



**Texas Society**  
**Sons of the American Revolution**  
**Chisholm Trail News**



Major K.M. Van Zandt Chapter  
 Fort Worth, Texas  
 October 1, 2023

**NEXT MEETING:** October 21, 2023

**TIME:** 9:00 am

**LOCATION:** Diamond Oaks Country Club  
 5821 Diamond Oaks Dr N, Fort Worth, TX

*A monthly publication of Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter, Ron Turner, Editor*

**CHAPTER OFFICERS**  
 2022-2023

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**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS &  
 COLOR GUARD COMMANDER**

*J. Vann CUNNINGHAM*

**Texas SAR President**  
**to visit on January 20, 2024**

Texas SAR President Sam Massey

is scheduled as the Chapter's special guest on Saturday, January 20, 2024.

During his visit, he will install new Chapter Officer's for the 2024 & 2025 term.

***MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW & PLAN TO ATTEND!***



**Two Important Upcoming**  
**Meetings**

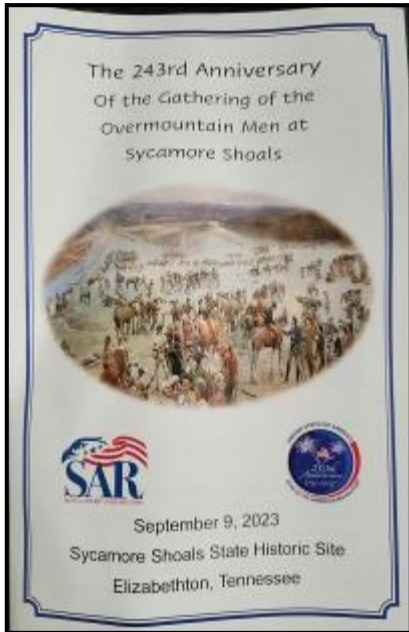
Our Chapter Meetings for October and November this year are important meetings that you shouldn't miss. At the October meeting, the Nominating Committee will present its slate of officers for the two-year term of 2024 & 2025. The Membership will also consider the approval of an update to the Chapter's Constitution and Bylaws.

Then, in November, the membership will vote on the slate of officer candidates. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor during the November meeting. Please plan to attend and vote on your leadership for the next two years.



# Gathering at Sycamore Shoals

The 243rd anniversary of the **Gathering at Sycamore Shoals** was celebrated on September 9, 2023, in Elizabethton, Tennessee, at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park. The Tennessee Society of the Sons of the American Revolution gathers every year at Fort Watauga in honor of the Overmountain Men coming together to march to Kings Mountain and defeat Loyalist forces under Col. Patrick Ferguson. The Gathering is celebrated with a Memorial Service and a wreath laying service.



Above is The Gathering at Sycamore Shoals program cover.



Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter Color Guard Commander Vann Cunningham repeated his participation in this event again this year. Vann (above left) is pictured with Scott Collins, National Color Guard Commander, Sons of the American Revolution.

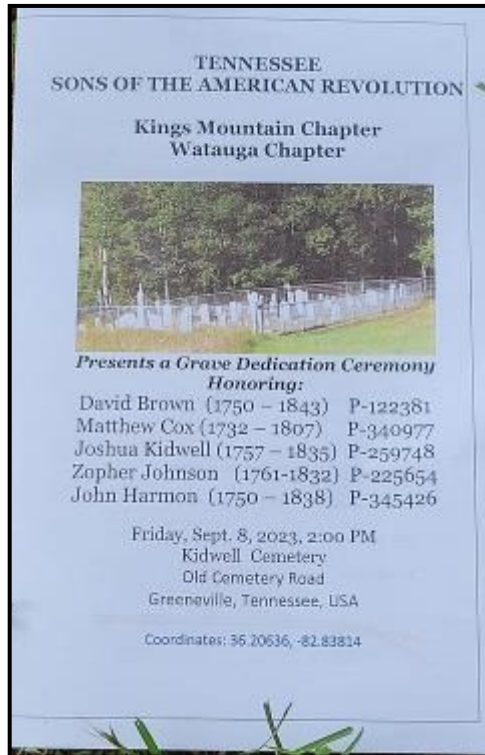


Vann presented the Texas Flag and a salute on behalf of Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter and the Texas SAR Color Guard.



# TN Grave Dedication Ceremony

Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Color Guard Commander Vann Cunningham participated in a Grave Dedication Ceremony on Friday, September 8, 2023, at Kidwell Cemetery in Greenville, Tennessee. The ceremony was sponsored by the Kings Mountain Chapter and the Watauga Chapter of the Tennessee Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. The ceremony honored five Patriots buried in the cemetery—David Brown (1750-1843, P-122381), Matthew Cox (1732-1807, P-340977), Joshua Kidwell (1757-1835, P-259748), Zopher Johnson (1761-1832, P-225654), and John Harmon (1750-1838, P-345426).



Above is the cover for the Grave Dedication Ceremony.

Vann presented the Texas Flag and offered a salute on behalf of the Chapter and the State of Texas. The Tennessee SAR and the local chapter recognized the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter for our participation in the ceremony.



## Annual SAR George Washington Mt. Vernon Tomb Vigil

On Saturday, September 16, 2022, Color Guard Commander Vann Cunningham repeated his annual trek to stand guard at the Tomb of General and Mrs. George Washington at Mt Vernon, Virginia. Commander Cunningham says it is great event and it would be wonderful if we could increase Texas representation every year. He again was the guardsman who traveled the farthest distance.



## Requiescat in pace, Compatriots!

One of SAR's top issues is Compatriots who drop their membership and continue to appear in the NSSAR database for years with an Inactive status. Often a Compatriot dies and the family does not notify SAR of the death.

