New Years greetings! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas or Hanukkah and look forward to a great 2020 filled with every blessing. I would like to share this poem for the new year. Rise and Shine and Squeeze The Day for God, Home and Country in 2020!

The Land of Beginning Again
by
Louise Fletcher Tarkington

I wish there was some wonderful place called the Land of Beginning Again, Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches and all our poor, selfish griefs Could be dropped like a shabby old coat at the door, And never put on again.

I wish we could come on it all unaware, like the hunter who finds a lost trail, And I wish that the one whom our blindness has done the greatest injustice of all, Could be at the gate like an old friend that waits For the comrade he’s gladdest to hail.

We would find things we intended to do, But forgot and remembered too late – Little praises unspoken, little promises broken, And all the thousand and one little duties neglected, that might have perfected The days of one less fortunate.

It wouldn’t be possible not to be kind in the Land of Beginning Again, And the ones we misjudged and the ones whom we grudged Their moments of victory here, Would find the grasp of our loving handclasp More than penitent lips could explain.

For what had been hardest we’d know had been best, And what had seemed loss would be gain, For there isn’t a sting that will not take wing away. And I think that the laughter is most what we’re after In the Land of Beginning Again

So, I wish there were some wonderful place, Called the Land of Beginning Again, Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches, And all our poor selfish griefs Could be dropped, like a ragged old coat, at the door, And never put on again.

Kay Yarbrough
On November 2, 2019, it was my great pleasure to attend the Reorganizing Meeting Celebration of the Billy Bowlegs Society F.S.C.A.R. in Alva along with Sr. President Teri Peterson and Shirley Rainwaters, Regent of the sponsoring NSDAR Chapter, USS Hannah.

I was honored by F.S.C.A.R. Sr. President Ginger Poffenberger to act in her stead as F.S.C.A.R. Past Recording Secretary, to present and install the Society officers and Sr.’s. The members then all took the Oath of Membership, including a young babe in arms whose mother held his right arm and hand up during the ceremony. After the oaths, F.S.C.A.R. Sr. President Ginger Poffenberger spoke with the Society via cell phone, congratulating and encouraging them and the Sr.’s. I brought “Squeeze the Day” greetings from FSSDAR Regent Kay Yarbrough and her Executive Board. Dr. Mimi Marler, NSCAR Sr. National Magazine Fund Chair brought greetings from NSCAR Sr. President Norma Griffin. The Caloosa Chapter NSSAR Color Guard attended in period dress. Many friends of the Billy Bowlegs Society through the years joined the Society for a fun afternoon of celebration, cake and new friendships.

—submitted by Konnie Beauregard, Past F.S.C.A.R. Recording Secretary
**Literacy Promotion Committee Contest**

*Shine a Light on Literacy*

“If a nation expects to be free and ignorant at the same time, it expects what never was and never will be." — Thomas Jefferson’s words ring true as much today as ever, and they voice the theme of this committee during the Van Buren Administration. We must all, indeed, shine a light on literacy in order to effect change.

We know that Florida Daughters are working hard to promote literacy. As you plan your chapter events and log your own endeavors, please look toward entering the NSSSDAR Literacy Promotion Committee contest. Full details and forms are on the DAR.org web page. You can nominate (1) a member of our Society, (2) your chapter, AND (3) we can submit our Florida Society in the state-level contest. **January 3, 2020**, is the deadline for submitting state nominations to this year’s contest.

Here is a brief description: "The purpose of the Literacy Promotion Committee national contest is to recognize outstanding service by DAR members, chapters, and states in the promotion of literacy. Contest winners will demonstrate outstanding activity in at least one of the three areas of emphasis: Honor our Spirit of Partnership, Focus on Future Readers, or Celebrate the DAR’s Commitment to Literacy Promotion. A contest form must be completed and sent to the state chair, Dr. Susan Summers, by the state deadline. Entry forms can be printed from the [Forms page](https://www.dar.org/members/committees/special-committees/literacy-promotion/forms-guidelines)."

—submitted by Dr. Susan Summers

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**Bringing Literacy to Reading Deserts**

How many books do you own? If you include digital sources, e-books, audiobooks, and the Internet, can you measure the access you have to literature, recipes, self-help, reference works, and magazines? Have you ever found yourself with nothing to read, perhaps while traveling, or in a waiting room? If not, you are blessed. If you have, then you know that living in a reading desert is unpleasant. Imagine if that were your everyday existence.

Reading deserts are on my mind lately as I researched Eleanor Roosevelt’s Pack Horse Library Project of the New Deal Era. Women rode horses and mules on Book Lady circuits through the Kentucky mountainside, on routes of one hundred miles or more each week, through every season, delivering donated reading materials to the Appalachian families in Kentucky. These families lived in a perpetual reading desert, and the Pack Horse Libraries brought literacy to a region that was starving for print. To read more about this fascinating example of women in harsh conditions promoting literacy, read the Smithsonian Magazine article at this link: [https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/horse-riding-librarians-were-great-depression-bookmobiles-180963786/](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/horse-riding-librarians-were-great-depression-bookmobiles-180963786/) Two interesting novels on this subject are JoJo Moyes’ *Giver of Stars,* and Kim Michele Richardson’s *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek: A Novel.*

Yet while the Pack Horse Library gave way to motorized bookmobiles, reading deserts in America are all around us today. The Literacy Promotion Committee asks you to think about the reading deserts of your community, and how you or your chapter can water those deserts with life-giving books and magazines.

