



April 2026

Officers

President: Dwight McEntire  
1st Vice President: Art Hays  
2nd Vice President: Kurt Spehr  
Treasurer: Dean "Chip" Chatlain  
Secretary: Warren Wilson  
Sergeant-at-Arms: Russell  
Pebworth  
Genealogist: Walter Arnold  
Registrar: Walter Arnold  
Chaplain: Dr. Bob Cundiff  
Governors-at-Large: Bob Yarnell  
and James Grayshaw  
Color Guard Commander: Robbie  
Robinson  
Newsletter Editor: James  
Grayshaw  
contact at [Grayshawsr@aol.com](mailto:Grayshawsr@aol.com)

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Our Inspiration is from the Past,  
Our Duty is in the Present,  
Our Hope is in the Future.



## ***SAR Mission Statement***

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

## ***From the President***



### **Compatriots,**

**Please support your chapter by attending the Liberty Tree Dedication at 10 AM on April 17, 2026 at the Veterans Memorial Plaza at Crest Lake Park in Clearwater. The Veterans Memorial Plaza is at the corner of Gulf-to-Bay (SR 60) and S. Lake Drive.**

At **March**'s chapter meeting we inducted new member Jerry E. Duncan. He spoke briefly about his German ancestry and was welcomed into the chapter. We will also induct a new member in April.

**April** will be a busy month.

- Our BOG will meet on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Our chapter meeting will be on the 15<sup>th</sup> where we will hear stories of some of the lesser known signers of the Declaration of Independence.
- On April 17<sup>th</sup> we will have the Liberty Tree Dedication. Clearwater City Manager Jennifer Poirrier, Clearwater Council, Members and Senior Members of the Sons of the American Revolution will also attend. Please plan to arrive at 9:40.
- On April 25<sup>th</sup> our annual chapter picnic starts at 11 at John Chestnut Park, Shelter 10.
- Patriot's Day is April 20, 2026, which marks the 251<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the battles of Lexington, Concord and Menotomy. "Battle Green [in Lexington] was an accident. Concord Bridge, a skirmish. But in the most brutal and deadly warfare of April 19, 1775, nearly 6,000 combatants fought hand-to-hand and house-to-house, the length and breadth of Menotomy. At the Foot of the Rocks, the British 'regulars' encountered their worst nightmare: a nascent Continental Army." – states historian A. Michael Ruderman. 5,100 men from

eastern Middlesex County and southern Essex County gathered in Menotomy to meet the retreating British troops on their way to Boston from Concord. 25 rebels and 40 British troops were killed in this battle. It was here in Menotomy that the first British soldiers were captured. The three battles at Lexington, Concord and Menotomy are celebrated in seven states as Patriots' Day. It is a public holiday in Massachusetts and Maine.

- As we close in on July 4<sup>th</sup>, there will be more and more celebrations of our 250<sup>th</sup> year.

- I have been asking you to assist in the issuance of Flag Certificates. So far, I have issued two and Parks Honeywell has issued one. But, our Patriot George “Terry” Delano has issued five. In addition to the Flag Certificates, Terry has passed out our Clearwater Chapter Brochure and even found a potential member for the DAR. Great Job Terry!! If you see someone in your neighborhood flying the Flag, introduce yourself and tell them about our Flag Certificate Program and ask if they would like one. Don’t fail to ask them if they would like a free genealogy to determine if they are eligible to join the SAR.

In our 250<sup>th</sup> year there are more celebrations and more opportunities to talk to people about SAR membership.

