



The Whig



The monthly newsletter and source of information for the
St. Lucie River Chapter,
Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution

June-August 2016

President's Salvo



Gentlemen,

I hope that all enjoyed doing their summer things, like visiting families, fishing, camping, etc. all over the United States. Your 1st Vice President and I are working on the schedule of events and meeting agendas for the next year, beginning with the Constitution Day Activities. We have a request for our attendance in Ft. Pierce once again including the Ringing of the Bells Ceremony on the river that evening we believe. In October, we will swear in the new members, as we are starting to grow again. This is one of my goals for the year, along with additional participation in events throughout our area. I hope to have a session at the October meeting to discuss the various committees and to recruit leaders, with suggestions welcome. We will have a memorial for our long term Compatriot and Director Emeritus Jay Wise, who passed on the 4th of July, at our November Meeting as it is when we always celebrate

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Memorial Day Activities



Compatriot Jack Irvin with TCHS JROTC Cadets.

The St. Lucie River Chapter, SAR participated in Memorial Day Activities in Stuart, Okeechobee, and Port St. Lucie this 2016 Memorial Day. Once again Compatriot Hall Riediger donned Colonial attire and carried our colors in the parade in Stuart, as well as presenting a wreath at the Memorial Park. Also present were Compatriots Robert Vandevender and Tom Gilmore doing double duty with other organizations and William Hammond taking pictures.

Compatriot Jim Pippin spent the day at the Veteran's Park in Okeechobee representing the local veterans group that he belongs to as well as our Chapter. This is the first time we had representation in Okeechobee County Memorial Day activities, which will always be part of our Veterans Recognition ceremonies in the future.

In Port St. Lucie, Compatriot Jack Irvin was in charge of the Treasure Coast High School JROTC group that provided the Color Guard for the Memorial Day Ceremony. We were thankful for Cadet Alyssa Roberson for carrying our Chapter Colors. Compatriots Chuck McKinley and Joe Regan were in attendance, Chuck in colonial attire and Joe in his SAR Blazer.

Compatriots Hall Riediger and Robert Vandevender



In Memoriam—Jay F. Wise



Compatriot Jay F Wise passed away on the morning of Independence Day, July 4, 2016. Jay was born December 6, 1927 on a farm near Paton, Iowa. He enlisted in Navy in High School and was in boot camp at the end of World War II. He took advantage of the G.I. Bill and graduated with a degree in Forestry from Iowa State College. Jay met and married his wife Lindy in December, 1949. Lindy and Jay had 3 children; a daughter Susan, who lives in Florida, and two sons who live in Wisconsin. After college, Jay worked for the Forest Service and Mining Company in Minnesota. Later, Jay was offered a job in the Bahamas, and in

August, 1956, he packed up his family and moved from Ely, MN to West Palm Beach, FL. They spent the next 15 years between Grand Bahama, Abaco, and Andros Islands. From there Jay was



transferred to Orange, TX, then to Tomahawk, WI, then to Toledo, OH, and finally moved back to Florida in 1995. Upon his return to Florida, Jay became interested in the Sons of the American Revolution and joined the Saint Lucie River Chapter, SAR at that time. We thank Lindy for her putting together their family History and for her support with Jay at all chapter activities over the years.



Jay Wise served as St. Lucie River Chapter President for two terms, from 2002 to 2004 and from 2007 to 2009. He also served as the Chapter Historian, Director at Large, and chairman of several committees. Jay was extremely interested in Veteran activities, History Fairs for Youths, JROTC programs in our three county area, and some state committees like the Liberty Tree. His favorite was Habitat for Humanity and having young children in the ceremonies. He would visit any school, or walk or ride in any parade for us to support the children once again in our historical program. He was a strong believer in the flag and what it stood for, and

loved to educate others about it. He was instrumental in developing the Liberty Tree program, which resulted in three Liberty Trees for our chapter area. Jay became the state co-chair for this committee. Over the past couple months, Jay started to slow down but stimulated most of compatriots who were veterans to get prepared to support a Veterans Hospital in our area that is under construction. Coincidentally, Jay was working on the ceremony for honoring our compatriots when he passed.

Our chapter received a request to have a SAR style ceremony for his passing. We utilized a suggested ceremony which I believe is of his origin. Distinguished Guests at the ceremony include Mayor Linda Hudson of Fort Pierce, Regent Karon Drew of the



Cora Stickney Chapter of the SAR, and Cindy Brantley, President of the Treasure Coast Genealogy.

