



# Robert Rankin Chapter #62

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

## The Rankin Register



Year 7, Issue 70

Organized April 2002

February 2012

### The President's Corner

by Stephen Tanner, President (2011-2012)  
(swtanner@sbcglobal.net)

February is the month where we vote on officers and their term runs from March of the current year to February of the year following. The elected officers will be sworn in during our March meeting and will then assume their duties and responsibilities. The term of our officers is rapidly drawing to a close. Annual reports have been filed with the state as well as national.

I am pleased to report that we have a full slate of officers who were elected. Our bylaws require us to have a Genealogist and this position is filled for perhaps the first time. Bobby Smith is to be commended for taking the Sergeant at Arms position from Ed Raines.



Doug Thornton, left, receives his Speaker Certificate of Appreciation from President-Elect Allen Greene. Doug, a WWII veteran and recipient of the Purple Heart and the NSSAR Wounded Warrior Medallion, told of his experiences in the Pacific Theatre. His story, both poignant and amusing, was well received. He noted that acts of bravery by soldiers who were often scared were commonplace. Doug, we thank you for your service!

### New Officers:

President	Allen Greene
VP/Treasurer	Terry Richardson
Secretary	Randy Pearson
Chaplain	Gus Mistrot
Sgt at Arms	Bobby Smith
Registrar	Fred Jackson
Chancellor	Allan Henshaw
Historian	Stephen Tanner
Co Genealogists	Stephen Tanner
	Thomas Jackson

The officers listed above were elected by acclamation.

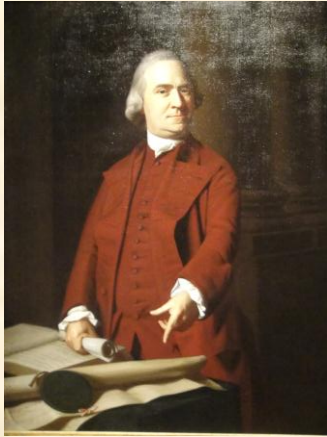


### Vionna Shanks

On January 29, 2012, we said goodbye to a dear friend, Vionna Shanks. She left us to join Richard. Members of the Rankin Chapter Color Guard were present at Houston National Cemetery and included Ed Raines, Stephen Tanner, and Tom Jackson. Vionna received the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal with an oak leaf cluster for over six years of support of the Rankin Flag Program. Richard, a Past President of the Rankin Chapter, was an engineer and was a NASA controller for the moon shot.

## *Certificates of Appreciation*

At our February meeting we thank our fellow compatriots for the contributions they have made in the past year by issuing appropriately named Certificates of Appreciation.



**Credit:** This is a photograph by Tom Jackson of the 1772 painting of Samuel Adams by the American artist, John Singleton Copley. It hangs in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. The painting, commissioned by John Hancock, depicts Adams confronting Royal Governor Thomas Hutchinson the day after the Boston Massacre, March 5, 1770. Adams is demanding the removal of British troops from Boston.

See: <http://www.mfa.org/collections/object/samuel-adams-30881>

## *Samuel Adams Certificate*

This recognition is for those individuals who served as Committee or Program Chairman and include:

Ralph Aniol (Photography, Newspaper Liaison); Ray Cox (Webmaster); Fred Jackson (Registrar); Thomas Jackson (Yearbook and Public Service); Allen Greene (Programs); Stephen Tanner (JROTC and Color Guard Commander); Theron McLaren (Flag Certificate); Gus Mistrot, Jr. (Knight Essay); Randy Pearson (Scout and Sea Cadet); Ed Raines (Looney Poster & Flag Program); Bobby Smith (Veterans).

## *Thomas Paine Certificate*

The Thomas Paine Certificate is for excellence in media. This year, Raymond Cox and Tom Jackson were recognized for their service as webmaster and newsletter editor respectively.

## *Robert Morris Certificate*

This certificate, now in its sixth year, is to recognize those compatriots who have provided noteworthy financial support to the Chapter. Stephen Tanner received this award this year.

## *Color Guard Certificates*

Color Guard Commander Stephen Tanner awarded Color Guard Certificates to members of the Rankin Color Guard for last year. Included were Ray Cox, Tom Jackson, Ed Raines, and Stephen Tanner.

Stephen is the third color guard commander of the Rankin Chapter. Ed Raines was the first and was followed by Patrick Kerr.

## *CAR Update*

The Eighty Fifth Annual State Conference Of the Texas Society Children of the American Revolution is scheduled for March 16 and 17, 2012 and will be held at the Westin Memorial City in Houston.

Robert Rankin member, Greg Thorne, has been nominated for the office of National President NSCAR. If he is elected, he will bring greetings at the SAR National Convention in Phoenix, AZ July 9 at the Youth Luncheon. Elections and installation will take place in Washington DC the weekend of April 20-22.

