



# The Gainesville Broadside

Gainesville Chapter ~ Florida Society Sons of the American Revolution

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William V. Carnes, Sr. ~ Newsletter Editor

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## CHAPTER SETS AN ALL-TIME RECORD FOR ROTC AWARDS!

The Gainesville Chapter has been presenting Silver and Bronze ROTC Medals to deserving cadets and midshipmen of the Junior and Senior ROTC units in our area every year since 1985, but this year our eight medals set a new Chapter “best” for awards

For many, many years, the principal venue for these presentations has been the DAR National Defense Luncheon, and this year was no exception. Held on Wednesday, April 12th, at the top of the University Centre Hotel, most of the cadets were present to be so honored. At right, Chapter President Jim Partin presents one of the Bronze ROTC Medals to an Army JROTC cadet, while an AFJROTC cadet waits her turn at the left. Many units, however, chose to hold separate or additional awards ceremonies associated with school activities, so on many occasions Chapter officers also attended these events to recognize the cadets one more time in front of parents or peers.



Shown below is a group shot of many Silver and Bronze ROTC Medal recipients and their escorting officers at the conclusion of the DAR luncheon. Sadly, though, this might be the last of the DAR Luncheons due to continuing conflicts in “timing,” such as the need to be late enough in the semester to obtain nominations from high schools who don’t end classes until June vs. the units at U.F. who finish the third week in April, plus the unfortunate timing of the school districts’ spring breaks mean a lot of recipients are away and unable to attend the luncheon, vs. the desire of many institutions to hold separate award ceremonies on their own turf. Nonetheless, the Gainesville Chapter SAR will continue to recognize these fine young citizens with the SAR Silver and Bronze ROTC Medals in the years to come. This year’s recipients included...



### SILVER ROTC MEDAL UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Army ~ Michael J. Nash  
Navy/Marine Corps ~ Jorge Colon  
Air Force ~ Tamara Minkow

### BRONZE ROTC MEDAL LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS

Bradford HS (Starke) ~ David N. Askew  
Buchholz HS ~ Amanda Barron & Eric Caton  
Eastside HS ~ Nam Q. Nguyen  
Gainesville HS ~ James J. McNair

*Honorable Mention ~ NSSAR Carl F. Bessent Newsletter Award ~ 1992*

## CHAPTER MEETINGS

All are luncheon meeting at noon at the Gainesville Sheraton Hotel, 2900 S. W. 13th Street, unless noted otherwise.

### July 17th

“Training Your Animals”

by Ms. Susanne Gaddy

Professional and award-winning trainer and judge, and her subnovice thru companion dog classes are especially popular. She is an instructor at SFCC.

### August 21st

“New England’s First Captain”

by Dr. Harry Hollien

### September 18th

DAR-SAR Constitution Week Luncheon

11:30 AM, Top of the University Centre Hotel

1535 Southwest Archer Road

*(Reservation information in next Broadside)*

## REMEMBERING OUR MILITARY HERITAGE...



Don’t forget, this is the 50th Anniversary of the Korean Conflict, yet another “forgotten war” in which tens of thousands of American GI’s died doing what they do best – defending America’s freedom! We anguish over the 2,500 or so MIA’s from Vietnam, but what about the more than 8,000 MIA’s from Korea!?!

Also, the Chapter is very interested in doing our part toward the World War II Memorial, and that item will be a key topic for discussion at this month’s meeting and in meetings to come. So, if you have access to the World-wide Web, check out the WWII Memorial site at...

**[www.wwiimemorial.org](http://www.wwiimemorial.org)**

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## PRESIDENT’S CORNER

by Jim Partin

We had a great turnout at our June meeting with 17 compatriots attending. I want to encourage all of you to come as we have had some great programs this year! If anyone has an idea of someone who would be a good speaker for a future program, just let me know.

It is getting close to the time for our SAR dues to be paid for the upcoming year. Please bring your dues to the July meeting and pay to Secretary Charlie Rinek. This helps your Chapter since we have to get the annual report in to National four months earlier than usual.

There is a Revolutionary War soldier buried at Green Cove Springs in Clay County. Let me know if you are interested in going on a field trip to visit the site. We will have a memorial service and check on the condition of the tombstone.

We already have four new members approved this year with one more coming any day. There are three more '76ers sending in their applications for membership in the next few weeks. These seven new members are sponsored by three compatriots. Let's keep the momentum going by proposing your friends to join our Chapter. Send me their names and addresses and your name will be put on the sponsor line. See you at our July meeting!