Jay introduced the chapter to these two ladies and they always participated in our Recruiting Activities in Fort Pierce. Compatriots participating in Jay's Memorial included Hall Riediger, Carl Wade, Jack Irvin, Robert and Connor Bonvie, Chris Wade, Joe Regan, Robert Eisenhardt, and Chuck McKinley. Many took part as an Honor Guard in standing from the opening of the viewing until the ceremony was concluded, with American Legion Post 355 doing the Veterans Service folding the Flag and giving to Carl in his Navy Uniform, thanking the Wise Family for Jay's service in WWII. Taps were played by Carl, and most all departed to the White City Cemetery for internment with son Jim Wise leading the Pledge of Allegiance at the grave site. Compatriots Chris Wade and Jack Irvin stayed until Compatriot Jay's body was lowered to the ground in accordance with protocol at National Cemeteries. The ceremony will be incorporated into Chapter's handbook and forward to our State Committee's consideration.



President's Salvo

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our Veterans. Jay was a Patriot, a good friend, a tireless worker for our chapter, and really cared for our Country's flag.

My goal for the term is for continued chapter growth, membership retention, and more interaction from members at meetings. We are in the process of revising our committees and will solicit help at our October meeting. With your help we can meet these goals.

I also want to tell you that our dues of \$65 will be coming due soon. You can bring them to the October meeting or send them to:

J. Christopher Wade
628 NE Bent Paddle Lane
Port Saint Lucie, FL, 34983

Sincerely,

Chuck McKinley
772-418-5401
charles_mckinley@att.net



Flag Day Ceremony



For the second year in a row, the St. Lucie River Chapter, SAR was invited to the Fort Pierce Elks Club #1520 to participate in their National Flag Day Celebration. The ceremony was presented by Joe Simari, a Past Exalted Ruler (PER) of their local chapter. This ceremony displays many early American Flags, which were carried by their members, along with a history

of each one. Our Chapter had the honor of performing the Color Guard duties, with the following members in colonial attire; Compatriots Hall Riediger, Jack Irvin, Carl Wade, Jim Alderman, Joe Regan, Chuck Berger, and Chuck McKinley. Chuck McKinley and Carl Wade's spouses were also in attendance. The Cora Stickney Harper Chapter, DAR was represented by their Regent, Karon Drew, Peggy Silletto with spouse Jim, and Tammy Ware.

We also invited the Purple Heart Cane representative, Lloyd Lasenby, to attend. Toward the end of the ceremony, Jack Irvin, also a PER of BPOE 1520, introduced our present members and gave an overview of the SAR, asking those present to give a short history of their Patriots. At the end of the ceremony, Chapter President Chuck McKinley presented a Fort Pierce City Proclamation for Flag Day, graciously provided by Fort Pierce Mayor Linda Hudson, a local DAR Member. Once again, our Chapter received a donation graciously. We

strive to have local recognition of our civic and local events and recognition of our involvement in these events and celebrations. We look forward to our next event in the community and ask our members and their spouses to attend if possible. This shows our pride in the goals of the Sons of the American Revolution. Interaction with our Associated Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Chapters, and organizations such as the Elks and other Veterans Association Memorial activities, as well as with our local schools in the three county area for history activities, library volunteering, and Junior Reserve Officer Training Cadets (JROTC) programs are great ways to increase involvement in the community. These are also good tools to help gain new members as well as discuss the great history of our Nation, as founded by our Patriot Forefathers.



Compatriot Irvin leads the Color Guard into the hall during the ceremony.



Compatriots Jack Irvin, Hall Riediger, Chuck Berger, Carl Wade, Jim Alderman, and Chuck McKinley

To Visit the Chapter Website, go to:

<http://www.stlucieriverflssarc.org/index.html>

In Memoriam—Bud Rockhill



It was of great sadness that I recently was informed of the passing of Compatriot Bud Rockhill. I had the distinct pleasure of not only knowing Bud as a fellow SAR member, but was given the honor of being his personal guardian on one of the WWII Honor Flights to Washington D.C. Bud was a true patriot and friend that shared his wartime and life's story with me on several occasions including the flight to D.C. He told me that the Honor Flight was one of the highlights of his life. My condolences and prayers go out to Alice and the family. TG