Immediate Past President Ron Turner began a project of examining the SAR database for the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter. He found 391 names in the NSSAR database associated with the Chapter. Approximately two-thirds of these names reflect an Inactive status. Ron looked at the birthdates for all 391 individuals and currently has identified the following 35 Compatriots who are deceased. Once verified through a search for an obituary, Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, and Find A Grave, Ron submitted a Compatriot Death Report for each of the 35 Compatriots which is sent to both Texas SAR and NSSAR. The 35 Compatriots are:

- Jerry Steve Anderson, 142195/7341, 22 Aug 2014
- Harlan Eldon Baker, 114653/4365, 12 Jun 2003
- Charles C. Brinkley, 109674/4036, 30 Dec 2012
- Tommy Ray Brooks, 193592/?, 02 Mar 2017
- Richard Donnell Culbertson, 92387/1874, 02 Jun 2014
- Randell Maurice Dunklin, 141124/7214, 29 Jul 2000
- Frank Farkas II, 149783/8231, 01 Feb 2003
- Charles Arthur Farrell, 146321/7886, 17 Sep 2018
- Gary Lin Grubbs, 159971/?, 24 May 2012
- Lawrence Martin Hancock, 145744/7820, 03 Feb 2002
- James Emmett Haynes, Sr., 151495/8406, 23 Nov 2018
- Jerry Brookover Hendrix, 156239/8831, 07 Sep 2012
- Olan Vick Hicks, 154272/8672, 29 Aug 2015
- Weber Ralph Holloway, 131283/6055, 16 Aug 2014
- Dixon Wade Holman, 131240/6053, 26 Sep 2015
- Wallace Wyeth Hutchison, 87753/1615, 17 Nov 2019
- Robert Stanley Jones, Sr., 130837/6006, 17 Dec 2015
- Leslie Maurice Jordan, Sr., 120518/4828, 23 Jan 2013
- James Robert Lemon, 147249/7992, 13 Nov 2002
- James Edward McDonough, 112239/4550, 20 Nov 2008
- James Randolph McKenzie, 161322/?, 26 Oct 2020
- John Louis Merrill, 104907/2669, 05 Apr 2021

- Porter Brake Moore, 126353/5382, 28 Aug 2000
- Ronald Earl Moranville, 156474/8869, 21 Nov 2022
- Michael Shannon Nichols, 168045/9880, 08 Jul 2023
- John Jerome Powell, 148792/8127, 17 Sep 2021
- Russell Franklin Pringle, 154819/1954, 16 Sep 2021
- Roy Allen Ryon, 158516/9022, 17 Jun 2018
- Allen Lennox Shorkey, 183806/?, 08 Apr 2017
- Dr. John Sanford Terrell, 80770/1233, 14 Jul 2012
- Edward J. Tracy, Sr., 162120/9350, 30 Dec 2016
- Jimmy Dan Warren, 141582/7249, 16 Jan 2023
- David DuWayne Wise, 178739/?, 11 May 2019
- Gerald Harmon Wise, 178373/?, 17 May 2020
- Lee Roy Wylie, 154348/8677, 20 Mar 2010

And, the search continues.



## DAR Constitution Luncheon

A detachment from the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter Color Guard posted the Colors at the Tarrant County DAR Constitution Luncheon on Saturday, September 16th, at Ridglea Country Club. Participating Guardsmen were (left to right): Vice President Kevin Shellman, Steven Hole, Joe Wade, President Bobby Gresham, and Vice President District 5 Ron Turner who was the detachment commander for the event.



## The Battle of Coochs Bridge

“The battlefield at Cooch’s Bridge is one of Delaware’s rare historic places. Indeed, the battlefield is one-of-a-kind in the state. Nowhere else in the state did American soldiers meet British and Hessian troops in battle in large numbers. American soldiers sacrificed their lives on this field for a cause and a country, and all Americans are the beneficiaries of their sacrifice. These soldiers – approximately 24 in number – lie in unmarked graves on the battlefield. The precise locations of those graves are unknown. The battlefield is a legacy to their sacrifice and is hallowed ground.



“The Battle of Cooch’s Bridge was fought on September 3, 1777. Fighting here was described by American, British, and Hessian participants as “heavy,” “severe,” “sharp,” and “bloody.” The “British” unit most heavily engaged was not British at all but instead was the Hessian Field Jäger Corps, a well-trained, elite unit. Their opponents at Cooch’s Bridge were an ad hoc formation of American “light infantry,” composed of Continentals from New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, militia from Delaware and Pennsylvania, and volunteers under the command of New Jersey Brigadier General William Maxwell. Maxwell established his headquarters and camp at Cooch’s Mill a few days before the battle.

“The American Light Infantry Corps should have numbered a little over 1,000 officers and men, but probably did not exceed 800 effectives. From the day it was formed, the composition and strength of the Corps was in a state of flux, with units – particularly militia companies – being added frequently. The nine brigades forming

the Main army were ordered to furnish “...men that are good marksmen...” Recognizing that the Light Corps was a temporary formation, General George Washington ordered that the Corps be composed of men “...as may be depended upon.”

“The Light Corps was formed only one week before the battle and existed for about one month. While the Light Corps was itself new, many of the individual officers and men had previous combat experience. Their role was to gather intelligence, harass the British in their movements, and act as an advanced guard for the Americans. The American light infantry had no intention of fighting a pitched battle against the advancing British army, but sought only to delay. After fighting at Cooch’s Bridge, the Battle of Brandywine, and the Battle of the Clouds, the formation was dissolved in late September 1777.

“Early on the morning of September 3, the British army advanced from the Head of Elk towards Aiken’s Tavern (today’s Glasgow). The advance guard was under the command of Hessian Captain Johann Ewald, an outstanding officer who excelled at small unit combat and light infantry fighting. Ewald moved from Aiken’s Tavern north on the Newark Road towards Cooch’s Bridge with six mounted jäger. Around 8AM at about a half-mile north along the road, Ewald’s command was ambushed by point-blank musket or rifle fire from a hedge, and all six of his men were either killed or wounded”.

“Ewald attacked this American force with his company. The battle here between the jäger and the light infantry was spirited, but the Americans eventually quit this position, or were driven from it according to Hessian accounts.

“The Americans fell back and formed a second line in the woods and faced the Hessians again. Hessian officer Lt. Colonel Ludwig von Wurmb reported that the Americans in the second line “defended themselves obstinately,” but were outflanked in hand-to-hand fighting. The action here seems to have been heated. Lt. Colonel von Wurmb was described as “continuously in front of the jäger, encouraging them in every way, both by actions and by words.” Outflanked by the Hessian attack and engaged in hand-to-hand combat, the American second line exhausted its

*(Continued on page 7)*

ammunition and was forced to withdraw.

