

THE EVENT

An America 250 Celebration

The dedication is scheduled for March 14, 2026, in Pompano Beach, Florida, at the Fisher Family Pier. Pompano Beach, Florida, welcomes approximately 230,000 visitors annually to the pier and the surrounding village.



For ongoing updated information regarding Hotel reservations, Banquet & the event, please visit 1776Landing.org

Ways to support our mission

- 250 for the 250 honor roll \$250 and above.
- Minuteman muster roll anything under \$250
- Bronze \$2,500
- Silver \$5,000
- Gold \$10,000
- Platinum \$20,000

Contributions to the Monument are tax deductible; the FLSSAR is a 501(c)(3) Organization.

Checks should be made payable to FLSSAR; write (FAAM) in the memo section of your check.

FAAM Committee
20210 Moss Hill Way
Tampa, FL 33647

Or go to: 1776Landing.org and hit the donate button.

Email: 1776Landingcontact@gmail.com



The first amphibious landing is a little-known yet crucial event in the struggle for American independence. The FLSSAR and the FAAM Committee are committed to the mission statement of the NSSAR, which aims to honor our patriot ancestors, support our communities, and educate and inspire our youth about the founding principles of our nation.

FIRST AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT MEMORIAL





“The Catalyst”

On Christmas Day, 1775, Washington informed Congressman Joseph Hewes that the lack of gunpowder was "inconceivable." Intelligence reports indicated that the British had significant stores of gunpowder on New Providence Island, Bahamas, which prompted Commodore Esek Hopkins to consider it for a future operation. However, due to the burning of Norfolk and British attacks on coastal towns, Hopkins was assigned a higher priority mission.

He arrived at his flagship, the *Alfred*, on January 4, 1776, greeted by officers, including Continental Marine Capt. Samuel Nicholas. Crowds gathered at Philadelphia's Willing & Morris Wharf and James Cuthbert's Wharf to bid farewell to the departing ships *Alfred*, *Columbus*, *Andrew Doria*, and *Cabot*.

First Lieutenant of the *Alfred* and future Navy legend John Paul Jones hoisted the first colors raised on an American warship. The Colors of the American Fleet were striped under the

Union with 13 stripes, called the Thirteen Colonies, and their Standard a Rattle Snake, Motto, ‘Don’t tread on me’



As Hopkins settled into his cabin, he reviewed two letters of instruction provided by Congress. The first letter outlined the expectations of the fleet during the Continental Navy's first deployment. The second letter identified his mission: to proceed immediately to Virginia's Chesapeake Bay, if the winds and weather permitted. At that point, if the British forces were not greatly superior, he was to enter the bay and seek out and destroy any enemy naval forces.

Delays due to weather gave Hopkins time to reflect on his situation and orders. The task assigned to him by Congress was to engage the world's most powerful navy with only a small fleet of converted merchant ships, which were outfitted with low-caliber guns and crewed by inexperienced sailors. Hopkins was concerned about his chances of success.

He decided to leverage a clause in his directive that stated: "If bad winds or stormy weather, or any other unforeseen accident or disaster disable you, you are to follow the course that, in your best judgment, suggests itself." As a result, he opted to sail south, aiming to capture gunpowder from New Providence Island, over 1,000 miles away.

The Raid

On March 3, 1776, Captain Nicholas led a landing force of 270 Marines and sailors ashore, two miles east of Fort Montague, near the village of New Guinea. This marked the first amphibious landing in Navy and Marine Corps history.

On March 4, Fort Nassau was taken without a fight. The British flag was lowered, and the "Grand Union Flag of the United Colonies" was raised in its place. The Governor, Monfort Browne, was taken prisoner by force of arms.

The Marines captured 88 cannons, 15 mortars, 24 barrels of gunpowder, and thousands of rounds of ammunition needed by the Continental Army, Navy, and Marines. They secured so much materiel that the fleet was unable to carry it all back. Consequently, Hopkins impressed the local sloop, *Endeavor*, with a promise of payment, assuring that the ship would be returned to its owner after she delivered her cargo.