Tom Gilmore with Bud Rockhill



Independence Day Tradition Continues



The Tradition of the Celebration of the 4th of July continues at the St. Lucie Mets Ball Park. It certainly was a hot day as the field was sunny and the temperature stayed at 100 degrees (see the picture above). After missing the 2014 event, the St. Lucie River Chapter, SAR has handled the Color Guard duties the last two years and at least five of the last six years. Color Guard Commander Hall Riediger strives to do more each time, so we doubled last year's participation, including the number of flags and the wearing of Colonial attire. Fans always clap when they see us walk on the field. Perhaps we can make the number of Flags eight next year! This year's Flag Bearers were Compatriots John Auld, Hall Riediger, Chuck McKinley, and Seth Fields. The Musketeers were Compatriots Jack Irvin and Chuck Berger. Jim Alderman stayed at the fence line protecting our valuables and Compatriots William Hammond and Joe Regan were in attendance as usual with their cameras. This is a family event as John's and Chuck's spouses attended, we got to see Seth's new son, which was great, and as usual Hall had a plethora of grandchildren with him. Finally, the hometown Mets beat the visiting Fort Myers team this day. We hope to see our presence in this event grow with more compatriots (and family) attending. It is an outstanding public display of our chapter's color guard, with flags, arms, and colonial attire and a demonstration of what our Chapter stands for. Additionally, there is potential for recruiting new members from this type of event.

AN INVITATION TO ATTEND A



CONSTITUTION WEEK LUNCHEON

SATURDAY – SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

MONARCH COUNTRY CLUB

MARTIN DOWNS BLVD
PALM CITY, FLORIDA 34990

11:15 AM CHECK IN AND SOCIAL TIME
11:30 AM LUNCHEON SEATING
12:00 NOON & MARTIN COUNTY HS JROTC COLOR GUARD
LUNCHEON SERVED AND PROGRAM FOLLOWING

HOSTED BY:
HALPATIOKEE, JUPITER LIGHTHOUSE, OKEECHOBEE & SAINT LUCIE RIVER CHAPTERS
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
AND
ST. LUCIE RIVER CHAPTER SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

GUEST SPEAKER
City of Stuart Commissioner
TROY A. McDONALD

"The Legislative Process and You"

MENU

SPINACH SALAD w/Strawberries, Walnuts, Feta Cheese, Balsamic Vinaigrette
HERB ROASTED SLICED PORK TENDERLOIN w/demi glaze
CREAMY GARLIC MASHED POTATOES
GREEN BEANS w/ bacon bits, cubed red pepper
ROLLS AND BUTTER COFFEE/TEA
VERY BERRY PATRIOTIC COBBLER w/whipped cream

\$30.00 PER PERSON CHECK PAYABLE TO: HALPATIOKEE CHAPTER DAR

MAIL CHECK TO: COLLEEN KIMBALL
8555 SE MANGROVE STREET
HOBE SOUND, FL 33455-2947

TELEPHONE (772) 349-3927

EMAIL: c1sailon@aol.com

(RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY CUT OFF DATE OF MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2016)

(please cut off bottom portion and return this reservation form with your check)

MR/MRS/MS _____ WILL ATTEND LUNCHEON
CHAPTER OFFICE HELD _____ DAR _____ SAR _____
NAME OF DAR CHAPTER _____ # OF RESERVATIONS _____
AMOUNT OF CHECK ENCLOSED \$ _____ TELEPHONE # _____

NON-MEMBER GUESTS ARE CORDIALLY WELCOMED! IF PAYING FOR MORE THAN ONE PERSON: PLEASE LIST THE NAMES (BELOW OR ON THE REVERSE SIDE) AND ALSO THEIR CHAPTER/STATE OFFICE POSITION HELD)

General Chevalier Louis Lebègue dePresle Duportail

Louis Lebègue de Presle Duportail, was a military officer of the Engineering Corps of the French Army who came to America from France to aid in the American Revolution.

Duportail was born near Orléans, France, on May 14, 1743. He graduated from the royal engineer school in Mézières, France, as a qualified engineer officer in 1765. Duportail was promoted to lieutenant colonel in the Royal Corps of Engineers. Benjamin Franklin was dispatched to France in December, 1776 as commissioner for the United States. There, he enlisted the aid of Duportail, with the approval of the French Government and of the Continental Congress, to serve in the Continental Army during American Revolution.

Duportail was first commissioned Colonel of engineers in July 1777 and later Brigadier General in November 1777. General Washington promoted Duportail to Major General on October 26, 1781. As such, Duportail served as the Chief Engineer in the Continental Army from July 22, 1777 to October 10, 1783.

Duportail entered Continental service while Congress was in session in Philadelphia, but when Philadelphia was captured by the British, Congress assembled in the temporary capital, York, Pennsylvania. During the following weeks, Washington kept his army some distance from Philadelphia, ready to strike if necessary. It soon became evident that the British were content to spend their winter in Philadelphia, where there was lodging, food, and entertainment. After consultation with his staff, Washington decided to go into winter quarters with his army at Valley Forge. Generals Henry Knox

and Duportail agreed Valley Forge presented a good strategic location for the troops. Knox established the general lines of the camp and Duportail worked with him to develop the details. Washington issued orders for officers to consult with Duportail in the execution of works necessary for the defense of the encampment.