“By this time, the sound and intensity of the firing was increasing, so that Sir William Howe, commander of the British Army, determined to send in two battalions of British light infantry – elite troops – in an attempt to out-flank Maxwell’s line. The 1st Light Infantry Battalion moved to the east to cut off the American line of retreat but, as one British officer complained, the movement of the battalion was “prevented by an impassable morass, which the guide was not acquainted with.” It is likely that the “impassable morass” is in the present location of Sunset Lake, a mill pond created in the nineteenth century, and not present at the time of the battle. The 2nd Light Infantry Battalion moved to the west and while it, too, encountered a swampy area, it was able to continue its advance.

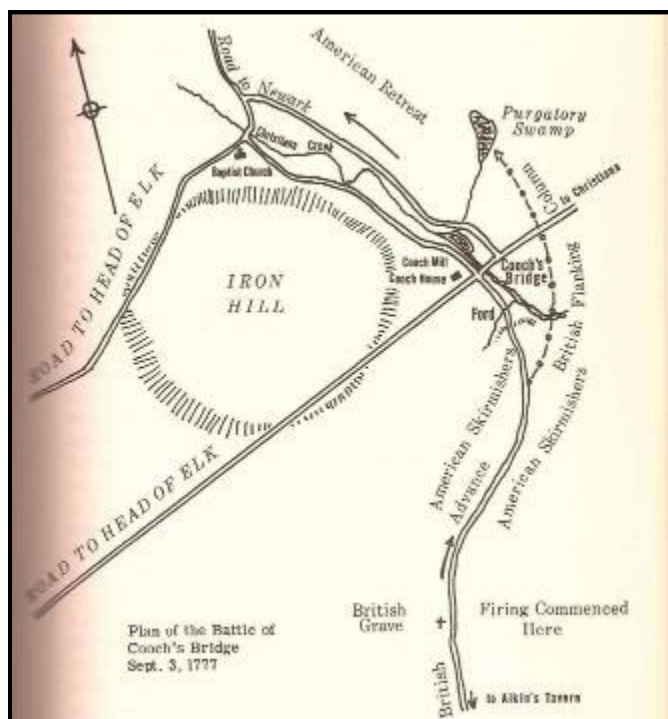
“The Americans withdrew and formed a third defensive line, this time to the east, passing the Cooch House and Mill and crossing Christiana Creek at Cooch’s Bridge. Further south, General Howe, concerned that the firing was still heavy and that his two flanking light infantry battalions were not yet engaged, sent forward more elite soldiers – two battalions of British grenadiers and cannon to support the jäger. In the combined force of Hessian jäger, British light infantry and British grenadiers, Howe was prepared to commit approximately 3,000 men to the fight; a force several times larger than Maxwell’s entire corps.

“The final phase of the battle was fought in the vicinity of the Cooch House and at Cooch’s Bridge. This third American line held for a time, but the Hessians, now reinforced by the 2nd British Light Infantry, forced the Continentals back from the bridge. The jäger’s 1-lb. and 3-lb. guns apparently came into play during the fight at the bridge. These cannons were loaded with grape shot which was used to deadly effect. British officer Francis Downman noted that he saw “a corporal and five men lying near together, killed by grape shot.” The British light infantry stormed across the bridge, taking a few casualties in the process.

“Their ammunition expended, facing a large enemy force with artillery, and unsupported by the rest of the American army, Maxwell’s troops withdrew, moving to the east and into thick woods, then toward the village of Christia-

na. Most participants agree that the engagement had lasted about two or three hours. The British controlled the field, holding the bridge and the main road to Philadelphia.

“Following the battle the British Army occupied the area from Rittenhouse Park and Iron Hill to Aikens’ Tavern (Glasgow). British General Charles Cornwallis established his headquarters at the Cooch House. The local grist mills of Thomas Cooch and Andrew Fisher were used to provide flour to the Crown’s troops. The British and Hessians encamped in the area for five days and on September 8 marched north through Newark. When they left their camps, the British burned the Cooch Mill. On September 11, 1777 the two armies met again at the Battle of Brandywine.



“Casualty reports for the Battle of Cooch’s Bridge are difficult to interpret and are likely under-reported. British and German accounts stated their losses as three killed and 40 wounded. American casualties as reported by the British ranged from 20 to 50 or more. American wounded were carried from the field, but the dead remained to be buried by the British. Among the American officers engaged in the battle were Virginian John Marshall (future United States Chief Justice), Thomas Duff and Samuel

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Patteson of Delaware, Alexander Martin (later Governor of North Carolina), Derek Lane of New Jersey (later of Rensselaer, New York), and Pennsylvanian merchant Francis Gurney (trustee of Dickinson College).

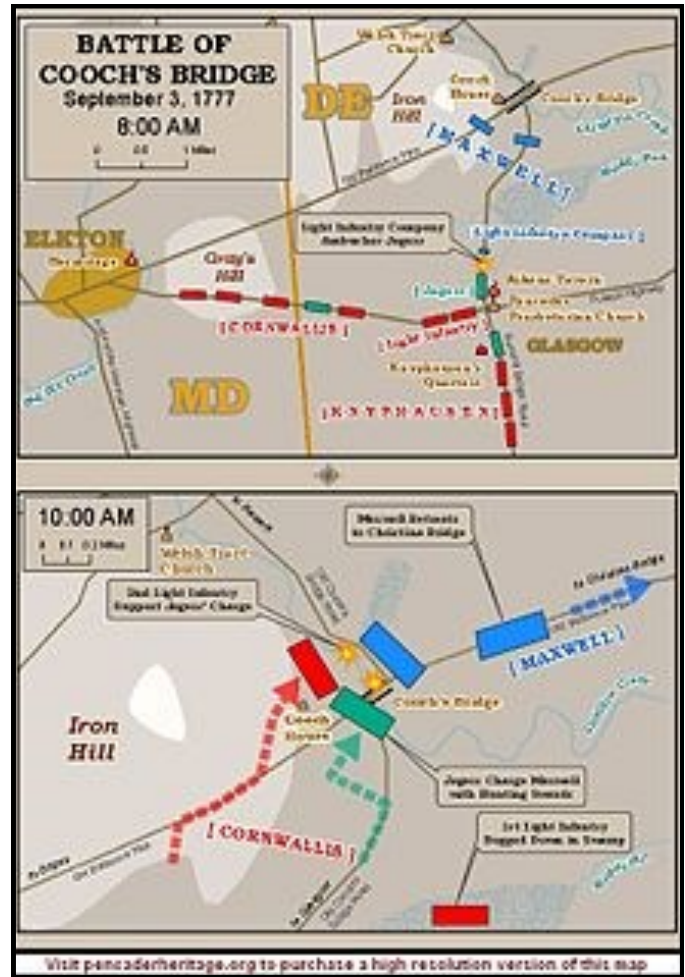
“The Cooch Property is a remarkable tract with a remarkable story. Thomas Cooch, Sr. and his wife and two children emigrated from England to Delaware in 1746. He purchased several hundred acres of land around Iron Hill and built a home next to the bridge over the Christina Creek in 1760. Seven generations of the Cooch family lived in the ancestral home, which has been modified several times. The cultural history of the land encompasses not only resources that are on the land, such as the Cooch House and farm complex, roads, and dams, or those that can be observed in the landscape, such as mill races, fence lines, and the Christina River – but also those items found below ground – the important and fragile archaeological record that provides information about the history of a place not found in written documents. Combined, these elements constitute a rich legacy of Delaware history.