Yours in Patriotism,

Dwight

## Minutes of the March Meeting

<b>Date and Time:</b>	3/18/2026 11:30 AM
<b>Location:</b>	Regency Oaks Conference Center
<b>Facilitator:</b>	Dwight McEntire
<b>Minutes Prepared By:</b>	Warren Wilson
<b>Attendees:</b>	32 attendees
<b>Absent:</b>	

Points Discussed		
Number	Topic	Highlights
1	Call to Order	Meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon by President McEntire. The opening invocation was presented by the chapter Chaplain, Dr. Robert Cundiff, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, the SAR pledge and singing of God Bless America.
2	Awards	March birthdays were announced by President McEntire who then awarded a Flag Certificate to George and Paula Delano and a Bronze 250 certificate and medal to George Delano. Jerry Duncan was inducted into the chapter as a new member. President McEntire made

		mention of a letter to the FLSSAR from Florida Governor, Ron DeSantis, who acknowledged the dedication of the First Assault Landing monument in Pompano Beach on March 14, 2026.
3	Recess	The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:15 PM. While lunch was being served, Compatriot Tim Shaner showed two of the Youth Video Contest entries submitted by St. Cecelia Parochial School.
4	Reconvened	The meeting was reconvened at 1:05 PM. President McEntire noted the honored guests and DAR members in attendance. A 250 moment was presented in the videos on the Battle of Paoli in Pennsylvania. Robbie Robinson spoke briefly on the successful efforts to fund the First Assault Landing monument and thanked the members of Clearwater for their significant support in that endeavor.
5	Program	Mrs. Debbie Smyth of the Caladesi

		Chapter of DAR gave a presentation on the significant contributions of several women during the War for Independence and how their efforts contributed to the eventual success of the American patriots in defeating the British.
6	Announcements	A reminder that our chapter will be dedicating a Liberty Tree plaque on April 17, 2026 at Crest Lake Park in Clearwater was mentioned and members were encouraged to attend. The annual chapter picnic will be held the following Saturday, April 25 <sup>th</sup> at John Chestnut Park in East Lake. Members were encouraged to attend that event as well.
7	50/50 and basket	Drawings were held for the 50/50 split of donations to the chapter and gift basket provided by our women's support group.
8	Benediction	The closing Benediction was given by Dr. Robert Cundiff and the closing SAR pledge was recited by chapter members.

9	Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 by President McEntire.
10		

Next Meeting			
Date	Location	Time	Objectives
4/15/2026	Regency Oaks Conference Center	11:30 AM	

## Photographs from March's Meeting



The opening invocation was presented by the chapter Chaplain, Dr. Robert Cundiff.



Jerry Duncan was inducted into the chapter as a new member.

## Warren Wilson Secretary





President McEntire awarded a Flag Certificate to George and Paula Delano.



Robbie Robinson spoke briefly on the successful efforts to fund the First Assault Landing Monument and thanked the members of Clearwater for their significant support in that endeavor.



President McEntire awarded Bronze 250 certificate and medal to George Delano.



Mrs. Debbie Smyth of the Caladesi Chapter of DAR gave a presentation on the significant contributions of several women during the War for Independence.

## Attendees



Mrs. Debbie Smyth



Randy Reeves



President McEntire presented Mrs. Smyth with a Certificate of Appreciation.



