



THE MINUTEMAN



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President's Message

by J. Mark Hansen

VARIATION ON A THEME

Those who recall my thoughts "On Pride of Ancestry," expressed in an earlier column, will remember, too, my ambivalence about adorning myself with the neck ribbon and medal that past and present Chapter presidents are authorized to wear. The minting of a new Chapter Service medal by our State Society gives me reason to revisit that theme.

I applaud this new medal not because it is pretty, although it certainly is, but because it recognizes, specifically, service by Compatriots to our Society at the chapter level. Incredibly, it is the first medal ever issued by our State or National Societies for that particular purpose. Compatriot John Greer, of our sister chapter in Plano, deserves high praise for seeing to its production.

In the past, our Chapter has often resorted to awarding Bronze or Silver Good Citizenship Medals to Compatriots, sometimes indiscriminately, for lack of anything finer to give for a job well done. (Our extraordinarily handsome Certificates of Appreciation have become a rather ordinary award to active Compatriots, who receive enough of them to paper a wall.) The criteria for the BGC and SGC medals, awards meant to honor important or significant "service to the community," are published in the *NSSAR Official Handbook*, but those criteria are frequently – nay, *usually* – ignored. The BGC medal recognizes any person, adult or minor, whose achievements are noteworthy in their school, community, or state. It may also be awarded to SARs who have served in at least four leadership capacities in the following organizations: church, school, scouting, fraternal, business associations, government, patriotic, military, veterans, conservation, hereditary, genealogical, historical, or organized sports (e.g., Little League). The standards for an award of the SGC medal are even higher: an SAR may only receive it if he has served in six leadership capacities in one or more of the above-listed organizations. Furthermore, an individual may be awarded the SGC medal only once, and it may only be presented by a chapter with the approval of the State society. It behooves us as stewards of these medals to ensure that the standards governing their award are not

(Continued on Page 2)

October Meeting

Paul Martinez, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, will be our featured guest speaker on October 14.

For future program suggestions, feel free to call 1st VP Gary Sisson at 214-528-0543.

Historian Andrew Falk, spoke at our September meeting on "George Washington's War After the War." He detailed the numerous skirmishes between Jefferson and Hamilton that led to the development of the political party system.



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(President's Message Continued from page 1)

lowered out of expediency. That is why the new Chapter Service medal is such a welcome addition.

I owe my distaste for eroded award standards to the U.S. Marine Corps, where uncommon valor is still deemed a common virtue, and is, therefore, officially recognized less frequently than in the other services. I once met a Marine who had flung himself on a grenade in Vietnam to save his comrades. The Marine Corps gave him not the Medal of Honor, as you might expect, but only a Navy Cross (the naval service's second highest award for heroism), *because the grenade did not go off!* The quality of that Marine's bravery was no less than that of others who performed the same deed, but the consequences, horrific for the others, were certainly different. And therein lies the distinction the Marine Corps made: An ultimate sacrifice deserves the ultimate medal; an equally brave act, but with less sacrifice (or, luckily, none at all) merits a lesser recognition.

I admire that kind of stinginess in dispensing honors. I think it breeds higher standards; higher standards for awards increase their luster; and the more luster an award has, the more light it shines on a deserving recipient. In an era where any political crony can receive the Medal of Freedom (our nation's highest civilian honor), and our nation's flag can be ordered flown at half mast for the death of anyone, we need higher standards or the honors will become meaningless.

Now, I have a confession to make. Elaborately framed and hanging on my office wall are a Silver Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate that one of my predecessors in this office awarded me several years (and several Chapter offices) ago. I doubt that the giver of that award remembered the criteria for it, or I should never have received it at the time. I do not doubt, however, the giver's good heart and great expectations for me. And it's a funny thing. Sometimes you make an award that may be undeserved when given, but the recipient, keenly aware of the special trust and confidence placed in him by the award, eventually lives up to it. Maybe that's what the presenter of my SGC medal hoped. I just hope I have earned it.

THE MINUTEMAN is the monthly newsletter of the Dallas Chapter-Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution, a non-profit organization. (All photos by Charles Baker)

Meetings are held on the Second Saturday of each month at Luby's Cafeteria, 6221 E. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas, Texas. Coffee served with fellowship at 7:30, breakfast at 8:00, and meeting from 8:30 'til 9:30. Guests are welcome at our meetings.