Circulation libraries are off-limits to people who are immobile, because borrowed books must return. Foster children, immigrants, migrants, and homeless families are four examples of people who need access to reading materials they can keep. What agencies exist in your area to serve these families? Contact them about how you can provide reading materials. You can select an age range, such as preschool Head Start children in a program funded for migrant workers. You can support a domestic violence shelter or a soup kitchen. Analyze your community, see where your heartstrings tug and begin your project. Visit Goodwill stores, library used-book sales, and thrift shops to purchase books to supplement what your members contribute. For more ideas about how you and your chapter can promote literacy, visit the DAR.org Literacy Promotion Committee page or click on [https://www.dar.org/members/committees/special-committees/literacy-promotion/web-resources-literacy](https://www.dar.org/members/committees/special-committees/literacy-promotion/web-resources-literacy) or contact Susan Summers, Ph.D., and Catherine Summers, Co-Chairmen or Madelda Thompson, Vice Chairman.

—Submitted by Susan Summers, *summerrobin7@hotmail.com*, 386-961-4773
DAR Project Patriot

January is the time to plan and send Boxes of Love to our military wherever they are to let them know they are being remembered and appreciated for all they do. Valentine cards, homemade or purchased, add a special touch. Perhaps partner with your community classroom and ask the teacher to plan a special art project for the students to make cards.

Nothing says Be My Valentine more than chocolate. This is the only time of the year it can safely be sent. Decorate the flaps of the box as a surprise when it is opened to reveal an assortment of treats such as protein bars, nuts, beef jerky, coffee and/or tea, individual creamers, cookies or snack cakes – OR – include a large mug and individual packets of mug cake mixes….and chocolate.

Did You Know:

- You can set up an online account with USPS and order mailing boxes delivered to your door free of charge – no charge for boxes and no charge for their delivery. There are special large flat rate boxes that say “America Supports You” printed on them. It costs $18.45, no weight limit, to send.
- On your online account you can also do Click-N-Ship. Enter the address and information for the recipient on the custom form and then (after paying for flat rate shipping) you can arrange a pick up at your door – No more schlepping to the post office!

February 14 is on Friday this year – even more of a reason to wear R.E.D. on Friday to Remember Everyone Deployed.

Thank you for supporting our deployed and their families and giving back to those who serve and protect.

—submitted by Arlene Pulner, FSSDAR Project Patriot Chair, arlenepulner@hotmail.com

Service To America

December 14th brought Wreaths Across America throughout the United States. This event has grown from a man in Maine wanting to honor his veteran father with a wreath on his grave, to his vision of placing wreaths on all of the graves at Arlington National Cemetery. With the success of his vision, Wreaths Across America has spread across our nation to other national cemeteries as well as those in local communities.

One cemetery participating was the Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, located in Sumter County. Our Annuttaliga Chapter was proud to sponsor 51 wreaths for this location. There were other DAR chapters present from near and far as well as JROTC, Boy and Girl Scouts, church groups, motorcycle groups and businesses.

In reviewing my email and Facebook pages, I came across many of our Florida daughters posting pictures of their participation in Wreaths Across America. Florida Daughters are DAR strong!

Please submit your chapter's Wreaths Across America activities and pictures or any other Service to America Activities your chapter has done to either Service to America Co-chairs Nancy Sutherland sutherlandn53@yahoo.com or Stacy Gerado sbrande3@gmail.com so that we can save and share all of your wonderful work you have done this year!

—submitted by Nancy Sutherland (609)519-5439 sutherlandn53@yahoo.com
On September 14th the Ocala Chapter NSDAR hosted the North Central Florida Regents’ Council Constitution Luncheon at Ocala National at Golden Hills Country Club in Ocala. All six chapters of the council were represented which includes Colonel Samuel Elbert Chapter, Edward Rutledge Chapter, Gainesville Chapter, Ocala Chapter, Rainbow River Chapter and William Bartram Chapter.

There were 92 in attendance including SAR and C.A.R. members. Taylor Putt, NSCAR National Historian brought greetings from National. Trinity Putt, FSCAR State President brought greetings from State and Anna Cook, Vice President Jacob Roberts Brown Society brought greetings from the Chapter level. There were Proclamations on display from the cities of High Springs, Alachu, Gainesville, Palatka, Lake City, Branford and Willison. Alachua County and the State of Florida did Proclamations as well.


Mark your calendars now! Ocala will host again next year, the date is September 12, 2020. The location will be decided at a later date.