“The first formal commemoration of the battlefield took place in 1895, when landowner J. Wilkins Cooch erected a flagpole in his lawn. The Wilmington newspaper, the Evening Journal (1898), described Cooch as “the only man in Delaware who owns his own battlefield.” A few years later in 1901, the Cooch’s Bridge Battlefield Monument was erected by state patriotic societies. Under Lt. Governor Edward W. Cooch, Sr.’s guidance, the monument’s plaque was modified in 1932. Since that time there have been commemorative events held regularly here at Cooch’s Bridge.

“The opening engagement of the Philadelphia Campaign,

the fighting at Cooch’s Bridge was not a pivotal or turning-point battle of the Revolution. However, to those who fought here, it was more than a skirmish. The battle served to affirm to the British that their invasion and intent to capture Philadelphia would be contested by General George Washington and his army.”

*This history was written by Wade Catts, MA, RPA, and winner of the DAR History Award!*



## Texas SAR Political Activity Policy

Compatriots:

As political campaign season is upon us it is important for all of us to be reminded not to mix SAR with politics - regardless of issue or party. This is important because 501(c)(3) organizations, such as the Texas Society of the

*(Continued on page 9)*



Sons of the American Revolution, are unable to participate in campaigning for specific candidates or political parties. 501(c)(3) organizations are also unable to lobby for changes in laws. If our organization does participate in such activities the officers and committee chairmen may be held personally liable for penalties. Even worse, the organization may lose its tax-exempt status.

I encourage you to fully voice your opinions on all political topics but do so without your SAR branded material. Please do not have your chapter or the state society listed as a sponsor for any political events. If you have pictures of political events where the SAR logo is somehow displayed, please remove the pictures from social media. If you are aware of other compatriots displaying or otherwise giving the impression that the Texas State Society somehow supports any political cause, please let me know.

In Patriotism.

Dustin Whittenburg  
chancellor@txssar.org  
214-532-5260



## Author of the Pledge of Allegiance

Francis Julius Bellamy was born on May 18, 1855, in Mount Morris, New York. He was an American editor and clergyman and is best known for writing the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America in 1892. Although the pledge underwent several revisions, the main pledge is credited to him. He died on August 28, 1931, in Tampa, Florida.

Mr. Bellamy graduated from the University of Rochester in New York in 1876 and from the Rochester Theological Seminary in 1880. He worked for several years as a Baptist Minister in New York City and Boston and was known for his fiery sermons, among them one preaching that Jesus was a socialist.

In 1891, Mr. Bellamy joined the staff of *The Youth's Companion* magazine in Boston. While working in the promotions department in 1892, he was chair of the committee that proposed that public schools celebrate Columbus Day, honoring the 400th anniversary of Christopher Co-

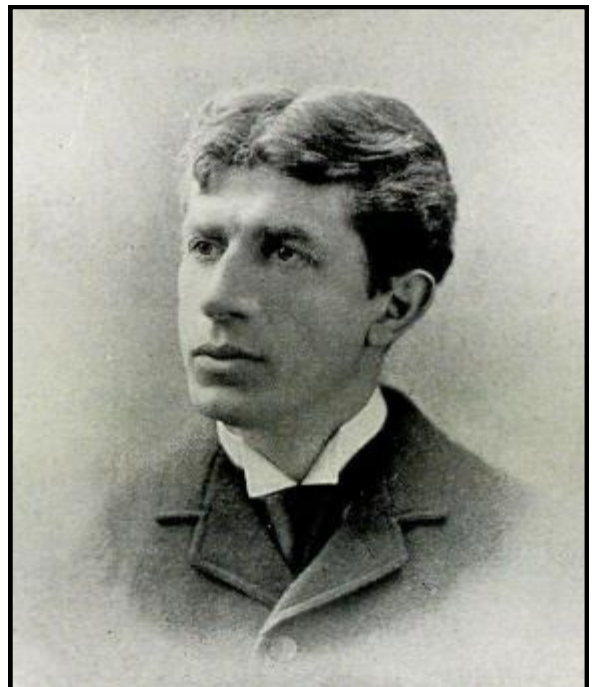
lumbus's arrival in the New World. Mr. Bellamy wrote the Pledge of Allegiance for that celebration and it was published on September 8, 1892, in *The Youth's Companion*. Mr. Bellamy's version was:

*I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands: one Nation indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.*

The wording changed a few times and in 1923 "my Flag" was changed to "the flag of the United States". The words "of America" was added in 1924 by the National Flag Conference, and in 1954, at President Dwight D. Eisenhower's urging, the United States Congress legislated that the words "under God" be added. Today, the Pledge of Allegiance reads:

*I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*

Authorship of the pledge was disputed for some years as James B. Upham, an editor of *The Youth's Companion*, claimed that he had written it. Unfortunately, Mr. Bellamy died before the issue was settled. However, in 1939, a committee of the United States Flag Association ruled in favor of Mr. Bellamy. In 1957, a detailed report issued by the United States Library of Congress supported the committee's ruling.





# WREATHS *across* AMERICA

Our Mission: Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom.

## MAJ. K.M. VAN ZANDT CHAPTER, TEXAS SOCIETY, NSSAR (TX0790P)

Please help us Remember, Honor, and Teach on December 16, 2023 at 12:00 pm by sponsoring a wreath, volunteering, or inviting friends to help.