OFFICER REPORTS

Registrar's Report:

Chapter membership now stands at 296. At the July meeting, there were 37 members and 15 guests.

Don Hay, Registrar

Treasurer's Report:

Regular Checking: \$ 2587.05

Endowment Funds: \$ 29,887.17

Jack Carney, Treasurer

CHAPTER NEWS

New Compatriots **Brad Nace** (son of Compatriot **Dr. Ed Nace**, his sponsor) and **Roy Ames** (sponsored by Mark Hansen) were sworn in at the September meeting.

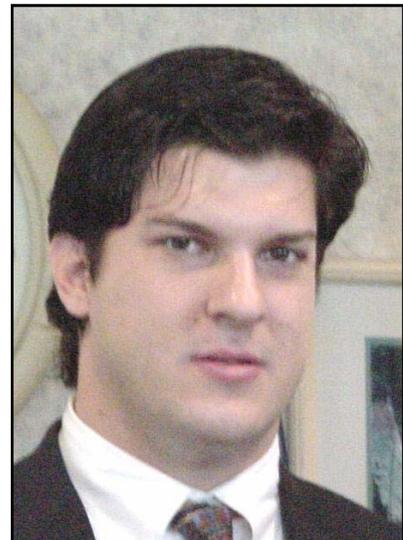
Dallas Chapter Compatriots will be staffing the DAR house during the State Fair and our State Fair Coordinator, **Henry Rather**, thanks all who volunteered. Drop by and see the special exhibits this year and hear the guest speakers!



**Compatriot
Roy Ames**



**Compatriot
Brad Nace**

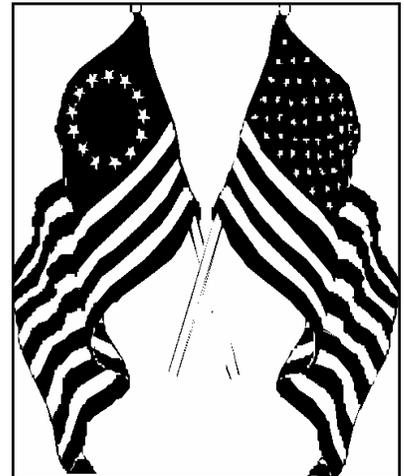




John Greer, Vice President, District II, and Chairman of the TXSSAR Veterans' Committee, challenged members of the Dallas Chapter to assist in providing markers for the graves of Revolutionary War patriots buried in Texas. The cost is approximately \$100 per marker. He also announced and exhibited the new TXSSAR chapter medals and tie tacks.

SPECIAL JANUARY MEETING OF THE DALLAS CHAPTER

Hon. William P. Clements, Jr. will be our special guest speaker at a 9:00 a.m. brunch in the Harvey Hotel on January 13. Clements is a Compatriot and a former Governor of the State of Texas. Your reservation must be made no later than Monday, January 8, by sending a check for \$15.00 per person to Mark Hansen, 500 Lakewood Drive, McKinney, TX 75069. Guests are welcome, as usual.



MEET YOUR CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chapter 2nd Vice President **Cliff Slagle's** patriot ancestor was Seth Thompson. Seth served three enlistments in the North Carolina Militia, and a three-year enlistment in the Army of the South with General Nathan Green. His militia duty was as a spy and fighting Indians. In the Army of the South, he was at Cowpens and King's Mountain. One of Seth's daughters, Zillah, married Isaac Jackson and settled in Texas in Austin's second colony, which allowed Cliff's membership in the Sons of the Republic of Texas.

After a tour of duty in the US Army Air Corps, Cliff received a BS in Aeronautical Engineering from Texas A & M in 1949.

He worked at Boeing Aircraft Company in the design of the XB-52 aircraft before returning to Texas to work for Texas Engineering and Manufacturing Company (TEMCO), and its successor companies, for 35 years. He earned an MBA from The University of Dallas in 1978. After retiring from E Systems in 1986 he formed a consulting operation for minor modifications to several type of aircrafts for foreign countries. He retired a second time in 1990.

Cliff and his wife, Henrietta, have two daughters (Members of the DAR) and one son, Jim, a member of the SAR Dallas Chapter.