—submitted by Kay Hall

L-R: Nancy Briles and Kay Hall, Gainesville Chapter; Jane McClelland, Edward Rutledge Chapter, Lake City; Nancy Preston, William Bartram, Palatka; Elizabeth Coleman, Ocala Chapter; Pat Bevis, Kathy Neibo and Barbara Belter, Rainbow River and Susan Lucas and Leslie Harper, Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter, Keystone Heights. Not pictured but also, in attendance was Konnie Beauregard, Florida State Curator.
Volusia-Flagler-Seminole Regents’ Council

The Captain James Ormond Chapter hosted the Volusia-Flagler-Seminole Regents’ Council Veterans Day Luncheon on November 9, 2019.

L-R: Rodney Phillips, President, Vietnam Veterans Association 1048; Dee Clark, Regent, Captain James Ormond Chapter DAR; Robert Adkins, Vice President, Vietnam Veterans Association 1048.

Veterans honored for their service at the DAR Regents Council Veterans Day Luncheon.

L-R (front): Lee Thornton, Captain James Ormond; Amy Bell, Jane Sheldon; Betty Stecker, Sugar Mill; Evelyn Clickard, Old Kings Highway; Ruth Ann Fay, Colonel Arthur Erwin; Heny Etta Wilson, Jane Sheldon

L-R (back): Dee Clark, Captain James Ormond; Christine Bevc, Sallie Harrison; Lorraine Buhrmann, FSSDAR Membership Vice Chair area 6; Jacque Davis, Sallie Harrison; Julie Tryon, Gemini Springs
The Caloosahatchee Chapter, NSDAR

Cordially invites you to join us in a Valentine’s Day celebration with

“The History of Wedding Cake Toppers”

Presented by;

State Regent Kay Yarbrough

Friday, February 14, 2020
Campo Felice
2500 Edwards Drive, Fort Myers, FL

10:00 AM – Registration and social time

Lunch Price - $25.00, payable at the door
Make checks payable to: The Caloosahatchee Chapter, NSDAR

Meal Selections:
1) Tuscan Chicken with Goat Cheese & Sundried Tomatoes
2) Oriental Shrimp Salad

RSVP: Nancy Marti at (239) 433-4407
or email naaken@aol.com by Monday, February 10, 2020

State Regent Project Sales
CHAPTER NEWS

Alafia River Chapter

The Alafia River Chapter observed Day of Service with several activities. Claudia Conner, Historic Preservation Chair, and Jane Gammon, Historian and Commemorative Events Chair, ensured a local historic cemetery was carefully mapped and plotted to locate all the veterans laid to rest there. On Veterans Day, the chapter placed flags on the gravesites and later, when removing the flags, cleaned each headstone. Chapter members also cleaned veterans’ headstones in another oft-overlooked local cemetery.

To provide a service opportunity to all members based on talent, time and ability, Alafia River participated in Cards for Troops where we made cards for troops overseas. We had so many volunteers, we had our own table reserved for us and we still had to split our group into shifts to give everybody a chance to be craftsy.

Also, for our active service members, the chapter raised and donated funds for the USO at Tampa International Airport. Sandra Olsen, Project Patriot Chair, fulfilled the USO’s wish list and replenished their snack stash in time for service members to enjoy as they travel for the holidays.

—submitted by Kim Ruiz, Publicity Chair

Bartow Chapter

Bartow Chapter participated in National DAR Day of Service by supporting the Guardian ad Litem program that advocates for children removed from their households due to abuse and/or neglect. Members sewed bags for children to carry personal belongings, and donated toys, games, and 285 books for these children.

Bartow Chapter loves our military! Our members prepared 400 gifts for hometown veterans and guests attending the Salute to Veterans on November 11. We joined with Ponce de Leon and Lake Wales chapters to collect 164 tins of cookies and $565 for postage for the American Legion to send to soldiers overseas. Six Bartow members participated in Wreaths Across America at the National Cemetery in Bushnell.

It took two years to finalize approvals, but we finally dedicated our new monument: “In Memory of Bartow Chapter DAR Daughters.” Names of 23 members who have died since 2000 were read as a bell chimed for each. We honored their 769 years of DAR service that included six chapter regents and some with three generations of membership. Following this, we met at member Harriet Campbell’s home for pot luck and to sign Christmas cards for VA patients and soldiers overseas. Socks, t-shirts, magazines, books, toiletries and other items were donated for VA patients.

Dorinda Garrard, Paula Olive and Kerry Kennedy performed an original skit on Suffragettes. Betsy Landry designed two wreaths for the Polk History Center that won Santa’s Choice awards and raised $200 for their educational projects. Seven members continue in New Members classes.