SPONSOR WREATHS

VOLUNTEER



REMEMBER the Fallen. . . HONOR those who Serve. . . TEACH our children the value of Freedom.

Welcome to the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter, Texas Society, NSSAR (TX0790P)'s Wreaths Across America Page.

On December 16, 2023 at 12:00 pm, Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter, Texas Society, NSSAR (TX0790P) will be helping Oakwood Cemetery to Remember and Honor our veterans by laying Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes.

Please help us honor and remember as many fallen heroes as possible by sponsoring remembrance wreaths, volunteering on Wreaths Day, or inviting your family and friends to attend with you.

**The deadline for sponsoring wreaths for 2023 is midnight on November 27th.**

Thank you so much for supporting the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter, Texas Society, NSSAR (TX0790P) and Wreaths Across America!

**The link to our sponsor site is <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/161399>.**

Share the above link with your family, friends, neighbors!

**November 30th is the deadline for 2022 sponsorship of wreaths.**

## Color Guard Participates in Oath of Allegiance Ceremony

On Tuesday, September 26th, five members of the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter Color Guard posted the Colors at an outdoor Oath of Allegiance Ceremony in Grapevine, Texas. This is the third year that the Captain Molly Corbin Chapter DAR, in conjunction with the U.S. Customs and Immigration Service, has hosted the ceremony at the Grapevine Botanical Gardens. A large, but enthusiastic, crowd endured hot temperatures and a blazing sun in the outdoor environment. Following the ceremony, Guardsmen posed proudly as many new citizens and their guests wanted photo opportunities with them.



(l to r) Vann Cunningham, Steven Hole, Bob Jacobs, Ron Turner, and Bobby Gresham



## September Guest Speaker

Compatriot Gary Barker was our guest speaker for the September Chapter meeting. Gary wears many hats in the SAR organization. He is the Texas SAR Treasurer, the President of the Edmund Terrill Chapter in Sherman, and the Northern Commander of the Texas SAR Color Guard.



## CHAPTER LAPEL PINS FOR SALE

\$5 per pin

Available each month at chapter meetings

\$7.50 per pin with delivery via USPS

includes packaging & shipping

Contact Ron Turner

All proceeds from the sale of pins support the Chapter's Goodman Youth Fund and the Pray TCU Awards Fund.

Get yours today!



Support our Youth!

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## CHAPTER NAME BADGES

All members are encouraged to purchase a name badge.

Wear it to chapter meetings!

Use it to advertise the SAR and the Chapter at other events you attend.

Badges are \$14 plus tax.

Order yours at

<https://stores.inksoft.com/sartx/shop/home>



## NSSAR Staff Adjustment

The SAR Headquarters in Louisville will be going through a short-term construction interruption that will delay us from responding for a period of time.

Hopefully, we will be able to answer questions or handle issues as we can during this period but understand there may be a delay in responses. This will impact the Finance, Education, IT, Administrative, Genealogy, and Registrar functions. This will impact both our email responses and telephone responses.


The estimated window for this short-term construction is starting today Monday, September 25th through November 30th provided everything goes according to plan.

Please pass this on to your chapter or state officers so they will be aware of the situation.

Michael T. Scroggins  
Senior Director of Operations

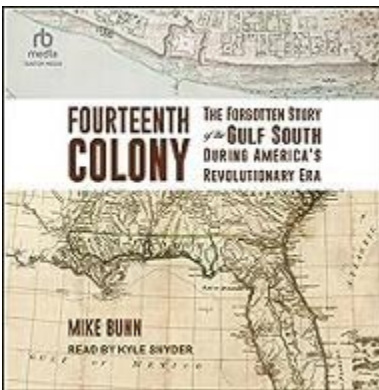


# READING for PLEASURE



## Fourteenth Colony: The Forgotten Story of the Gulf South During America's Revolutionary Era

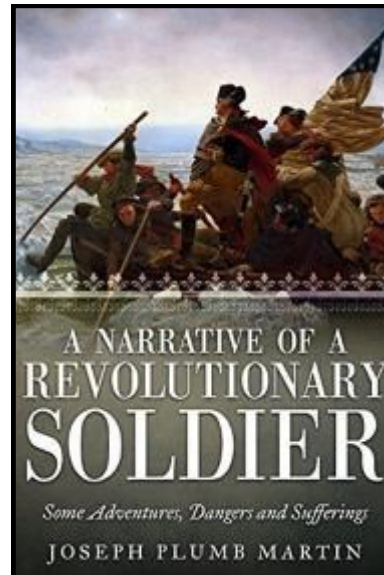
By Mike Bunn



The British colony of West Florida—which once stretched from the mighty Mississippi to the shallow bends of the Apalachicola and portions of what are now the states of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana—is the forgotten fourteenth colony of America's Revolutionary era. The colony's eventful years as a part of the British Empire form an important and compelling interlude in Gulf Coast history that has for too long been overlooked. For a host of reasons, including the fact that West Florida did not rebel against the British Government, the colony has long been dismissed as a loyal but inconsequential fringe outpost, if considered at all. But the colony's history showcases a tumultuous political scene featuring a halting attempt at instituting representative government; a host of bold and colorful characters; a compelling saga of struggle and perseverance in the pursuit of financial stability; and a dramatic series of battles on land and water which brought about the end of its days under the Union Jack. In *Fourteenth Colony*, historian Mike Bunn offers the first comprehensive history of the colony, introducing listeners to the Gulf Coast's remarkable British period and putting West Florida back in its rightful place on the map of Colonial America.

