



Robert Rankin Chapter #62

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

The Rankin Register



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December Thoughts

by Thomas Jackson, Editor

When I was in church this past Sunday, the lyrics sung by the choir struck a chord within me, not only for the intended meaning, but also because the lyrics surely described that winter encampment of Valley Forge. Washington's army occupied this area from December 19, 1777 to June 19, 1778. The cantata, *Winter's Grace*, from renowned composer Joseph M. Martin included the following lyrics:

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan.
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.
Snow had fallen snow on snow, snow on snow.

...

It is winter now.

The falling snow has left the heavens clear.
Through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow.
All the earth lies dead and drear...

As we know however, Valley Forge was not the end of the Continental Army, but rather an important maturation process. Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, a former member of the general staff of Frederick the Great, arrived in Valley Forge with a letter of introduction from Ben Franklin. Von Steuben offered his military skills and commenced training the army. Others provided leadership and training as well. Hamilton and Burr were both present, as were the future President Monroe and future Chief Justice Marshall. Frenchmen Lafayette and Duportail were joined by the French trained German DeKalb, Knox, Greene, and Wayne were also there.

Silver Good Citizenship Medal



In the photo from left to right, Rankin President Bobby R. Smith, Greg Hall, TXSSAR President James Jones, Jr., and TXSSAR Newsletter Editor Larry Stevens.



Above are photos of a noon (12/01/10) awarding of a Silver Good Citizenship Medal to Mr. Greg Hall. His hands are on left and TXSSAR President James Jones, Jr. hands are on the right. The award was made at Carl's Bar-b-cue on Hwy 290 north. Rankin President Bobby Smith was instrumental in making this happen!

Wounded Warrior Presentations Long Distance



“I received the coin and certificate that you and the Sons of the American Revolution presented to Webb Mason. I am proud that the members of your chapter feel that the service I performed for our country was worthy of the recognition that you have honored me with. The award was presented to me by Walter Barker of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering Research and Development on 2 December 2010 on behalf of the Sons of the American Revolution. I thank you and the Robert Rankin Chapter #62 for bestowing this honor upon me.”

Webb Mason

Rankin President Bobby Smith met Webb Mason on an elk hunt and Bobby then took the steps necessary to recognize Webb Mason for his service to our Country. Thanks Webb! Thanks Bobby!

Editor’s Note: Our Wounded Warrior Program is under the direction of Rankin Chapter Compatriot Doug Thornton, himself a Wounded Warrior. The program is under the Veterans Committee, chaired by Chairman Bobby Smith.

The Beginning of the Program

From a speech delivered by President General Judge Ed Butler on November 10, 2009:

“Shortly after being inducted as President General, I started a test program, which I termed the “SAR Wounded Warrior Program”. Twelve of us participating in the Pacific International Conference in Honolulu in September, met with a dozen soldiers, sailors and airmen at Tripler Army Hospital, who suffered from severe traumatic stress disorder. We told them how much the SAR appreciated their service and sacrifice. As we presented them with SAR Outstanding Citizenship Award pins, we took their photo. Their photo, a copy of their SAR Certificate and a news release was shipped to their hometown newspaper, and the certificate was mailed to them. This event started with blank stares and ended with smiling faces and celebration.”



President Gurley presents Wounded Warrior Coin to Bill McKenna

World War II Army Veteran Bill McKenna was the guest speaker at October meeting of the Thomas Jefferson Chapter of the California State Society. Bill, a friend of Rankin Chapter Compatriot Douglas Thornton, spoke of his experiences at Corregidor. In a joint presentation of the Rankin and Jefferson Chapters, Bill was presented with the Wounded Warrior Coin and Certificate. Bill noted in an email, “Yes, I received a purple heart for scrapes and bumps received on Corregidor on the night the Japs tried to blow up Malinta Hill. I was so lucky to escape with minor wounds. I was just ten yards away from where six members of my platoon were buried alive. I am not familiar with Sons of the American Revolution, but I would be honored to have one of their medals.

Editor’s Note: Be sure to Google the Thomas Jefferson Chapter and Bill McKenna to read a wonderful description of Bill’s presentation. Doug Thornton reminds us that Bill was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor in the liberation of Corregidor. Bill McKenna, thank you for your service to our country! Doug Thornton arranged this presentation long distance!

Dickens on the Strand

The Galveston Historical Foundation presented the 37th Annual Dickens on The Strand Festival on December 4th and 5th this year. The Strand, a holiday festival, where bobbies, Beefeaters and the Queen herself were joined by members of the Robert Rankin Chapter Color Guard to recreate the Victorian London of Charles Dickens.

In addition to Patrick Kerr, David Jones, and Steve Tanner, various characters from the Dickens' novels walked the street.



Color Guard Commander Patrick Kerr is in front while Steve Tanner is to his rear and right in the photo. Steve is carrying the Appeal to Heaven flag. David Jones is riding in the carriage.

Patrick Kerr is a joint member of both the Robert Rankin Chapter and the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter.

Children of the American Revolution



In the photo above Julie Curtis-Win, founder of Texas Military Family Foundation (TMFF) is to the left of CAR State Society President Katilee Ralph and they jointly hold a "Barracks Bag."

The State Society CAR Theme is Preserving Our Freedom by Supporting Our Troops, which is fulfilled in part by the assembly of "Barracks Bags" for soldiers at Fort Hood Military Base through the Texas Military Family Foundation (TMFF). Barracks Bags are personal hygiene kits and over the summer, more than 500 Barrack Bags were delivered!