With the arrival of Baron von Stueben at Valley Forge, the training of the army began. Knox and Duportail assisted with the training in the department of the artillery, including maneuvering and handling, etc. While in winter quarters at Valley Forge, Washington organized his plans for the campaign of 1778. Duportail participated in a council of war convened by General Washington under orders of Congress. As a result, the army was to be on defense and only go on the offensive is opportunity presented itself. The entire army marched out of Valley Forge on June 19, 1778. The defeat of the British at Monmouth, New Jersey attested to the work in the training of the soldiers by Stueben, as well as Knox and Duportail.

Duportail participated in fortifications planning from Boston, Massachusetts to Charleston, South Carolina. He performed various tasks assigned to him by General Washington. Washington issued orders for Duportail to examine all the grounds in the environs of the present encampment, for the purposes of setting up winter quarters for the army at Morristown. In consequence of his position, Duportail was present for various high level conferences, and helped Washington evolve the primarily defensive military strategy that wore down the British Army.

Duportail directed the construction of siege works at the Battle of Yorktown.



*"Louis Lebègue Duportail"
by Charles Willson Peale*

On October 19th, 1781 General Cornwallis surrendered his army at Yorktown. Rochambeau, Lincoln, Knox, Lafayette, von Steuben, and Duportail were particularly commended by General Washington. Promotion to Major General followed shortly on October 26.

Duportail remained in the United States for a couple of years, a good friend and comrade of Washington. On returning to France in October 1783, Duportail became an infantry officer and in 1788 a Marechal-de-Camp, the equivalent of Brigadier General. He served as France's minister of war from November 16, 1790, through December 7, 1791, during the beginning of the French Revolution and promoted military reforms.

Later, finding his life was in danger from the radical Jacobins, he secretly fled to America and bought a farm near Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. He lived there until 1802, when he attempted to return to France. On August 12, 1802 he died at sea.

SAR News and Notes

-Welcome to the SAR's New Website! Over the past few months, the SAR's web presence has been undergoing a long awaited face lift. We are very excited to share the refreshed look and streamlined structure with you. Visitors will notice a different design and layout, though much of the same information is still available and can be located after a bit of searching. Please take some time to explore the new pages and navigational set up and become familiar with the overall site by visiting www.sar.org or by clicking [here](#).

-New Donation to the SAR Library Special Collections. The SAR Library Special Collections recently received a special piece of SAR history in the form of an annual dinner invitation of the Arkansas Society Sons of the American Revolution dated February 22, 1900. The invitation was donated by William L. Crabtree of the Alabama SAR. Learn more at www.sar.org or click [here](#).

-President General Thomas E. Lawrence is pleased to announce that Ms. Janice Payne Yates has been awarded the 2015 – 2016 Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Award. Yates' entry was submitted by the Michigan SAR's West Michigan Chapter. As this year's winner, Yates will receive a \$1,400 stipend to cover tuition and transportation expenses incurred upon attending a national seminar for professional development. Find out more by visiting the NSSAR website or by clicking [here](#).

-The current edition of The SAR Magazine, Spring 2016, is available to view or download from the NSSAR website or by clicking [here](#). The Summer edition may be available by the time you read this.

-The current edition of The Florida Patriot magazine, Summer 2016, is available to view or download from the FLSSAR website or by clicking [here](#).

Events Calendar

September 10: Annual Constitution Week Luncheon with the Treasure Coast DAR Chapters.

September 17: Constitution Day Event, Ringing of the Bells Ceremony, Ft. Pierce.

September 25: Gold Star Families Memorial Monument Dedication, Veterans Memorial Park, Port St. Lucie

September 29-October 1: Fall Leadership Meeting, NSSAR Headquarters, Louisville, Kentucky

October 8: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City*

October 14-15: Fall BOM Meeting, FLSSAR, Orlando. Host Region is the NC Region. **(Rescheduled)**

November 11: Veterans Day, Parade in Stuart and Ceremony in Port St. Lucie.

November 12: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City*

December 7: Pearl Harbor Day, Port St. Lucie

December 10: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City*

December 11: Christmas Parade, Ft. Pierce

December 17: Wreaths Across America, Ceremonies in Port St. Lucie, Stuart, and Okeechobee.

* *Regular meetings start at 11:30 am unless noted.*

Editor's Note

Chapter members wishing to have articles appear in future editions of *The Whig* are encouraged to forward those articles and photographs, if available, to the Editor at TheWhigEditor@icloud.com. Participation by members in this or any other activity is welcomed. *WKH*

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President's Brigade

Gold Medal

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Carl Wade

Silver Medal

Oscar Kraehenbuehl

Jay Wise

Bronze Medal

Jack Irvin