## A Narrative of a Revolutionary Soldier

By Joseph Plumb Martin



Joseph Plumb Martin (1760-1850) was a soldier in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. Martin participated in the Battles of Brooklyn, the White Plains and Monmouth, and the siege of Fort Mifflin, and the Battle of Monmouth. *The Adventures of a Revolutionary Soldier* relates the adventures of a young private serving his

country under terrible conditions. There are engaging accounts of army life, adventures, dangers, and suffering during the years 1776-1783. Martin's book opens a window on the founding era of modern America, and provides one of the most intimate portrayals of life as a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

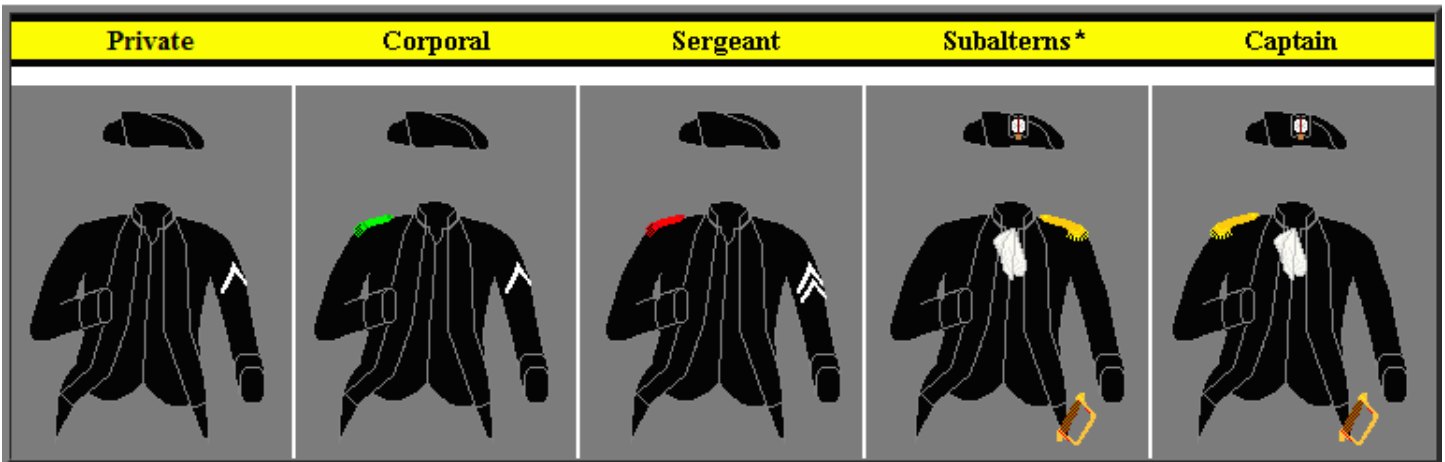


## U.S. Army Rank Insignia The Later Revolutionary War Era 1780

In June 1780, Gen. Washington issued orders on uniforms and insignia from his New Jersey headquarters. The Army expected to join forces with French troops soon and Washington wanted the Americans to give the appearance of the fine soldiers they were. All, except generals, were to wear the uniform of their regiment or corps. "All officers as will warrant as commissioned, to wear a cockade and side arms, either a sword or a genteel bayonet." Noncoms continued to wear their green and

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red epaulettes. Subalterns, an epaulette on the left shoulder. Captains, an epaulette on the right shoulder.

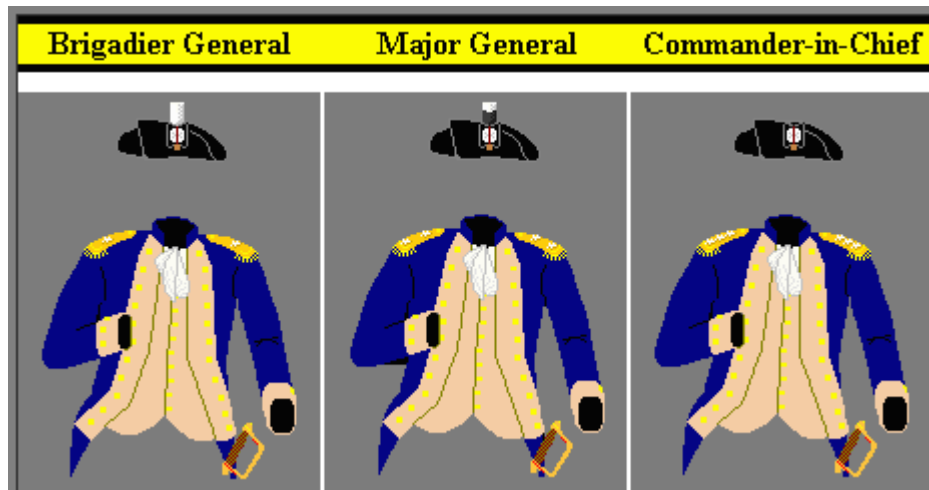


\* Subalterns were the most junior commissioned officers; Ensign, Second Lieutenant, and Coronet

Field grade officers were to wear two epaulettes. The aides-de-camp would wear their rank insignia on the uniform of their general, if they didn't belong to a corps. Aides of Brigadier and Major Generals were to wear a green hat feather. Those of the Commander-in-Chief, a white and green feather.



Generals were to wear "...blue coats with buff facings and linings, yellow buttons, white or buff underclothes..."



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 2023

- October 20-22 Texas SAR Fall Board of Managers Meeting, College Station
- October 21 Chapter Meeting, 9:00am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
- October 28 Patriot Grave Marking, Washington, LA, 10:30 am, **(CG-N)**
- October 28 Patriot Grave Marking, Opelousas, LA, 1:00 pm, **(CG-N)**
- November 5 Massing of the Colors, 2:30 pm, Birchman Baptist Church, Fort Worth **(CG-N)** [muster at 2:00 pm]
- November 11 Veterans Day Parade, 9:00 am muster, Panther Island Parking Lot, Fort Worth **(CG-N)**
- November 18 Chapter Meeting, 9:00am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
- December 16 Wreaths Across America, 12:00 noon, Oakwood Cemetery, Fort Worth **(CG-N)**

## 2024

- January 20 Chapter Meeting, 9:00am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth  
**Texas SAR President Sam Massey to install new officers**
- February 17 Chapter Meeting, 9:00am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
- March 16 Chapter Meeting, 9:00am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
- April 11-14 129th Annual Texas SAR State Convention, San Antonio, TX **(CG-S)**
- April 20 Chapter Meeting, 9:00am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
- July 10-16 134th NSSAR Congress, Lancaster, Pennsylvania **(CG-N)**

## 2025

- TBD 130th Annual Texas SAR State Convention, TBA, TX **(CG-S)**
- July 12-18 135th NSSAR Congress, Uncasville , Connecticut **(CG-N)**

**(CG)** = Color Guard event, **(C)** = Chapter, **(S)** = State, **(N)** = National



## Chapter Challenge Coins

**\$10 per coin**

Available at all Chapter Meetings  
Available via USPS with \$1.50 postage fee

Contact Ron Turner to order



This is the perfect way to advertise the SAR and our Chapter by handing out challenge coins to non-members, family, and friends!

