

Saturday, March 15, 2025

Veteran's Memorial Center

400 S Sykes Creek PKY, M.I., FL

1000-1100 a.m.

Presented by the Sons, Daughters, and Children of the American Revolution



The Last Naval Battle of the Revolutionary War took place off the Florida Coast, south of Cape Canaveral on March 10, 1783.

The fight began when three British ships sighted two Continental Navy ships, the Alliance commanded by Captain John Barry and the Duc De Lauzun commanded by Captain John Green sailing northward along the east coast of Florida. The Alliance, a 36gun frigate and the Duc De Lauzun, a 20-gun ship, were loaded with 72,000 Spanish silver dollars they were bringing from Havana, Cuba to Philadelphia to support the Continental Army. One of the British ships, the HMS Sybil, a 28-gun frigate, commanded by Captain James Vashon, chased the Alliance and the Duc De Lauzun to the south. The HMS Sybil fired first, exchanging shots with the slower Duc De Lauzun. Then in a daring strategy Captain John Barry, aboard the Alliance, reversed course, and while under fire, positioned his ship between the HMS Sybil and Duc De Lauzun. When the Alliance was alongside the Sybil and within 1/2 pistol range the Alliance returned fire with a greater number of canon. The battle lasted less than an hour, with the HMS Sybil, outgunned and badly damaged, broke of from the battle and fled. The Alliance and Duc De Lauzun continued on their mission at dawn on March 11, 1783.