—submitted by Gay Harlowe, Honorary Regent
Captain James Ormond Chapter

The Captain James Ormond Chapter adopted Hillside Cemetery to honor over 200 veterans on the official National Wreaths Across America Day. DAR chapter members, BSA Scout troops #1, Hillside Cemetery Board members, Ormond Beach Historical Society members, Bob and Cathy Adkins, Vietnam Veterans Post #1048, William and Muffi Chanfrau Sr., Mayor Bill Partington, Heather Post, Tom Gavin, and the Mainland High School ROTC, joined together to place a wreath on each veterans’ grave as a gift of appreciation from a grateful America for their service to our country. This event would not have been possible without the support of our many financial sponsors including Daytona Mazda, Vietnam Veterans Post 1048, Fields BMW of Daytona, Dale Woodward, William and Muffi Chanfrau Sr., and Captain James Ormond chapter NSDAR.

—submitted Shirley Graham, Publicity Chair

Caroline Brevard Chapter

The Caroline Brevard Chapter honored our veterans at our October meeting. Veterans honored were Colonel David, Alan Punsdon, Sam Gurr, Evan Hume and George Hays and our own member Elena Thomas. Each veteran said a few words on where he/she served. They represented the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. Chapter members expressed their gratitude for their service. Colonel David, Godby High School JROTC, presented the POW/MIA Missing Man Table. Member Jane Hays played the military service songs and led the members in singing along.

Members participated in the Veterans Day Parade on November 11 with the Fort San Luis Chapter. Some members rode the float waving flags and some walked in the parade thanking veterans for their service along the way. The chapter was also honored to have State Regent Kay Yarbrough as a guest in November. The night before the meeting, the State Regent was honored at a dinner at Table 23 in Tallahassee. State Regent Yarbrough was the guest speaker at our November meeting on November 19. She presented a wonderful enactment of Mary Lockwood, one of the founders of the DAR. Also attending was guest Mary Anne Price, member of America 250! Membership Task Force and other state committees.

—submitted by Wilma Scofield
**Clearwater Chapter**

On November 9, 2019, the Clearwater Chapter dedicated a DAR historical marker at the Belleview Inn in Belleair to commemorate the hotel and its builder Henry B. Plant. The ceremony was the culmination of two years of work by Clearwater Chapter’s Historical Preservation Committee led by Linda Mintz. The MacDill Air Force Base Color Guard presented the colors. Contralto Emily Grace sang the National Anthem and “God Bless America.” Florida State Second Vice Regent Cynthia Weatherby brought greetings from State Regent Kay Yarbrough. Florida State Historian Shirley Hoerle spoke on DAR’s role in historic preservation. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis sent a letter of welcome. Mayor Gary H. Katica proclaimed November 9, 2019, as Henry B. Plant Day in Belleair. Hotel historian Joseph Vars and *Beach Neighborhood Newsletter* editor Bob Griffin spoke about Henry B. Plant. Chapter Regent Elizabeth Werner and Chaplain Linda DeWitt conducted the plaque dedication. J. Michael Cheezem CEO of JMC Communities, the owner of the Belleview Inn, unveiled and accepted the plaque.

In 1897, Henry B. Plant opened the Belleview Hotel as part of his network of hotels and railroads that connected the Florida wilderness to the North. The Belleview Hotel was expanded until it became the largest wooden structure in the world. During World War II, it housed 3000 U.S. Army Air Corps Servicemen. The hotel went through several owners and attempts to remodel it. Finally, JMC Communities purchased and remodeled the hotel into a boutique hotel. The Belleview Inn is the last Plant hotel in operation.

—submitted by Elizabeth H. Werner, Regent

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**Commodore John Barry Chapter**

Commodore John Barry Chapter member Haley Hansen along with her two daughters Cyaira and Cyndie Hansen members of the Captain John Barry C.A.R. chapter in Melbourne collected over 70 pounds of personal hygiene items to help with immediate support of the hurricane victims in the Bahamas. The items were being collected to help our homeless veterans and soldiers serving overseas but the hurricane victims were in dire need, as they had absolutely nothing. Within days, the items were delivered to local State Representative Fine’s office and were flown out on a private plane.

We are so proud of our fellow Daughter Haley and our two C.A.R. members Cyaira and Cyndie. This is the second year they have collected toiletries for our homeless veterans and active-duty soldiers. They took on this project by themselves and are meeting an immediate need while getting the community involved as well as letting the community know, DAR is out there in Service to America. They are looking forward to working on another community outreach project over the summer months.

—submitted by Tammy Sandberg, Regent
Cora Stickney Harper Chapter

On Sunday December 8, 2019, four chapter members rode in a buggy pulled by a beautiful Clydesdale horse named Lily. It was the Ft Pierce Christmas parade through downtown Ft Pierce. We were so surprised to win first place in the equestrian division. The streets were lined with onlookers and they cheered us on as we went by. It was a perfect way to represent our 105 years old chapter.

—submitted by Linda Gallup

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Edward Rutledge Chapter

L-R: Vice Regent Pat Bloomquist, Historian Kathlene Bradford-Marks, Regent Linda Gallup and Assistant Treasurer Janel Cohen. Coachman David Schneider

L-R: First Vice Regent Kitty McElhaney, Chapter Regent Jane McClelland welcomed Beverly Gentry, NSDAR Vice-Chair for Museum Correspondents Docents, who presented a program on “Christmas in the State Rooms,” at the chapter’s December meeting.

