by each placing wreaths on graves. In keeping with tradition and as a sign of respect, we said the name of the individual and thanked them for their service. We also said a brief prayer for their soul as a sign of our faith. Member families used their vehicle to transport wreaths in their trunk to volunteers and assist in placement. Children helped to unload, carry, and place dozens of wreaths among the 32,000 interred in Sarasota. With these hands-on activities, members were able to work together to carry wreaths from their trunk to the burial sites. It was heartwarming to see the little peewee patriots who were not much bigger than the wreaths lift them as a team. While we were honoring our deceased military veterans and their spouses, we noticed the various branches of service - U.S. Marine Corp, U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, and U.S. Coast Guard. While our participating members are quite young, we took a moment to talk about how each branch serves our county. The foundation of our society is lineal descent from an American patriot, our nation's first veterans. This event was not just done by one community but rather several thousand Americans across the nation at the same time. This unites us together with our common love of country and the children realizing that the world is so much larger than our own community or time period. By saying the names of the individuals, it made this a personal gesture of appreciation with a human connection. Members can now think of their own ancestors who were willing to make similar sacrifices to fight for the freedoms that we have today. With a wonderful turnout and excellent coordination, our location was finished in about an hour after the ceremony!



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



Ponce de Leon Society

The Ponce de Leon Society participated in National Wreaths Across America Day on December 13, 2025 at the Tallahassee National Cemetery. The Society donated a wreath and participated in the wreath laying ceremony with members of the Tallahassee Chapter SAR, Abiaka and Fort Louis chapters DAR. It was a beautiful day with hundreds of attendees from the community.



Ponce de Leon Society

As the kickoff event for Tallahassee's "A Weekend with Lafayette" activities, the Abiaka Chapter NSDAR rededicated the Lafayette Township Marker in Lafayette Park on February 21, 2025. Chapter Regent and Florida State Society vice-chair for Lafayette's 200th Anniversary Farewell Tour, Dr. Yolanda Bogan, welcomed guests before the Army ROTC FAMU Rattler Battalion posted colors. Arran Corbett of the Ponce de Leon Society C.A.R. led the pledge of allegiance, and the Lafayette Park Neighborhood Association provided greetings. Mayor John Dailey explained the significance of the city's bicentennial with that of Lafayette's Farewell Tour bicentennial. Laura Lee Fisher Corbett gave a history of the marker and its restoration. Children from the Lafayette Park Community Center received badges and coloring pages before the marker unveiling and text reading. Robert McAuliffe and Lenna Gayhart of the C.A.R. and Leon High School French National Honor Society read bilingual quotes from Lafayette. The Abiaka Chapter secured funds from the Michael W. & Dr. Linda M. Fisher Advised Fund at the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida refurbishing the marker commemorating the congressional land grant gift in Territorial Florida to the Marquis de Lafayette for his service during the American Revolution.



F.S.C.A.R. 95th State Conference

February 13-15, 2026





More from State Conference



Happy Trails Jaelyn



Billy Bowlegs Society

Cracking the Code: Learning Morse Code with the Billy Bowlegs Society

The Billy Bowlegs Society FSCAR recently enjoyed an engaging and educational meeting centered on Morse code, an important method of communication used throughout American history. Members had the opportunity to learn how this simple, yet powerful system of dots and dashes played a vital role in military communication, especially during times of war.

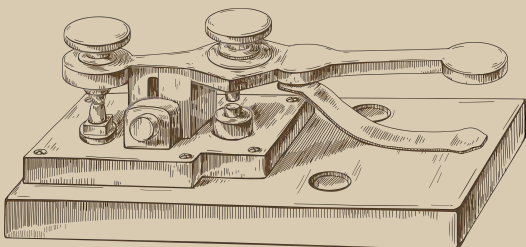
Our program was presented by Dick Metzger, a Vietnam veteran who served on the U.S.S. Ranger aircraft carrier at the young age of 19. He shared both historical context and practical demonstrations that brought Morse code to life for our members. Dick explained how Morse code was used to transmit messages over long distances and why it was such a critical tool for military logistics. Members learned how letters and numbers are formed and even had the chance to tap out their names using Morse code with a historic telegraph key.

