

The Caladesi Chapter, DAR, wishes to thank the following people for their generous support and donations used to make this dedication possible.

Terry Fortner  
Jim Schnur  
Ellen Babb  
Vinnie Luisi  
Peter Krulder  
Phil Henderson  
Bill Renc  
Elizabeth Neily  
Ron Barnette  
Dan Hooper  
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David Kitchen  
Caladesi Island State Park Staff



Caladesi Chapter  
Daughters of the American Revolution



Caladesi Marker Dedication  
Caladesi Island  
Dunedin, Florida  
November 18, 2013



“Honoring Our Heritage-Focusing on the Future-Celebrating America”

### Caladesi Island

Ancient ceremonial and burial mounds on Caladesi Island are evidence of pre-European activity by countless generations of Native Americans. After the Spanish conquest of *La Florida* in the 1500s, the island was a site for seasonal encampments and fish ranches. This use spanned 300 years. Tall ships moored offshore. Soldiers and sailors came ashore to hunt, fish, and camp. Smoked and salt fish, plumes, and hides were traded with Cuba. For two decades, including the years of the American Revolution, the British ruled Florida before the Spanish regained control in 1783. Acquired by the U.S. as a territory in 1821, Florida became a state in 1845.

Swiss immigrant Henry Scharrer, a self-taught naturalist and protector of Caladesi, established a 156 acre homestead here in the 1880s. Born there in 1895, a daughter Myrtle is remembered for rowing daily to Dunedin to attend school, and for writing a memoir of Florida pioneer life: *Yesteryear I Lived in Paradise*. Visitors to the homestead included Fritz Kreisler, Robert Lincoln, Eddie Rickenbacker and Carl Sandburg. Caladesi Island became a Florida State Park in 1967. It is a rare surviving example of a naturally evolving barrier island with coastal dune, mangrove, maritime hammock, and pine flatwood habitat.

Wording on the Caladesi Marker was written by Honorary Past Regent Carolyn Allen and Terry Fortner

Welcome	Jeri Antozzi, Regent Caladesi Chapter, DAR
Invocation	Donarita Vocca, Chaplain Caladesi Chapter, DAR
Presentation of the Colors	Clearwater Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America	Carol Sullo, Historian FSSDAR
Welcome	Peter Krulder, Park Manager
Introduction of Guests	Jeri Antozzi
Early Life on Caladesi Island	Elizabeth Neily, Living Historian
History of Caladesi Island	Jim Schnur, President of the Pinellas County Historical Society
Welcome to Caladesi Island	Terry Fortner, Myrtle Betz's granddaughter
Dr. Willis S. Blatchley, Naturalist	Ron Barnette, Dunedin City Commissioner
Journey to the Caladesi Marker	Carol Allen, DAR Chairman of the Caladesi Marker
Marker Dedication	Carol Allen, Jeri Antozzi, Terry Fortner, Carol Sullo
Benediction	Donarita Vocca
Retire the Colors	Clearwater Chapter SAR

Please join us for refreshments in the shelter following the Dedication.