Carol Terry, Judy Giddens, Donna Kite, and Scarlet Frisina, members of the Edward Rutledge Chapter with lap robes made by many chapter members for women veterans at the Lake City Medical Center. Numerous pairs of socks and feminine toiletry items were also recently donated by chapter members to the veterans.

—submitted by Jane McClelland
Estero Island Chapter

November found exuberant Estero Island Daughters collecting 48 pounds of plastic caps for recycling into “Buddy Benches” used in schools to encourage sitting with those who are alone. Conservation Chair Patricia Elkin planned a fantastic outing to Lee County Waste Management where several toured facilities learning about the recycling process. A workday rehabbed our cemetery pollinator garden and included donations from Home Depot.

As a Commemorative Partner, we recognized Vietnam Veterans at Douglas T. Jacobson Veterans Nursing Home, Port Charlotte, during their Veterans Day celebration, where veterans were also presented with lap quilts. A Quilts of Valor gathering allowed for piecing and stitching another beautiful quilt for a service member or veteran.

A load of Thanksgiving food donations were delivered to Harlem Heights Community Charter School, where Community Classroom Chair Karen Sick read to students. Our Project Patriot Committee packed and shipped several beautifully decorated Thanks for Giving boxes to deployed troops for Thanksgiving, and Boxes of Cheer and Joy for Christmas.

December brought a Plarn Party, recycling plastic shopping bags into crocheted mats for Lee County Homeless Coalition; a Christmas donation to Tamassee School for a group outing; a luncheon program on Insignia by FSSDAR Chaplain B. B. Gould; sponsoring a local female veteran and daughters for Christmas; and a Christmas collection of gift cards for the Warrior and Family Support Center, San Antonio Military Medical Center. We ended with a Wreaths Across America Day Ceremony, honoring veterans at the Bonita Springs Cemetery, joined by Barefoot Beach Chapter. Afterward, we placed wreaths on eight veterans’ gravesites at the small, historic New Prospect Cemetery, North Fort Myers.

—submitted by Jamie Gates, Regent

Fort Cooper Chapter

Recently, Fort Cooper Chapter Daughters climbed aboard a pontoon boat at River Safaris and Gulf Charters, Old Homosassa, Florida. In recognition of November as American Indian Heritage Month, their goal was to hear the rich history of Native Americans who lived on the River hundreds, if not thousands, of years ago. Nigel Rudolph, a local archaeologist well-versed in the Native American history of the area, served as the group’s tour guide.

The pontoon boat made a leisurely journey along the main Homosassa River, passing Monkey Island, on to the head of the Homosassa River, where they witnessed the Springs, native vegetation, wildlife and envisioned days of old. Changing its course, the boat continued its trip to the mouth of the River and the Gulf of Mexico while its passengers learned about this area filled with American Indian history.

—submitted by Deardra Wilcox, Media Chairman
Gainesville Chapter

On November 24, Joshua Stevens chapter members prepared and served dinner to those in service at the Coast Guard Station Ponce De Leon Inlet in New Smyrna Beach. As the ladies entered the gates to the station, they were greeted with a friendly, Welcome Aboard! through the security speaker.

This visit is part of a Regent’s Project led by Chapter Regent Debra Idom Main. Debra, along with Patti Whipple, Linda Shumard, Jennifer Walters, JoEllen Rowe, Ginny Brown, Dale Nystrom and Kim Tennison made the drive to New Smyrna Beach to serve the Coast Guard men and women a special home-cooked lasagna dinner. Patti Whipple, Vice Regent, made several pans of delicious homemade lasagna. The ladies also brought hot garlic bread, a large salad with assorted dressings, olives/cheese, a variety of desserts and beverages.

About 15 Coasties, as they are called, attended the dinner, including the resident dog, Gayle, who got a gift of treats.

The flag was lowered at 5:30 p.m. during dinner as the Coast Guard song, Semper Paratus, played over the loudspeaker. During the visit, the chapter registrar, Dale Nystrom, stood up and in tribute, spontaneously sang the Coast Guard song a cappella.

—submitted by Kim Tennison, Public Relations & Media Chair
Lake Wells Chapter

On November 12th, Amilee Stuckey, a Native-Floridian and a Marine Veteran with a deeply-held commitment to service in her community discussed Women Veterans at the chapter meeting at Water’s Edge in Lake Wales. National Defense Chair Karen Wolzanski led a Veterans appreciation program. Students from the Janie Howard Wilson School announced each veteran and presented gifts and certificates of appreciation to the veterans. Dr. Judy Shoemaker described the school’s Safety Patrol activities and training. She showed her therapy dog, Buddy. At our annual luncheon on December 7th, the chapter members held a moment of silence in memory of Pearl Harbor.