Debbie Smyth



**Bob Yarnell**



**Robbie Robinson**



**Jerry Duncan**



**Warren Wilson**



**Candace Hays**



**Eugene Girardi**



**Chip and Jody Chatlain**



**Terry and Paula Delano**



**Russell Pebworth**



**Dwight McEntire**



**Tim Shaner**



**Marilyn (Micky) Halstead and Parks Honeywell**



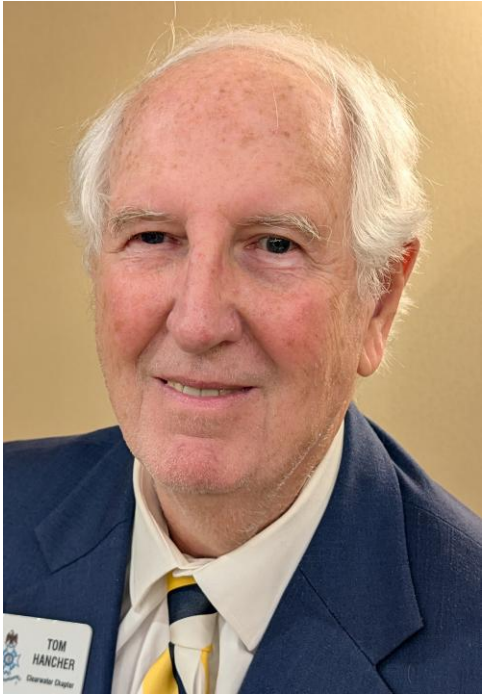
**Sharla and Terry Taylor**



**Dan Griffith**



**Connie Rogers and Jim Grayshaw**



**Tom Hancher**



**Pat Golding**



**Walter Arnold**



**Bob Cundiff**



**Kurt Spehr**



David Wright



R to L Jacob Heiden with his mother and grandfather

## Links & Resources:

Our Chapter website:

<http://clearwatersar.com/>

Our Chapter Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/SARClearwater/>

SAR National website :

<https://www.sar.org/>

SAR Florida website:

<http://www.flssar.org/FLSSAR/Tab.asp>

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## *Schedule of SAR Meetings 2026*

*April 15*

*May 20*



Russell Ames

*September 16*

*October 21*

*November 18*

*December 16*

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**Art Hays**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**



Speakers for coming months are:

**April 15-** Dwight McEntire, “Forgotten Signers of the Revolution.”

**May 20** – Prof. Robert Yarnell, “Whatever Happened to the Firebrands of the Revolution?”

**Sept. 16** – TBA

**Oct. 21** – Public Service Award Recognition

**Nov. 18** – Veterans Appreciation

**Dec. 16** – Officer Installation

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**SUPPORT OUR FOOD PANTRY**

**PROJECT:** Please support our food pantry project by bringing cans or boxes of non-perishable food items to the next meeting. We provide these food items to a local food pantry and all donations are greatly appreciated. The items can be placed in a green bag located near the registration table.

**Kurt Spehr**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**





Terry Delano had the pleasure of awarding a Flag Certificate to neighbors Jeff and Kim Boggs.



Terry Delano presented two more Flag Certificates. One went to "The Hasty Family" and they asked for no picture. The second one went to "The Brunelle Family" and that picture is above.



Terry Delano had the pleasure of presenting a Flag Certificate to Bryan and Heylen Griffith.

## Dean Chatlain Treasurer



## Walter Arnold Registrar/Genealogist



## Robbie Robinson Color Guard Commander



The Clearwater Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution was proud to support the First Amphibious Assault Memorial project that erected a lasting monument to honor our nation's Continental Marines and Sailors who participated in the very first amphibious assault on foreign soil when they landed on New Providence Island, Bahamas on 3 March 1776. The memorial had its ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Fisher Family Pier in Pompano Beach on 14 March 2026, marking the 250th anniversary of this historic military operation. Clearwater SAR Chapter Color Guard Commander Robbie Robinson and Tampa Color Guard Commander Will Wagner-Hart participated in the flag-raising ceremony to open up the ceremony that day.

SAR Color Guardsmen from across the state of Florida participated in the opening events, and the NSSAR President General, Michael Elston, attended and was one of the VIPS who gave speeches to commemorate the memorial, which is comprised of a 20-foot-tall obelisk, two flag poles, and five bronze plaques. One of the bronze plaques contains the name of the Clearwater Chapter as being a Silver-level donor to the project.



Robbie Robinson at the ceremony for the First Amphibious Assault Memorial. Clearwater SAR Chapter Color Guard Commander Robbie Robinson participated in the flag-raising ceremony to open up the ceremony that day.

## Activities with our DAR partners

On April 25th our annual chapter picnic will start at 11 AM at John Chestnut Park,

Shelter 10. We will be joined by members of the Caladesi Chapter of the DAR. This event is great fun for the entire family.

