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Withlacoochee Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

December 2020

Withlacoochee Chapter of the FLSSAR Presents Thomas Bowen with the Law Enforcement Commendation and Fire Safety Commendation Medals



The Law Enforcement Medal is given in recognition of exceptional service and/or accomplishment in the field of Law Enforcement.

The Fire Safety Medal may be presented by the National Society, a state society or a chapter to an individual for accomplishments and/or outstanding contributions in an area of fire safety and service.



At our monthly meeting held on December 5th, President David Hitchcock presented both the Law Enforcement and Fire Safety Medals to Thomas Bowen.

Tom Bowen started at the Elyria Police Department in 1967 walking the beat as a patrolman. He got a badge, gun, nightstick and was on his own in two weeks. Promoted to Sergeant in 1975, Lieutenant in 1978 and Captain in 1984 on competitive civil service examinations. During the 70's he received an Associates Degree in Police and Fire Science, a Bachelors degree from Baldwin-Wallace University and also graduated from the FBI National Academy in 1977. He was Acting Chief for about one year shortly before retirement. During his career he handled every possible call including accidents, burglaries, robberies and homicides. His fire science degree came in handy when his city had a spate of arsons in the 1980s. He was "lent" to the Fire Department on many occasions to assist in solving the arson problem. Between himself and his training officer they had very innovative training days including shoot-don't shoot with live paintball type

ammo. They had an emphasis on training and trained more than any other P.D. in the state of Ohio. was Secretary-Treasurer of the Lorain County Police Chiefs Association for two years in the late 90s and scheduled police training for all of Lorain County law enforcement. He was also the chair of the Lorain County Child Abuse and Neglect Advisory Board for 5 years in the 90s.



President David Hitchcock, Thomas Bowen and Charles Day

After retirement he served for two additional years as a Metro Park Ranger and served 11 years on the Elyria Public Library Board of Trustees. He currently resides with his wife Mary Ann in a 55+ community in Spring Hill and plays tennis, pickleball, golf, serves on two committees and runs the bike and hike club. He is a member of the Fraternal Order of Police, the FBI

National Academy Associates, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Meriwether Society.

Ron Powell Awarded the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal

The Distinguished Service Medal is presented to a Compatriot for distinguished service rendered to the Chapter.



At our December meeting, President Dave Hitchcock presented the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal to Ron Powell for his many years of service to the Withlacoochie Chapter. Quoting President Hitchcock, “Ron doesn’t say much but he does a lot”. Thank you, Ron, for all that you do for our Chapter.



President David Hitchcock and Ron Powell

History Corner

Submitted by Mark Labadia

Hello Compatriots; I’m trying something new for our Newsletter. Every month I would like to add an article, artwork etc. for our readers to enjoy. If you want to contribute, please send me your material by the 15th of the month. Thank you, Mark Labadia

This month’s History Corner comes from the following Reference: Revolutionary War Journal August 11, 2019. [Armies, Historical Background, Strategy & Tactics](#)

By Harry Schenawolf

Washington’s Army December 1776

“A thick cloud of darkness and gloom covered the land and despair was seen in almost every countenance” an officer in the Continental Army, December, 1776. Another soldier wrote, “...strong apprehensions are entertained that the British will soon have it in their power to vanquish the whole remains of the Continental Army.”

Something that I didn’t know was by December, 1776, the American army was almost broken. Just four months after the Declaration of Independence. After the patriot victory and British withdrawal from Boston in March of 1776, the British pursued Washington’s army and beaten them at every engagement. After the retreat from Brooklyn Heights, Washington was forced to leave New York and retreat through New Jersey. By late November, he consolidated the broken fragments of his command. “On December 8th, he was chased across the Delaware River where his army disappeared into the rural landscape of Pennsylvania.”



Washington’s retreat across New Jersey in November and December, 1776. Artwork by Howard Pyle.

One of the men that camped in that cold Pennsylvania wilderness was Thomas Paine. “Paine answered the call to arms and joined General Nathanael Greene’s staff at Fort Lee. He had made the slog across New Jersey with his musket shouldered along with fellow citizen soldiers,

all fearful of the British army hot on their heels. He crossed over into Pennsylvania and sat among the troops without proper clothing, tents, blankets, food, shivering through the night under cold, relentless sleet and rain. By then, in early December, 1776, he had penned the opening immortal words of what he would call *The American Crisis*.”

“These are the times that try men’s souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of all men and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict the more glorious the triumph.”



Thomas Paine December 1776

Washington had crossed over from New Jersey with less than 3,000 men. Paine wasn’t the only patriot that headed for Washington’s army. “Philadelphia had responded with militia numbering 1,500 and German militia from the countryside had arrived. General John Sullivan stationed in New Jersey moved quickly and took his troops north and down through Easton, Pennsylvania to join Washington, arriving on December 20th. General Horatio Gates at Albany had sent 500 men down from the north who arrived about the same time. With the arrival of Colonel John Cadwalader’s Philadelphia Associators and the German Regiment from the west, by December 20th, Washington had an army 6,000 strong and fit for duty.” With the armies going into winter quarters, Washington could have breathed a sign of relief. “For even when things looked their worst,

Washington had no desire to wait until Spring to strike back; he began to plan an audacious counterattack.



Worn out troops from the northern army under Gates and Sullivan’s men faced a grueling winter’s march to join Washington.

“but necessity, dire necessity, will, nay must, justify my attack,” he wrote to his aide-de-camp, Colonel Reed on December 23rd. The next evening, he met with his generals. The plan was discussed and adopted. The objective was Trenton. And with that, fate would sit back and watch a firmly committed man launch a desperate venture to shed new life on a cause that just two weeks previously, had all but breathed its last.”



Washington crosses the Delaware on the night of December 25-26. He will be victorious at the Battle of Trenton, overwhelming the garrison of Hessians under Colonel Johann Rall.

*Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!*

