



CALOOSA PATRIOT

Volume XIII Issue I

February 2014

Edison Festival of Light



The Honorary Grand Marshal of the Grand Parade of the Edison Festival of Light was our own Compatriot Bill Mellor. He was voted to this honor when he was nominated for this position, selected as a finalist by the festival committee, then voted on by the general public.

Without Bill Estero Bay would have disappeared decades ago. In its place: houses, roads and a maze of man-made concrete canals. But the Fort Myers man wouldn't stand idly by while a developer dumped 17 million cubic yards of fill into his beloved fishing spot.

"I've always loved going fishing, and I spent an awful lot of time in Estero Bay, explains Mellor, 89. "That's been my playground. It's always been a part of my life, and for it to be dredged up and destroyed. It was ridiculous!"

So Mellor and a group of like-minded environmentalists fought the developer and the government all the way to the Florida Supreme Court in the 1960s – and they won.

The case saved Estero Bay and set precedents that have helped other waters as far away as the Great Lakes and San Francisco Bay.

For that accomplishment, Mellor was chosen as one of two honorary grand marshals in the Festival of Light Grand Parade. He shared the honor with crowd favorites the Budweiser Clydesdales.

Parade chairman Mike Gill said that "He was responsible for protecting a lot of the area behind Fort Myers Beach," If it wasn't for him, the bay would have all been developed into condominiums."

Mellor says he was surprised at getting named honorary grand marshal. After all, that Estero Bay stuff happened five decades ago.

Mellor's daughter was a princess in a past Grand Parade, but until now he's only watched the event from the sidelines. This was his first time actually participating.

From the President



Greetings,

Much has been going on since our January meeting where Southwest Regional Vice President Vic McMurray installed the new chapter officers for the 2014 year. He was accompanied by his wife Debbie. Also inducted was Joe Lundquist as a new member. We held the Rumbaugh oration contest as well.

On January 24th and 25th VP Russ Radcliffe, Registrar Bob McGuire accompanied by his wife Anne and I attended the winter Board of Management meeting for the Florida Society Sons of the American Revolution held in Orlando.

.In addition to the business meeting, it was an excellent opportunity to network with other SAR members from around the state. Ideas were exchanged as well as opportunities to learn about the many programs that the FLSSAR participate in. On Saturday morning, there was a Genealogy program presented by Debbie Duay, PhD. As always it was very informative.

Our chapter, for the first time provided a basket to be raffled off at the Friday night banquet by the Florida Society Ladies Auxiliary. Anne McGuire put together a basket for our chapter and did a marvelous job featuring products from the Lee County area. It was the first one selected! The funds of the raffle were used by the Ladies Auxiliary to be awarded to youth recipients at the state level. There is some interest to form a Caloosa Chapter Ladies Auxiliary and Anne may be contacting our ladies in putting this together.

On Saturday February 8th, VP Russ Radcliffe and I presented two certificates of appreciation to two members and an oak leaf cluster to a third member of the Barefoot Beach DAR chapter. These were to acknowledge the referral of new approved members to our chapter.

The Executive Committee approved a change in duties of two officers. John Jones who is our secretary has also assumed the duties of the treasurer, Bob McGuire; our registrar will become our chapter newsletter editor as well as Webmaster of our new website. Many thanks to these two Compatriots for their service to the chapter.

Albert Myers, our recording secretary and genealogist, manages our Facebook page. He does an excellent job of keeping it up to date and it appears to be pretty popular with a fair number of visits. For those on Facebook be sure to visit regularly to catch up on what is happening with your chapter.

Our February meeting featured a program by VP Russ Radcliffe on his patriot ancestor's association with General George Washington. Each member present was asked to say a few comments about their patriot ancestor and a comment about George Washington in honor of his birthday.

Our March meeting will be held on Saturday March 22nd. This is an opportunity for those members who are unable to get away from their jobs during the week as well as junior members to attend. We have an interesting program planned about the flags of the Revolutionary War. I would encourage as many spouses, mothers, and family members to attend.

Watch for details of our upcoming events in April and May.

Lee Matson, President

Chapter Facebook Page

Compatriot Albert Myers keeps our Facebook page up-to-date with current activities. He also reports that the hits on our page have increased and is encouraged with this flurry of activity. It means that more people are taking a look at us. The following link to the page can be entered into your web browser's navigation bar (some recipients of the newsletter may be able to click on the link). <https://facebook.com/CaloosaChapteroftheSAR>.

New Web Page

Compatriot Robert McGuire has recently developed a new web page for the Chapter and is now available to see on the Florida Society web page. (<http://flssar.org/Host/Caloosa/Index.htm>). We will soon be hosting our own place on the web and will let you know when you can go to it directly without going through the Florida Society webpage.

Highlights of February EXCOM Meeting

- President Lee Matson reported on the Florida State BOM meeting with the Nominating Committee nominated current State Secretary Steve Williams to be the nominee for the State President at the annual meeting in May. He also reported that President Matson would be the candidate for Vice President of the Southwest Region of Florida.
- Compatriot Jones will remain as Secretary/Treasurer of the Chapter with authorization to obtain a bank debit card for payments.
- Compatriot McGuire reported that three new members have been approved, with four still pending at NSSAR, and five applications being worked on at the chapter level. Pending supplementals include three at the chapter level and five at NSSAR.
- Color Guard Commander Moody reports nothing is scheduled for the Color Guard in 2014. Lack of Class A uniformed members willing to participate is the main reason. If interested contact Compatriot Randy Moody.
- A Memorial Book honoring Compatriot Guy Walton will be presented soon at the new library and another Memorial Book will be ordered in honor of Orville May who passed away on November 7, 2013.
- Program agendas for the March, April and May meetings was discussed and is listed in the calendar section of this newsletter.
- The EXCOM is reviewing the current by-laws and standing rules of the Caloosa Chapter to determine if any changes are necessary.
- Proposal was made to determine if establishing a Chapter Ladies Auxiliary is feasible.
- At the January EXCOM meeting, it was decided to join President General Dooley's initiative to assist our Veterans through the works of the USO. A check was forwarded to the USO Foundation.

