

FLORIDA KEYS CHAPTER

TAVERNIER

ORGANIZED OCTOBER 14, 1983

From February of 1982, Mrs. "K" Wilkinson worked diligently and relentlessly to get a DAR chapter established in the Florida Keys. As Organizing Regent, she saw her work come to fruition in October of 1983. We started with 13 organizing members, grew to 18 charter members, and won an award at Continental Congress for greatest growth in membership the following spring. Our growth has continued ever since in spite of deaths and members moving away. Our programs always fulfill the requirements and include some of the "usual" types --- KDS slide program, Indian Women slide program, numerous defense programs by the military, a conservation program by Everglades National Park Ranger, and others. We also have had some programs unique to our area including a tour of Mel Fisher's Gold Museum featuring relics from sunken Spanish galleons, including the Atocha, and a tour of the Audubon House in Key West. Our chapter participates in sponsoring the DAR Good Citizen contest, American History essay Contests, attending Fall Forum and State Conference. We are also proud that our third yearbook had only  $\frac{1}{2}$  point off and we would have made honor roll in 1985-86 if we had been fully aware of all the rules. We're learning as we go along and are extremely proud of each year's progress. We gave 57 flag certificates over a 13 mile stretch of the Overseas Highway and are currently working on the next 40 miles. We also participated very actively in helping a Key West merchant keep his tall flagpole bearing a large flag of the United States of America, when a historical preservation group felt it "did not fit" in the historical district! Rec'd. special Flag award at State Conf. '87. Each year we do something for veteran patients, participating in a conservation project, and travel up and down the Keys, sometimes 100 miles one way, to attend a meeting.

Chapter members who have entered into Eternal Life from 1983-1985 were:

Mrs. James Hickman, Mrs. Richard Ricks and Mrs. Harry Harris.

Our chapter very proud that we have won six awards since we organized in 1983 and looking forward to Honor Roll awards & more chapter projects in the future.