## Books about the American Revolution -

### **A Journey North: Jefferson, Madison, and the Forging of a Friendship by Louis P. Masur**

- **Publisher** : Oxford University Press
- **Publication date** : July 1, 2025
- **Print length** : 184 pages

Between May 21 and June 16, 1791, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison went on a trip together through Upstate New York and parts of New England on horseback. This "northern journey" came at a moment of tension for the new nation, one in whose founding these Virginians and political allies had played key roles. The Constitution was ratified and President

Washington was in his first term of office. Whether the country could overcome regional and political differences and remain unified, however, was still very much in question. Hence why some observers at the time wondered whether this excursion into Federalist New England by the two most prominent southern Democratic-Republicans, both future presidents, had an ulterior motive.

Madison, maintained that the journey was for "health, recreation, and curiosity." He and Jefferson needed a break from their public responsibilities, so off they set. Along the way, they took notes on the ravages of the Hessian Fly, an insect that had been devastating wheat crops. While in Vermont, they focused on the sugar maple tree, which many hoped might offer a domestic alternative to slave-grown sugar cane imports. An encounter with a free Black farmer at Fort George resulted in a journal entry that illuminates their attitudes toward slavery and race. A meeting with members of the Unkechaug tribe on Long Island led to a vocabulary project that preoccupied Jefferson for decades, and which remains relevant today.

The Northern Journey was also about friendship. Madison later recalled that the trip made Jefferson

and him "immediate companions," solidifying a bond with almost no peer in the annals of American history, one that thrived for fifty years. Jefferson declared at the end of his life, that his friendship with Madison had been "a source of constant happiness" to him. This book reveals the moment when it took hold.

## Penman of the Founding: A Biography of John Dickinson by Jane E. Calvert

- **Publisher** : Oxford University Press
- **Publication date** : October 11, 2024
- **Print length** : 608 pages

John Dickinson of Pennsylvania and Delaware was an early leader of the resistance to British rule in the American colonies. In fact, to many, he was the most prominent figure in the struggle for independence, though his Quaker-influenced opposition to violence kept him from signing one of its most famous documents in July 1776. Still, Dickinson, one of the wealthiest men in the colonies, did more to promote the cause behind it than almost anyone else, not only as the lead draftsman in all the national Congresses, but in his popular writing. His hugely influential *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania* educated colonists about their rights and instructed them in how to defend those rights in non-violent ways. In essence

he taught the colonists to think of themselves as Americans, united in a common cause. Despite his refusal to sign the Declaration of Independence, he continued to serve the nation in a number of capacities--in Congress, as governor of Delaware and Pennsylvania, as president of the Annapolis Convention, as delegate to the Federal Convention, and as president of the Delaware constitutional convention. Because of his close association with Quakerism, he also took stances unlike any other major figure of his day, making him among the first to advocate civil disobedience as a form of protest, freeing his slaves and embracing abolitionism, advocating rights for women, Indians, prisoners, and the poor. He nonetheless volunteered for active service in the Delaware militia during the War of Independence.

Despite the key part he played in the country's founding, few Americans today have heard of John Dickinson. Early chroniclers and historians, seeking to create a patriotic narrative and taking their cues from his political enemies, cast him as a coward and Loyalist for not signing the Declaration. Many later historians have simply accepted and echoed this distorted and dismissive view. Jane Calvert's fascinating, authoritative, and accessible biography, the first complete account of Dickinson's life and work, restores him to a place of prominence in the nation's formative years.

## **Fighting for Philadelphia: Forts Mercer and Mifflin, the Battle of Red Bank, and the Road to Valley Forge, October 5-December 19, 1777** by Michael C. Harris

- **Publisher** : Savas Beatie
- **Publication date** : August 7, 2025
- **Print length** : 480 pages

The weeks of bloody maneuvering and fighting along the Delaware River at Fort Mercer, Fort Mifflin, and Gloucester receive but scant attention in the literature of the American Revolution. The same is true for the five-day Red Bank operation and other important events in December 1777. Award-winning author Michael C. Harris's impressive *Fighting for Philadelphia: Forts Mercer and Mifflin, the Battle of Red Bank, and the Road to Valley Forge, October 5–December 19, 1777* rescues these important actions from obscurity, puts them in context with the Saratoga Campaign, and closes his magnificent trilogy that began with the battle of Brandywine and left off with the slugfest at Germantown.