Each \$10 donation receives a State President's Project pin, shown at the left, and donations can be made through the T.S.C.A.R. Senior State Treasurer, Colleen Petosa, at 508 Cattle Baron Parc Dr., Fort Worth, TX, 76108. She may also be reached at cpetosatx@hotmail.com.

The Members of the Wings of Freedom Society of the CAR will be at the January Robert Rankin meeting and perform a skit about the National President's Project and the State President's Project. They also send Christmas Greetings to all in the Rankin Chapter.

Naturalization Ceremonies November 10, 2010



In the photo above are Rankin Compatriot Raymond Cox, Larry Stevens, Russell Dart, Rankin Color Guard Commander Patrick Kerr, Rankin Compatriot Stephen Tanner, and TXSSAR Past President Tom Green.

In the photo to the right, Compatriots from left to right are Tom Green, Larry Stevens, Stephen Tanner, John Thompson, Russell Dart, Patrick Kerr, and Raymond Cox.

In the front middle, Col. Danny Tilzey, 407th Army Field Support Brigade commander, is flanked by brothers Pfc. Tan Nguyen and Pfc. Tuong Nguyen. To their side is an unidentified official from the Department of Homeland Security.



From: <http://www.army.mil/-news/2010/11/23/48518-army-brothers-become-naturalized-citizens>: Photo credit Jessica B. Sanders

Editor's note: There has been often scheduled a naturalization ceremony aboard the Battleship Texas at the San Jacinto State Historical Park in La Porte, Texas to celebrate Veterans Day and the 233rd birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps. The event this year occurred the day before Veterans Day. The ceremony aired on local television and Ray Cox was prominently featured. The battleship Texas was commissioned in March 1914. It was transferred to Texas in 1948 as a permanent memorial on the Houston Ship Channel.



Ed Raines presents a flag certificate at Walker Elementary in CFISD during December.

Compatriot Ash Jackson (left with Jessie Doby) with the firm Leo A. Daly, once again selected the sand castle design on a historical theme and this year it was a salute to Texas. Both flags are always flown and once again, they were awarded a flag certificate. The quote of Davy, shown left, is sculpted below the cannon, star, and state.



“You may all go to Hell, and I will go to Texas.” Davy Crockett.

Newsletter Musings

With the December issue, the editor has the opportunity to look backward to see if goals were accomplished over the past year.

Each year we strive to issue at least six issues or approximately one for each meeting with sleep time thrown in for the editor. This year we issued sixteen.

CAR

The CAR is a high priority with the Rankin Chapter and it should be with the newsletter as well. Mention of CAR was made in eight issues!

More Newsletter Musings

Special Issues

The Rankin Chapter is really quite extraordinary and where appropriate we try to have one-issue newsletters that highlight special facets.

This year we had eight special issues: one for our Compatriot Richard Shanks, one to highlight the work of our Color Guard Commander Patrick Kerr, and three for the Board of Managers' Meeting hosted by the Rankin Chapter. In addition, there were two special issues for the summer and one for our state meeting in March.

Biographical sketches

We strive to publish biographical sketches of our members, particularly our new ones. This year we featured members in seven of our issues. Unfortunately, we did not do a sketch on each of our new members, but, just like my alma mater in football, there is always next year!



A picture that did not make the earlier issue is above. From left to right are Stephen Tanner, Patrick Kerr, Martha and George Washington, and Thomas Jackson. This was from the 2010 Summer BOM in Austin.

Ask the Editor:

Each year with the changing of the guard, certain questions are routinely asked. Those questions and the answers by the editor are shown below.

Where do the photos come from?

Photos are submitted by Compatriots to both the Historian and the Newsletter Editor. Of course, the Historian and Editor will journey with their cameras to take photos and they will exchange images.

What is the source of the articles? Who writes them?

As with any small newsletter, the reporter is also the editor. Articles are generally not submitted and the editor/reporter must be vigilant in contacting compatriots for newsworthy items to mention.

How long does the Newsletter take to write and publish?

As might be expected, each issue requires a different amount of time. On average, the editor devotes a minimum of four hours to one side of a page. That includes collecting the photos, the facts, drafting, correcting, and publishing. This year, seventy-six newsletter pages consumed over three hundred hours.

The above time estimate includes neither time for the Copy Editors, Gus and Bernice Mistrot, to review the copy nor our Webmaster, Ray Cox, to post the issue on the website. Also excluded from the estimate is the time to send by snail mail to our members who require that service.

Is the Chapter Secretary required to write the newsletter?

The secretary is not required to write the newsletter.

Upcoming Events:

Jan 12th Chapter Meeting
Officer Slate announced, Essay & Poster
Contest Judging

Feb 9th Chapter Meeting
Officers elected

Mar 9th Chapter Meeting
Change of Command/ Chapter Annual
Banquet

State/ National Convention Meetings

March 10-12 Spring 2011 Leadership
(Trustees) Meeting, Louisville, KY

March 25-27 TXSSAR, Spring Convention
Dallas, TX

July 30-31 Summer Board of Managers
Meeting, Conroe, TX

Check State Website

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Once more with gusto! TXSSAR Past President Judge Tom Lawrence (left) with Ed Raines (right) at the state convention in Houston. Ed became the third Rankin member to receive the Patriot Medal.