## Dark violence and atrocities of the Revolutionary War

Book Review by Wendy Smith  
Boston Globe Correspondent, May 18, 2017

Holger Hoock's grimly detailed "history of violence" in the conflict between Great Britain and its rebellious colonies across the Atlantic offers a sobering corrective to the sanitized version of the American Revolution passed down through generations by the victorious United States. He paints a disturbing picture of what was in many ways a civil war, with both sides committing atrocities. He also provides a fascinating case study in the power of myth-making — and it seems only fitting that even at the birth of their nation, the Americans had a better grasp of the need for good publicity.

Perhaps it takes a German-born professor of British history, currently at the University of Pittsburgh, to treat this highly charged subject so evenhandedly. His first chapter, "Tory Hunting," begins with a grisly description of the tarring and feathering of an unpopular customs official in 1774. This was one of the myriad ways Colonial vigilantes "debased and defiled, humiliated and dehumanized, their Loyalist neighbors," Hoock comments. Persecution became official after the Declaration of Independence, when Congress and the states passed confiscation and banishment acts.

Britain responded with "desolation warfare." British warships bombarded coastal towns; Falmouth, for one, was reduced to a smoking ruin. The redcoats looted indiscriminately, seizing crops and property of rebels and Loyalists alike; plunder was often accompanied by rape.

Some British commanders instructed their men to take no prisoners; wounded and defeated American soldiers were killed on the field. When they were made prisoners, American soldiers suffered in conditions so terrible that mortality rates ran as high as 70 percent.

Hoock coolly reminds us that the looting and appalling prison conditions were consequences of the limited resources available to an army engaged in war thousands of miles from home, while the abuse of civilians and execution of defeated soldiers were rooted in the view that colonials were traitorous rebels to be suppressed by any means necessary.

Unfortunately for the British, these brutal tactics handed the Americans a priceless propaganda opportunity, which they exploited relentlessly. The war had barely begun when, in January 1777, Congress appointed a committee to investigate allegations of British war crimes; such a fact-finding mission, Hoock notes, was "unprecedented."

The committee's report, which included some wrenching first-person testimonies, "carried significant political and moral weight with audiences both at home and abroad," Hoock states. It was part of the revolutionaries' consistent and successful strategy to depict the British as barbarous oppressors who employed excessive violence, while General George Washington and his troops scrupulously observed the accepted 18th-century rules of civilized warfare.

Washington comes across in Hoock's balanced, unvarnished portrait as morally principled (with significant blind spots) and ruthlessly pragmatic. Any Continental soldier caught looting was flogged, and Washington per-

*(Continued on page 17)*





sistently begged Congress to maximize this deterrent by raising the number of lashes he was permitted to administer. He insisted that Americans treat their prisoners of war humanely, and generally they did, but apparently he did not consider Britain's Iroquois allies human beings. The book's most appalling chapter takes its title from the name the Iroquois gave Washington: "Town-Destroyer." Under his orders, the Continental Army carried out a punitive campaign that decimated the Iroquois' crops and homes, with the avowed goal of "the total ruin of their settlements."

Scorched-earth tactics employed against Native Americans raised hardly an eyebrow, but when the increasingly desperate British inflicted them on the white South, Hooch writes, it "alienated a war-weary population while reminding them of the purpose of their continued struggle." Racism also played a role; Southerners were outraged that the British promised freedom to slaves who fought for them and used mixed-race raiding parties to attack plantations. One stark fact epitomizes the moral messiness Hooch captures in such depth: Slaves owned by Washington and Thomas Jefferson were among those who fled to the British, and both men unabashedly retrieved their human property after Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown.

Washington went on to advocate reintegrating Loyalists into society with full rights and properties restored. He believed, Hooch writes, that "[a]fter winning the moral war . . . America also had to win the peace by conducting itself in accordance with international law and enlightened ethical standards." Those words ring slightly hollow, coming near the end of a narrative that demonstrates how fluid and self-serving ethical standards could be, but there's no implication that Washington didn't mean what he said. Like any truly valuable history, "Scars of Independence" eschews comforting good/bad dichotomies in favor of assessing the past in all its complexity and ambiguity.

*Scars of Independence: America's Violent Birth*  
by Holger Hooch

## Another Vietnam Veteran Recognized for his Service

On September 26, 2023, Compatriot David Fleming had the privilege of having lunch with Sergeant Ismael "Izzy" Espinoza of the Fort Worth Police Department.

Sgt. Espinoza is a veteran of the United States Air Force and served as a navigator on the B-52 Stratofortress bomber during the early 1970s. Sgt. Espinoza was stationed at Carswell Air Force Base and after separating from the USAF, he stayed local and joined FWPD. Sgt. Espinoza was hired by FWPD in November 1982 and he is currently in his 40th year carrying the badge.

Compatriot Fleming presented Sgt. Espinoza with a Vietnam War Commemoration lapel pin, as well as the Major K.M. Van Zandt SAR Chapter challenge coin. Compatriot Fleming thanked Sgt. Espinoza for his service to our country and ensured him his contribution would never be forgotten.





## CHAPTER REGISTRAR'S REPORT (as of August 11th):

### Applications in progress (National—10, State—1)

[Please note that *The Chisholm Trail News* only list those applications that have been submitted for State and National review.]

[National Review] Kenneth Kimberlin Brimer Jr, 178249, 10933, Aledo, TX, SUPPLEMENTAL, Thomas Connelley,  
 [National Review] Kenneth Kimberlin Brimer Jr, 178249, 10933, Aledo, TX, SUPPLEMENTAL, John King  
 [National Review] Kenneth Kimberlin Brimer Jr, 178249, 10933, Aledo, TX, SUPPLEMENTAL, Benjamin Cate  
 [National Review] Kenneth Kimberlin Brimer Jr, 178249, 10933, Aledo, TX, SUPPLEMENTAL, John Childress  
 [National Review] Kenneth Kimberlin Brimer Jr, 178249, 10933, Aledo, TX, SUPPLEMENTAL, Lawrence Holcomb  
 [National Review] Kenneth Kimberlin Brimer Jr, 178249, 10933, Aledo, TX, SUPPLEMENTAL, James Wooten  
 [National Review] **PENDEd**] Robert Anthony Jacobs, 218481, 14644, Azle, TX, SUPPLEMENTAL, Noah Wiswall  
 [National Review] Gregory Alan Riffel, 0, 0, Fort Worth, TX, **NEW**, Abraham Stover  
 [National Review] **PENDEd**] Tanner Allan Smith, 220894, 14872, Boulder, CO, SUPPLEMENTAL, Wilkins C. Smith  
 [National Review] Scott George Stoddard, 0, 0, Keller, TX, **NEW**, David Stoddard  
 [State Review] James Vann Cunningham, 188365, 11678, Arlington, TX, SUPPLEMENTAL, Joel Perkerson