The hands-on nature of the presentation made the experience both fun and memorable. Society members were excited to practice sending and receiving messages, gaining a new appreciation for the patience, skill, and ingenuity required by early communicators. Dick reported he could send a message at 76 words per minute without error during his service.

The Billy Bowlegs Society would like to extend a sincere thank-you to Dick Metzger for sharing his knowledge and time with us. This meeting not only strengthened our understanding of American history but also reminded us how innovation and communication have always played key roles in our nation's story.

We hope this information about our exciting exploration of Morse code inspires other C.A.R. members to seek out new learning opportunities as well. Discovering how people communicated long ago — whether through Morse code, signal flags, or other historic methods — brings history to life and helps us understand the challenges our patriots faced. Try something new, ask questions, and always be curious about the many ways people have connected with each other throughout time

Levi Golden

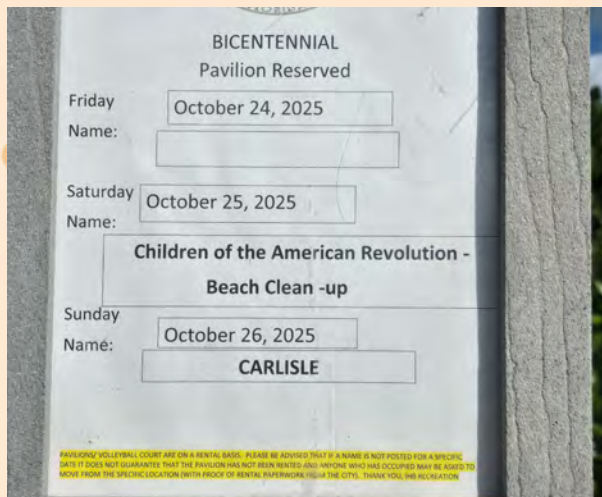


The Morse Code	
A	● —
B	— ● ● ●
C	— ● — ●
D	— ● ●
E	●
F	● ● — ●
G	— — ●
H	● ● ● ●
T	—
U	● ● —
V	● ● ● —
W	● — —
X	— ● ● —
Y	— ● — —
Z	— — ● ●

Captain John Barry Society

The Captain John Barry Society planned a Beach Clean-up for October 26, 2025 with the assistance of the Brevard County's, "Keep Brevard Beautiful Program". The area we were assigned was very fitting to us; it's called the Bicentennial Park in Indialantic.

We were assigned the largest Pavilion to use for the day and although we worked hard cleaning the beaches both North and South of the Park, we made it into a fun workday. Brevard County provided us with buckets, gloves and grabbers to pick up the icky stuff like half a fish, we never found the other half. The children appreciated the gloves and grabbers very much. One grabber was named Sir Grabs-a-Lot. Our Senior Society President Linda Jensen brought her metal detectors, and everyone got a lesson on how to use their individual ones and the rules of courtesy of using them. For example, if you dig a hole to pull out the treasure chest you just found, please fill the hole back in so a jogger doesn't find the same hole you just dug. Please keep the volume down so others will not get jealous of your fortunes while they are resting on the beach, no sword fights with other metal detectors, and please return your equipment as you leave the beach and before you go home. Brian Jensen volunteered to be the Chief Cook and cleanup person after the fun was over, we had hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans, potato salad, and many, many cupcakes.



Nationwide Art Project Celebrating America

<https://www.visitwilliamsburg.com/williamsburg-250/american-birthday-quilt/>



*To be unveiled in
Williamsburg, VA*



*The Great American
Birthday Quilt*



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!



Senior State President JoAnn Welker

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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.

