



Minutes for Chapter Meeting
July 15, 2023
Major K. M. Van Zandt Chapter #6, Texas SAR

9:30 a.m.

President Bobby Gresham called the meeting to order.

- **Chaplain Ralph Smith** offered the invocation.
- **President Gresham** led the pledge to the flag of the United States, the pledge to the flag of the State of Texas, and the pledge to the SAR.
- **Past President Turner** welcomed the members and guests which included Linda Wade, prospective member Scott Stoddard, Joseph Quinn and Todd and Thomas Samuelson.
- **President Gresham** turned the podium over to **Vice President** Kevin Shellman who introduced Mike Caldwell from the National Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington, TX. Mike is a retired Air Force Colonel with 24 years of service and is the Sr. Director, Operations and Veteran Engagement, National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation. Construction of the museum started in Arlington on March 22, 2022 and will open on March 25, 2025. \$231M was raised and \$43M is needed. The Top Out ceremony will be on July 20 when the last piece of the highest steel is installed. 100,000 labor hours have been spent so far. An unissued Medal of Honor was passed around the room to hold. There are three types of medals issued for the Army, Air Force and Navy. The medal was first authorized by President Abraham Lincoln in 1861. Out of 40 million soldiers that served, 3,516 medals have been awarded. 65 medal recipients are alive today with the average age being 80. Three live in North Texas. Eight live in Texas. Mike spoke about four medal recipients from North Texas which included Robert Law, Neel Kearby, George O'Brien and Horace Carswell. A Medal of Honor monument is planned for the Mall in Washington, DC next to the Lincoln Memorial at a cost of \$50M.

OLD BUSINESS

- **President Gresham** notified the chapter that the August meeting will be on Saturday, August 12 instead of August 19. The chapter Board of Managers (BOM) will be at Bacon's Bistro and Café in Hurst, TX on August 19 at 9 AM to finalize the new chapter constitution.
- **President Gresham** called for the Treasurer's Report which was presented by **Past President Turner** and approved by the chapter.
- **President Gresham** called for the Secretary's Report which was presented by **Secretary Mark Parkison**. Meeting minutes for May and June were approved by the chapter.
- **Registrar Gerry Gieger** and **Assistant Registrar Ron Turner** provided the Registrar's Report.

- **President Gresham** called for the Vice President's Report which was presented by **Kevin Shellman**. Selecting speakers for September and October chapter meetings is in work. Chapter BOM is planned for August 19 to finalize the chapter constitution.
- **President Gresham** called for the Chaplain's Report which was presented by **Ralph Smith** who spoke of the passing of Compatriot Joe Francis Turner. A sympathy card was sent by the chapter to Ron Turner's family and Ralph offered prayers for the family.
- **President Gresham** called for the Historian Report which was presented by **John Anderson** who reported no changes in record archive status. John was at the Arlington, TX 4th of July parade with 120 entries and was attended by the Arlington and Fort Worth SAR chapters on two floats. Two persons attending were with the Children of the Revolution (CAR).

NEW BUSINESS

- **Past President Ron Turner** is a George Washington Fellow and presented the George Washington Fellow certificate and pin to Compatriot Steven Hole who made a \$1,000 donation to the George Washington Endowment Fund. The fund enables NSSAR projects and committees by using 80% of the earnings.
- **President Gresham** with assistance from Ron Turner and Gerry Geiger, inducted Joe Wade into the chapter after two years of searching for his ancestor James Turner, about 1745-before 1806.
- **Compatriot Cody Sheppard** reported on Monday, June 19th, at the Parker County Hospital District EMS Training Center in Weatherford, Texas, officers and compatriots of the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter #6, Fort Worth, recognized and honored two EMTs with the SAR Life Saving Medal. They saved a truck driver's life by restoring his breathing on the way to the hospital after an accident. After three weeks, the driver only lost a leg and was well enough to meet the EMs.
- **Past President Mike Connelly** reported on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, chapter officers and compatriots recognized and honored three officers of the Fort Worth Police Department for saving the life of a kidnapped, abandoned infant. A carjacker tossed a child in a car seat into the ditch on I-35 that was a steep ravine. The Officers were able to interrogate the suspect and find the child and retrieve safely.
- **President Gresham** asked for prayers for his sister Allison Gresham White who has cancer with 30 treatments planned.
- **President Gresham** asked for a motion to adjourn which was made and approved.
- **Past President Turner** led the closing.
- **Chaplain Ralph Smith** offered the benediction.
- The meeting was concluded at 10:45 a.m.
- In attendance, per the sign-in sheet and observation, were 20 members and 4 guests for a total of 24 attendees.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Parkison, Chapter Secretary.