—submitted by Susan Godlewski

Manatee Chapter

The Manatee Chapter supported and honored our Veterans during two events in November. Five chapter members were amongst the 460 volunteers who participated in the November 2nd Stand Down 2019 held at the Manatee Co. Fairgrounds. In cooperation with Turning Points, a large range of services as well as meaningful information and support was provided to the 224 participants including 120 Veterans, of whom 29 were homeless. Manatee Chapter also distributed American flags to children attending the Veterans Day Service and Parade on November 11th. What a beautiful day to visit with veterans, especially 2019 Veteran Hall of Fame inductee, Don Courtney! We also supported Past Regent, Theresa Cobb, as she received the Auxiliary Member of the Year Award.

—submitted by Kathy Doddridge, Regent
Marco Island Chapter

The Marco Island Cemetery was the place to be on Saturday, December 14th as the Marco Island Chapter sponsored the island’s first Wreaths Across America ceremony.

At the end of the day, the Marco Island Cemetery was a sea of red, white and blue decorated wreaths after family members, friends and volunteers laid a wreath at the grave of each of the 160 veterans buried there.

Marco Island Daughters and the Marco Island’s American Legion arranged the event, which included an invocation by Rev. McCulley from the New Life Community Church, the National Anthem and “God Bless America” sung by Tica Barrett and Emily Savage, color guard presentation by Lely High School JROTC cadets and a flyover by the Marco Civil Air Patrol.

The Marco Island Chapter is an official sponsor of Wreaths Across America. Regent Pat Hancock and organizing committee chair Ellen Camm were pleased that this year’s first-ever effort was so well-publicized and attended that it surely was the beginning of a Marco Island tradition.

—submitted by Chris Curle

Mary Ellen Robertson Chapter

In partnership with the Lake County Animal Shelter, the Mary Ellen Robertson Chapter launched a **Companion Pets for Vets** project that will provide pet adoption assistance to current and former military vets in November.

“We are honored to accept this donation from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, as we know this assistance will benefit both our local veterans and our homeless pets,” said Whitney Boylston, Lake County Animal Shelter Director.

“We understand that pets are psychologically, emotionally and physically beneficial to their humans. Caring for a pet can provide a sense of purpose and fulfillment and lessen feelings of loneliness. The Mary Ellen Robertson Chapter hopes this project will enrich the lives of our military veterans and their families and find loving forever homes for homeless pets.”

—Submitted by Charyl Winner, Regent
Orlando Chapter

The Orlando Chapter celebrated its 113th Birthday with a luncheon at the Country Club of Orlando. The Chapter was founded on December 15, 1906. Our Chapter flower is the poinsettia and the Chapter Motto is, "Honored by our ancestors of any clime and age And may the Pilgrims' freedom by our lasting heritage".

Past Chapter Regents were honored, NSDAR anniversaries were acknowledged, and a Community Service Award was presented to Virginia Cortes, Founder of Sunshine State Angel Gowns. Donations of cash and gifts were collected for More Than a Seat, Support Our Scholars, Women Against Domestic Violence, our local VA Veterans and the Coast Guard crew of our adopted cutter, The Moray. We also added to our Mary Bacon Fund, which pays dues for our chapter members over the age of 90.

Cindy Addison, current NSDAR Membership Chairman, FSSDAR National Defense Chairman, and past FSSDAR State Historian, presented a wonderful program entitled A Colonial Christmas.

—submitted by Debbie Cook, Regent

Osceola Chapter

On November 8, 2019, Osceola chapter members attended a tour of Patriot Plaza at Sarasota National Cemetery in honor of our veterans who have sacrificed their lives supporting our country. Patriot Plaza is an area in the heart of the cemetery to honor veterans and their families. It depicts stories of service and sacrifice across all five branches of service. The walkway is lined with expressions conveying the attributes of our veterans. The plaza features commissioned art that honors veterans, inspires patriotism, and embraces freedom. It is divided into six different areas:

- **Testimonies**: 16 tablets relating stories about serving the military or being in a military family spanning multiple generations;
- **Witness to Mission**: a collection of 49 photographs presenting the stories of the military experience of Americans since the Civil War;
- **Home**: two cast bronze sculptures of an eagle’s nests, one with an adult bald eagle and eaglet representing home and preparing to leave the nest, and the other an empty nest;
- **Guardian eagles**: Protective and vigilant sentinels to the plaza and the graves beyond;
- **Night to Day/Here and Away**: glass and ceramic tile mosaics representing the earth, air and water from night to day to night, representing the many time differences which are an integral part of military families’ lives;
- **Star Map**: a 5-pointed star which represents the entire world and the global reach of the US Armed Forces.

—submitted by Janice Johnson
Pensacola Chapter

On Veterans Day the Pensacola Chapter honored the veterans at a local retirement center, The Veranda, with a special gift and ceremony. Chapter Daughter Amy Parker gave a touching speech to honor all those present. Each veteran was given an embroidered handkerchief with a note explaining the significance of a military handkerchief.

Why a Handkerchief?