### BROADSIDES MORE OFTEN!

Starting with this issue, the Gainesville Broadside will now be published on a bi-monthly basis, in January, March, May, July, September, and November. For the moment, it will remain the same size, four pages, but plans are to increase size to six pages very soon. Articles and ideas gratefully accepted!



# Early Internet



So there were the Boston Massacre and the Boston Tea Party, but in between there also was the *Gaspee* incident. The *Gaspee* was a British armed schooner on customs duty and chasing smugglers in Narragansett Bay one night in June 1772. Unfortunately for the crew it has run around, at which point a crowd of Rhode Islanders, some of them prominent citizens of the Providence area, stormed the ship and burned it to the water line!

This seemingly rash act came during a relatively quiet period for the uneasy relationship between the colonies and the mother country. Thanks to the repeal of the Townshend Acts, the quarrels had abated for the moment. In North Carolina, all attention recently had been focused upon the minor war between the uplanders and lowlanders, with Royal Governor William Tryon and his planter allies of the lowlands soundly defeating the upland “Regulators,” as they were called, at the Battle of Alamance Creek. In Pennsylvania, would-be settlers from Connecticut tilted with Pennsylvanians over land in the Wyoming Valley, while to the north others hungry for land argued over claims in the Hampshire Grants, located between New York and New Hampshire.

The *Gaspee* incident, however, shifted the colonial focus back to relations with Mother England. While moderate Patriots were aghast at the outright attack on an armed British ship, local efforts to unearth the perpetrators were not taken seriously. But then London sent a royal investigating commission—with stern promises of trial in England for the guilty parties, probably followed by hangings. The commission, though, failed to find a single person to prosecute. With such mockery made of royal authority, Rhode Island’s Collector of Customs could only moan, “There’s an end to collecting a revenue and enforcing the acts of trade.”

From the Patriot point of view, on the other hand, there was a danger that royal use of an investigatory commission in one case could be a precedent for the intrusion of like bodies in all kinds of other colonial affairs.

For all the Royals and Loyalists in North America, meanwhile, there was worse news than the failure of the *Gaspee* commission, far worse, yet to come. In Massachusetts, Governor Thomas Hutchison put out the word that starting in 1773 he and the colony’s judges would be paid their salaries by the Crown, meaning, according to the onlooking Patriots, that colonial officials would be beyond local control. In no time, reinvigorated Committees of Correspondence were back in action in Boston and throughout the

colonies. Their stream of resolutions, pamphlets and news items led to the formation of more such committees in town after town, matched by a similar eruption of revolutionary cells in colony after colony.

In the end, through organizations such as the Sons of Liberty and the multitudinous committees of correspondence springing up all over, the Patriots of North America had formed an interlocking “Internet,” providing one another with the latest in revolutionary words and deeds.

In Virginia, for example, the House of Burgesses in March of 1773 formed a colony-level Committee of Correspondence specifically to look into the *Gaspee* incident and its ramifications. The empowering resolution, adopted on a motion by Thomas Jefferson’s brother-in-law, Dabney Carr, asked the legislatures of Virginia’s sister colonies to appoint one or more persons of their own membership as like committees “to communicate from time to time...”

In the Virginia capital of Williamsburg the very next day, the local *Virginia Gazette* carried an explanation by an unnamed “Gentleman of Distinction,” probably a Burgesses leader. The item said in part: “[W]e are endeavoring to bring our Sister Colonies into the strictest union with us; that we may resent, in one Body, any Steps that may be taken by Administration to deprive any one of us the least Particle of our Rights and Liberties.”

While not the first such example to be seen or heard in these revolutionary days, these were the code words on the tongues of Patriots far and wide. *Colonies in a Union. Our rights. Our liberties.*

Up in New England, instead of Web sites spreading the word of this early “Internet,” it often was horseback riders galloping into far-flung towns and villages with the latest news or Patriot propaganda. “Selected riders carried the writings...deep into the Berkshire hills, to the green shores of Rhode Island, down through the rolling Connecticut fields, far over the New Hampshire border,” wrote Bruce Lancaster in his history, *The American Revolution*.

In this regard, he also noted, “No horseman was busier than silversmith Paul Revere, who might have a mass of pamphlets or letters or only a scrap of paper bearing the single line: ‘Mr. Revere will give you all the news. J. Adams.’”

John Adams, naturally!

from *The Best Little Stories of the American Revolution*  
by C. Brian Kelly