## FROM THE NATIONAL REGISTRAR'S APPLICATION STATUS REPORT:

### Applications Approved in 2023 [approved and registered since the last newsletter]

Jan 27, Bryant McLean Jarrell, 225131, 15644, Hudson Oaks, TX, **NEW**, George Martin Shofner  
 Feb 17, Joseph Paul DeWoody, 212833, 14126, Fort Worth, TX, SUPPLEMENTAL, James Black  
 Feb 17, Joseph Paul DeWoody, 212833, 14126, Fort Worth, TX, SUPPLEMENTAL, Moses Hurt  
 Feb 17, Joseph Paul DeWoody, 212833, 14126, Fort Worth, TX, SUPPLEMENTAL, Adam Lackey  
 Feb 17, Joseph Paul DeWoody, 212833, 14126, Fort Worth, TX, SUPPLEMENTAL, Alexander Oliver  
 Feb 17, Joseph Paul DeWoody, 212833, 14126, Fort Worth, TX, SUPPLEMENTAL, Micajah Stone  
 Feb 17, Joseph Paul DeWoody, 212833, 14126, Fort Worth, TX, SUPPLEMENTAL, James Turner  
 Mar 24, Richard Leon Vandever, 225752, 15707, North Richland Hills, TX, **NEW**, Peter Doshier  
 Mar 24, Colton Lawrence Williams, 225479, 15704, Southlake, TX, FAMILY **NEW**, John Floyd  
 Mar 24, Nathaniel David Williams, 225750, 15705, Southlake, TX, FAMILY **NEW**, John Floyd  
 Mar 24, Samuel Clay Williams, 225751, 15706, Southlake, TX, FAMILY **NEW**, John Floyd  
 Apr 21, Mark Todd Nash, 226199, 15757, Southlake, TX, **NEW**, Garret Dungan  
 Apr 28, Kenneth Kimberlin Brimer Jr, 178249, 10933, Aledo, TX, SUPPLEMENTAL, John W. Connally  
 May 12, John Wayne Wheat, 226536, 15777, Weatherford, TX, **NEW**, Edward Jackson  
 May 26, Joe Vic Wade, 226754, 15791, Fort Worth, TX, **NEW**, James Turner  
 Aug 8, Fred Arlis Vanzant, 227450, 0, Lowell, AR, **NEW**, Garrett Vansant  
 Aug 11, Charles William Thomas, 221400, 14897, Weatherford, TX, SUPPLEMENTAL, Joseph Rhoades  
 Aug 25, Ronald Joe Turner, 198382, 12354, Euless, TX, SUPPLEMENTAL Joseph Barnett



October 4	Kirby Lee Boyd
October 5	Keven Jon Shellman
October 11	Bryant McLean Jarrell
October 16	Kedron Jacob Woodworth
October 17	James Vann Cunningham
October 24	Robert Donald Cochran
	Nathaniel James Davis
October 28	Roger Dale Cox

## MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Our chapter membership levels as of August 31, 2023, are:

Active / Current Member.....	108
<b>NSSAR Life .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>TXSSAR Perpetual .....</b>	<b>9</b>
Active/New Member .....	9
Active/Reinstated (current yr) .....	3
Active/Reinstated (Over 1 yr) .....	0
<b>Deceased (current yr) .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Deceased Perpetual (current yr).....</b>	<b>0</b>
Dual w/Other Primary State .....	2
Emeritus (50+ years) .....	0
Junior Member/Reinstated.....	0
Junior SAR Member .....	3
<b>Non-Paid Junior Member.....</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Not Paid (Current Year).....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Not Paid Dual State.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Reinstated/Transferred In .....	1
Transferred In .....	0
Dual Members (other chapters) .....	3

Our active membership currently is **126**.

## Compatriot Society Anniversaries

### October

Walter Franklin Bowie	35 yrs
Arthur Maxwell Thomas III	18 yrs
Lawrence Michael Connelly	15 yrs
Andrew Michael Cox	5 yrs
Larry Vaughn Mick	4 yrs
David Clark Fussell	2 yrs
Steven James Hole	2 yrs
Tanner Allan Smith	2 yrs

Thank you for your continued service to our Society and your dedication to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and promoting education to future generations

## Want one of these?

Vice President District 5 Ron Turner



will give you one of these lapel pins when you bring in and sponsor a new member application and NSSAR approves it.

It's just that easy!

## THE COLOR GUARD IS ALWAYS RECRUITING

Several times a year the Chapter is asked to present the colors or provide a color guard or honor guard for various civic functions. We are always looking for new members. Please contact the chapter color guard commander, Compatriot Vann Cunningham, at email address: [b155549@gmail.com](mailto:b155549@gmail.com).



*Thank you for your continued support of the Chapter and the SAR*

*God Bless America*

## IMPORTANT LINKS

Visit and bookmark our chapter website at <http://www.txssar.org/KMVanZandt/index.htm>.

Join our Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/292616193535075/>

Visit and Like/Follow our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/vanzandtsar/>.

Join our Google Group for emails at <https://groups.google.com/forum/?hl=en#!forum/sar-km-van-zandt>.

Visit and Like/Follow the Texas Society Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/txssar>.

## General Information

The Sons of the American Revolution is the leading male lineage society that perpetuates the ideals of the War for Independence.

As an historical, educational, and patriotic non-partisan, non-profit corporation organized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, *we seek to maintain and expand the meaning of patriotism, respect for our national symbols, the value of American citizenship, and the unifying force of "e pluribus unum" that was created from the people of many nations—one nation and one people.*

The *Chisholm Trail News* is published for members and friends of the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter #6, Texas SAR.

## The American's Creed

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States, a perfect union, one and inseparable, established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

William Tyler Page, 1917, accepted by the U.S. House of Representatives on April 3, 1918.

**Please consider a tax-free donation to the Chapter's Youth Funds which support Chapter Youth Contests.**