The handkerchief has a long and storied history evidencing both sentimental and utilitarian value. Frequently during wartime, families wrote letters to their deployed loved ones; the letters could not be carried into battle because the rigors of war ruined the paper. Instead of letters, soldiers carried handkerchiefs close to their heart as a way to remember those for whom they fought.

As early as the American Revolution, handkerchiefs were produced to honor soldiers. Martha Washington commissioned patriot printmaker, John Hewson, to create handkerchiefs honoring General Washington’s leadership in the Continental Army. During both the First and Second World Wars, soldiers and airmen were given silk handkerchiefs designed with topographical maps illustrating outlines of rivers, mountain ranges, and roads.

Our hope is each time you see the simple eagle emblazoned on your handkerchief you will remember our gratitude for you. Your service to our country was selfless and courageous for which, today and every day, we are thankful.

—by Amy Parker

Pithlochaskotee Chapter

Situated in the heart of the historic city of New Port Richey is the Little Schoolhouse That Could: The West Pasco Historical Society and Rao Musunuru M.D. Museum & Library. The Pithlochaskotee Chapter chose this active historical society to receive the prestigious DAR Certificate of Award for Excellence in Community Service. The DAR and the WPHS share a common bond: the need to research our history and preserve it for future generations. The actual building that they call home is the former Seven Springs Schoolhouse, circa 1913, moved to its current location in 1983. They not only preserve our history but educate and share with free seminars, participation in community events and make a physical presence with residents and newcomers alike. This organization has been referred to as the most precious jewel in the crown of the city.

Regent Judy Weaver and Historian Kathy Oko had the honor to be able to show them our appreciation and the respect they deserve. It was a joyful experience seeing all their smiling faces as Bob Langford, their President accepted the DAR Award Certificate of Excellence in Community Service at their November 13th board meeting.

—submitted by Kathy Oko
**Ponte Vedra Chapter**

Every monthly DAR meeting is special, but when you have the Florida State Regent as your guest speaker the day is extra special!

The Ponte Vedra Chapter hosted State Regent Kay Yarborough at its November 5 meeting. Members of various chapters in northeastern Florida joined our members in welcoming our State Regent to Ponte Vedra Beach.

We listened as State Regent Yarbrough spoke about her love of the DAR, *What the DAR Means to Me (or I joined for the Jewelry)*, and talked about the State Regent’s Project and goals for the FSSDAR during her administration.

Chaplain Kathy Wendell led us in Ponte Vedra’s first annual Memorial Service honoring the Patriots of the American Revolution. Everyone was asked to name one patriot as we gave thanks for the blessings that our Patriotic ancestors won on our behalf.

Margaret Wright, a member of the Kan Yuk Sa Chapter and a member of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1046, presented Pat Hatcher with two pins: the Widows Pin, recognizing the sacrifices made by families of Vietnam Veterans, and the Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin recognizing individuals who served during the Vietnam War.

Happy Birthday was sung to Marianne Hibbard who celebrated her 90th birthday that day. As a former two-term Regent, the Chapter recognized her exemplary service by electing her as an Honorary Chapter Regent.

—submitted by Pat Hatcher

**Puc Puggy Chapter**

The Puc Puggy Chapter in The Villages, Florida, hosted the Florida Red Carpet premiere screening of the film *The Girl Who Wore Freedom* in November. This film depicts the story of 6-year-old Dani Patrix, and her story of how the French saw, and still remember, the bravery and heroism of the American GIs, and demonstrates why the United States has always taken part in protecting and liberating those who are oppressed. The people of Normandy still remember and appreciate to this day the sacrifices that were made.

Dani is the girl who’s Mother picked up material from the parachutes left behind by the American GIs and made her a dress from them dyed to reflect the American Flag. Dani’s picture was spread throughout Europe for years. Dani, who is now 80 years old and still has the dress joined us in The Villages along with her daughter Flo Boucherie and the films writer, director and producer Christian Taylor. The two-night movie event was sold out and was lauded by the many Veterans and others who attended.

—submitted by Karen Carbonneau
Sugar Mills Chapter

Saturday, December 14, 2019, was a beautiful sunny day for the Wreaths Across America event arranged by the members of the Sugar Mill Chapter. Chapter members had recently cleaned grave markers to make them readable. Markers of 35 veterans who are buried in this cemetery were found and American Flags were placed on their graves. This cemetery dates back to the 1800’s.

Presentation of Colors was by the Spruce Creek High School JROTC. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance was presented by Chapter Regent Beth Stephenson. The Invocation was given by Randall Morris, 1st VP, Flagler Chapter SAR. Reading of the names of the veterans was by the Regent. The relatives of the veterans mentioned placed a wreath on their loved ones grave. Then Sugar Mill Chapter members placed wreaths on the rest of the veterans’ graves. Recognition of Sacrifice was by Randall Morris. Taps by Robert Wade, Marine Corps Veteran, and Benediction also by Randall Morris.