This period of the war started when General Sir William Howe's army of 16,500 British and Hessian soldiers set out aboard a 265-ship armada from New York to capture Philadelphia in late July 1777. Six difficult

weeks later, Howe landed near Elkton, Maryland, moved north into Pennsylvania, and defeated Washington's army at Brandywine on September 11. Philadelphia fell to the British.

Obscured by darkness and a heavy morning fog, Washington launched a successful surprise attack against the British garrison at Germantown on October 4. The recapture of the colonial capital seemed within Washington's grasp until poor battlefield decisions brought about a reversal of fortune and a clear British victory. Like Brandywine, the bloody Germantown scrap proved Continental soldiers could stand toe-to-toe with British Regulars.

A protracted and complex quasi-siege of the British garrison followed. This fascinating and little-studied chess game had Washington trying to close the Delaware River and harass enemy foraging parties to starve out Howe's command, while the British tried to capture or neutralize the key American bastions of Forts Mercer and Mifflin and keep the river open.

Harris's *Fighting for Philadelphia* is the first complete study to merge the strategic, political, and tactical history of the complex operations sandwiched between Germantown and the arrival of the Continental Army at Valley Forge. His sweeping prose relies almost exclusively on original archival research and a deep personal knowledge of the terrain, highlighted by 21 original maps, illustrations, and modern photos.

Told largely through the words of those who fought there, *Fighting for Philadelphia* is sure to please the most discriminating reader and assume its place as one of the finest military studies of its kind.



## 250 Years Ago

1776

6 April: Congress, disregarding the British Navigation Acts and Prohibitory Act of December 1775, opened ports of the United Colonies to trade of all nations, except trade with British dominions and in British goods, except for the import of slaves.

12 April: Provincial Congress of North Carolina instructed its delegates in Continental Congress to vote for independence- first of the new governments of the United Colonies to do so.

13 April: General Washington arrived in New York, to which the bulk of the Continental forces that had besieged Boston had already moved.

# Birthdays

## April

<b>3</b>	Grayshaw	James	Raymond
<b>4</b>	Honeywell	James	Parks
<b>5</b>	Branscum	Cleveland	Earl
<b>10</b>	Fuller	Harry	Wade
<b>11</b>	Ziegler	Harold	Julian
<b>15</b>	Green	Donald	Edward
<b>17</b>	Anderson	Robert	John
<b>30</b>	George	David	Robert

# **OUR NEXT MEETING**

**When: Wednesday April 15, 2026**

**Where: at The Regency Oaks, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room, 2751 Regency Oaks Blvd., Clearwater, Florida 33759.**

**Time: 11:30 A.M. for in person dining only.**

**Menu: TBA; Accompaniments: Rolls/ Iced Tea/coffee- Regular and Decaf**

**Note: If you have any dietary restrictions (such as gluten free, vegan, vegetarian, etc.), or questions, be sure to mention them when you make your reservation**

**Cost: \$25**

**Program: Dwight McEntire,  
"Forgotten Signers of the  
Revolution."**

**For reservations contact Dean  
(Chip) Chatlain at 727-777-  
3860 or chatlain@verizon.net**

**Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court, and a nation of free men.**

**The Sons of the American Revolution is a historical, educational and patriotic non-profit, United States 501 (c) 3 corporation that seeks to maintain and extend (1) the institution of American freedom, (2) an appreciation for true patriotism, (3) a respect for our national symbols, (4) the value of American citizenship, and (5) the unifying force of e pluribus unum that has created, from the people of many nations, one nation, and one people. We do this by perpetuating the stories of patriotism, courage, sacrifice, tragedy, and triumph of the men who achieved the independence of the American people in the belief that these stories are universal ones of man's eternal struggle against tyranny, relevant to all time, and will inspire and strengthen each succeeding generation as it too is called upon to defend our freedom on the battlefield and in our public institutions.**