Our Calendar of Events

Helm Club at the Landings Yacht Golf and Tennis Club
4420 Flagship Drive

(off McGregor Blvd first light South of College)

Follow this link to get a map to the Landings

<http://mapq.st/1bYbmwa>

Saturday March 22, 2014

The gathering will begin at 11:30 a.m. with lunch served at noon

Cost for the lunch is \$20.00 per person

Program: Flags of the Revolutionary War

**Note the time for this meeting is to allow our junior members
and others who can't make our weekday meetings**

*Please RSVP for meetings to: Compatriot VP Russell Radcliffe at
russradcliffe@gmail.com, call (239) 949-6620
or mail 20455 Wildcat Run Dr. Estero FL 33928*

Wednesday April 9, 2014

The gathering will begin at 11:30 a.m. with lunch served at noon

Cost for the lunch is \$20.00 per person

**Program: Nola Theiss will present a program on human trafficking and slavery
&**

Present medals to EMS members for their role in saving the life of a man

Wednesday May 14, 2014

The gathering will begin at 11:30 a.m. with lunch served at noon

Cost for the lunch is \$20.00 per person

**Program: President Lee Matson will present a program featuring his patriot ancestor and
the campaigns and skirmishes that he participated in**

This will be our last meeting before our summer recess

233rd Anniversary of Cowpens

The Battle of Cowpens (January 17, 1781) was a decisive victory by American Revolutionary forces under Brigadier General Daniel Morgan, in the Southern campaign of the American Revolutionary War. It was a turning point in the re-conquest of South Carolina from the British.



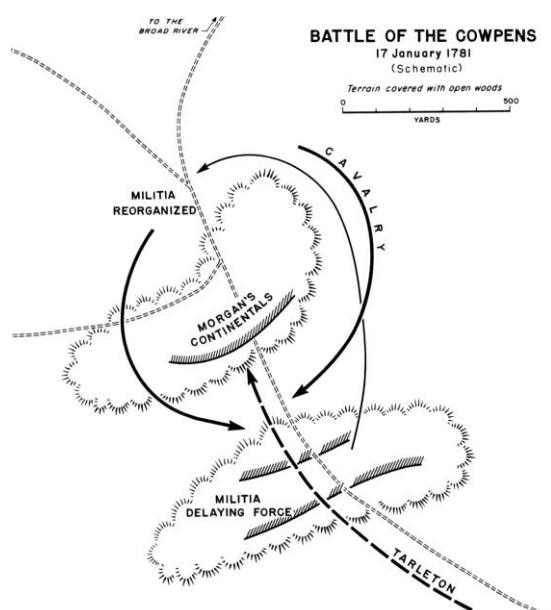
President General Thomas Dooley and Vice President General for SE Region Randy Moody at the anniversary

New Southern Commander Major General Nathanael Greene determined that he needed time to rehabilitate his army. He decided to split his force and assigned command of the more mobile force to Brigadier General Daniel Morgan. British Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis recognized the strategy and sent his own mobile force under Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton after Morgan.

After several weeks of maneuvering, General Morgan finally had to choose his ground before Lieutenant Colonel Tarleton overran him. He settled on Cowpens, South Carolina. He counted on British expectations of a militia retreat as it had at Camden, so that when Andrew Pickens' militia withdrew as planned, the British became undisciplined and broke ranks. This loss of discipline allowed the ordered actions of the Continentals to thoroughly rout the British and destroy General Cornwallis' light troops.

Of Tarleton's 1,076 man force at Cowpens, 110 were killed and 712 were captured, of whom 200 were wounded. Tarleton also lost two artillery grasshoppers, two regimental standards (colors), thirty-five wagons, 100 horses, 800 muskets, a traveling forge and even the officers' slaves.

A video of the 233rd Anniversary is available at the following link: <http://www.scssar.org/>



Chapter Luncheon Happenings



Two Ohio Compatriots visit us in January



VPG Moody & Bethany Namour
our Rumbaugh winner



Dr. Albert Myers receiving the Robert Sherman Medal
by VPG Moody as President Matson looks on



Our newest member Joe Lundquist being sworn in by President Matson



Regional Vice President of SW Florida swears in the Caloosa officers for 2014. Lee Matson, Albert Myers, John Jones, Bob McGuire, Russ Radcliffe, Randy Moody, Wes Morris and Roy Wasson

Final Edition

Since January of 2012, I have edited the Caloosa Patriot for your information about your chapter. I have thoroughly enjoyed doing this and have received many comments about the newsletter. It is now time for me to assume other commitments to the chapter and turn the reins of this publication over to Compatriot Bob McGuire. I will still be here although it be in other capacities. All I can say is Thanks for the memories!

John Jones

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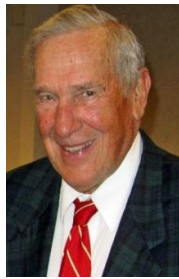
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