The cemetery is maintained by Elizabeth “Libby” Johns who lives in Deland, FL and is the president of a small board organized to receive donations for the cemetery’s upkeep. She is also the keeper of its stories and has a team of volunteers and family members of the departed who assist her.

—by Carole Hare, submitted by Gail Ryssso

West Florida Chapter

On a beautiful Gulf Coast morning in early November, West Florida Daughters visited Eden Gardens State Park. The day began with a tour of the beautiful Wesley home built in 1897 and learned about the rich history of the home, the Wesley family and their contributions to the history of Northwest Florida. Next, daughters got to work helping staff prepare the home for Christmas decorations by dusting and polishing the beautiful antiques as well as windowsills and the magnificent staircase. The visit concluded with a lovely picnic lunch along the shores of Tucker Bayou.

L-R top row: Sharron Miller, Cynthia Wilson, Mary Fransen, Lynda Gallagher; 2nd row: Estelle Hubbell, Leta-Fern Bickers, Chris Keating; 3rd row: Leslie Schmidt, Connie Hall, Connie Lee, Candace Lovell; front row: Liz Barnes, Terri Vice, Nancy Welhart, Gayle Wallace

—submitted by Gayle Wallace, Public Relations Chair

Elizabeth “Libby” Johns
William P. Duval Chapter

William P Duval Chapter in Winter Park has been busy Squeezing every day! Our talented and involved members have all been visible throughout our community.

We started our fall off in fine fettle joining in celebrations with sister chapters and Joshua Stevens Chapter at the Museum of Military History. On to Constitution Week with a Mayoral Proclamation, a display at our local library, an amazing Bells Across America celebration including 3 churches, 2 fire stations, a local market and hosted an ice cream social for first responders afterward! We folded flags and participated in a flag retirement ceremony with a local American Legion and celebrated at a Great Day In The Country with a booth. Our members continue to sing with Veterans at the local VA clinic and serve cookies and juice to vets after blood tests. We collected books for children to promote literacy, hosted genealogy workshops at the Winter Park and West Oaks Libraries and our WPD Literary Society continues their rousing monthly book discussions.

We held a special ceremony honoring 20 Veterans of Vietnam with certificate presentations, and celebrated Veterans Day with a record attendance for our November meeting including four World War II veterans!

Not stopping there, we are collecting box tops to support our DAR schools, learning new technology to support GRS, growing gardens and tagging butterflies in our conservation efforts.

—submitted by Katie Campbell

L-R: Madelela Thompson, Brenda Brown, Linda Scheuplein, Linda Mease, Kay McGe, Jewel Horner, Ann Maner, Rosemary Utvich and Katie Campbell

MEMBER/HORIZON COURSE ARTICLES

MADONNA OF THE TRAIL
By Dorinda Garrard

Though I have been a member of the NSDAR for four years I jumped at the chance to join the New Members Course group. We have embarked on a 10-week course to familiarize ourselves with all aspects DAR. The fellowship and camaraderie of this endeavor has been rewarding.

One of the modules in our course is entitled The Madonna’s of the Trail. There are 12 statues stretching from Cumberland, Maryland to Upland, California. In 1911, the NSDAR established a national committee known as the National Old Trails Road. The goal was to recognize the contributions of women with a statue to be erected in each of the twelve states connected by the road. The committee chair was Judge Harry S. Truman; he guaranteed the expense of the erection of the monuments. A design was completed in 1927. They were dedicated in 1928 and 1929. They were created by sculptor August Limbic and funded by contributions.

Of special interest to me is the statue in Springerville, Arizona. Being a native Arizonan I am proud to know there is a statue in my home state. This statue was dedicated on 29 September 1928.
### Important Dates on the FSSDAR Calendar

#### January

**Happy New Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity/Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>JAC entries due</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Courtesy Resolutions requests due</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Literacy Promotion Outstanding Service award applications due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>American History &amp; Christopher Columbus essay winners postmark deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Junior Sunshine Gazette submission deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Constitution Week Outstanding chapter report deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Founder Medal nominations postmark deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Florida Arbor Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr Day</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>FSSDAR Honor Roll Award deadline</td>
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#### February

**Black History Month**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity/Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chapter Master Report (CMR) must be completed online on or before midnight, February 1.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Recommendations of members for their efforts to honor and thank Vietnam Vets due</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Junior Membership Golden Kangaroo Award applications due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chapter Outstanding Junior Award biography due</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Historic Preservation Project Contest applications due</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>State Credential forms must be postmarked on or before this date</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>USO Birthday</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Lincoln’s Birthday</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>FSSDAR Survey deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Valentine’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>National Library Lovers Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Florida e-Bulletin submissions for the March issue due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>DAR Scholarship Committee’s direct URL link to the on-line application submission portal closes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>American Indian Scholarship applications due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>American Indian Committee grant proposals due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>President’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>George Washington’s Birthday</td>
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For additional information refer to the Calendar of Important Dates to Remember 2019-2020 by Cindy Weatherby located on the FSSDAR members-only website.

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**Editor**

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