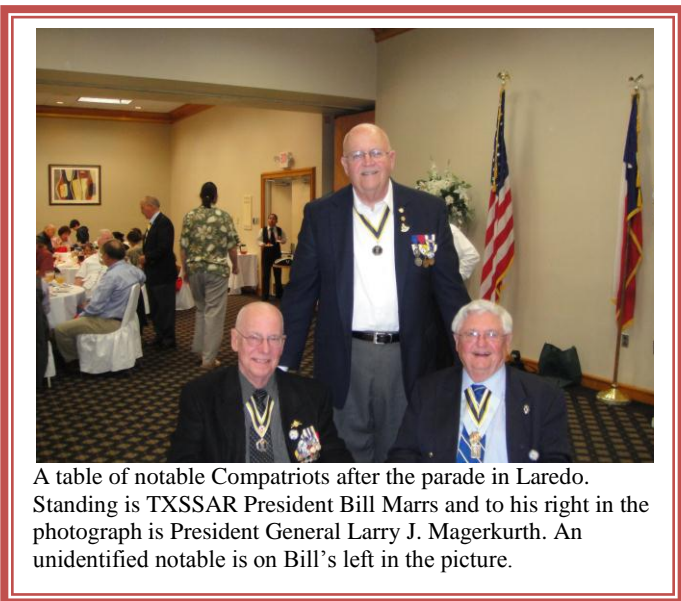
Mr. Hans Jackson, from the state of New Hampshire, has been nominated as Senior National President NSCAR. This is an historic first for C.A.R. - the first ever male leader of our organization.

Fellow compatriots, let us show our support for Greg and Hans!



## *Rankin Members Out 'N' About*

Perhaps the premier event for the Rankin Chapter this year was our appearance at the George Washington Parade in Laredo, Texas on February 20, 2010. In the photo below, Stephen and Karen Tanner, dressed in era clothing, stand in front of what we all hoped was The Wagon drawn by Clydesdales! Rankin CG Commander Tanner noted, "I was impressed that we were enthusiastically received by the crowds lining the parade route. The 800 mile round trip ride was well worth it."



A table of notable Compatriots after the parade in Laredo. Standing is TXSSAR President Bill Marrs and to his right in the photograph is President General Larry J. Magerkurth. An unidentified notable is on Bill's left in the picture.

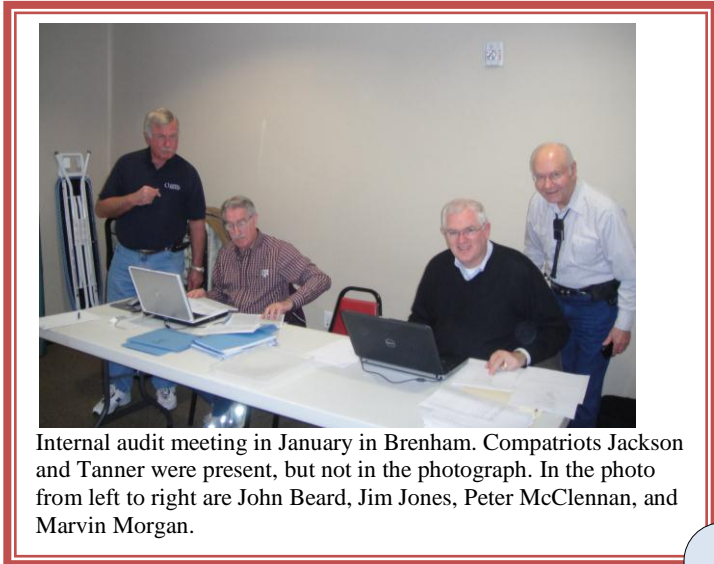
TXSSAR President Bill Marrs awarded Karen Tanner and Tom Jackson the newly approved Bronze Galvez Medal. Stephen Tanner was a prior recipient. All attendees who march in the parade are eligible for this award.



Compatriot Tom Jackson speaks to students at Watkins Elementary on considering a career as a CPA. He always leads with a discussion of his Spanish Patriot Ancestor, Francisco Hernandez.



On the left is Principal Missy Kilday of the Jersey Village Post Elementary Patriots in CFISD. On the right is Compatriot Tom Jackson. He visited the school and spoke of the Society and his ancestors.



Internal audit meeting in January in Brenham. Compatriots Jackson and Tanner were present, but not in the photograph. In the photo from left to right are John Beard, Jim Jones, Peter McClennan, and Marvin Morgan.

*New Faces in Rankin*  
*Eric Richardson*



**Personal:**

Eric was born in Geneva, Nebraska in 1962. He married his high school sweetheart Cindy Grote in 1984. They have three daughters and currently reside in the Fort Worth, Texas metroplex.

**Education:**

Eric graduated from High School in 1981 in Aberdeen, South Dakota. He earned a BS in Electrical Engineering from South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in Rapid City, SD in 1985. He earned a Master's in Business Administration from Friends University in Wichita, Kansas in 1999.

**Additional Academic or Professional Development**

He holds an Airline Transport Pilot license, Certified Flight Instructor – Instrument and Multiengine, Five Citation Jet series type ratings with over 4100 flight hours in 39 different aircraft. He is a certified Textron Black Belt and Master Black Belt and is a Certified Project Management Professional. He holds the 2010 copyright for “Where the Dead Go” bible study that he authored.

**Career**

Eric's career is dominated with experience in the aerospace industry across two dimensions: Engineering and Continuous Improvement. His early Engineering experiences include electrical systems design at the Boeing Military Aircraft Company, followed by avionics systems design at Cessna Aircraft Company both in Wichita, KS the air-capitol of the world. After a few years of avionics design Eric found himself in the cockpit as a jet Test Pilot. Soon thereafter, he was managing the Engineering Flight Test Department at Cessna.

His career next took a turn as he acquired skills, experiences and certification in Continuous Improvement or what some call Six Sigma. Eric was recruited by Cessna's parent company Textron to work in their corporate offices while directing worldwide Textron Six Sigma initiatives.

A few years later Eric was recruited by another Textron business unit, Bell Helicopter in the Fort Worth area, to apply his trade as a Master Black Belt where he currently is employed.

**Genealogy:**

Eric's qualifying patriot ancestor is Col. James Taylor.

**Upcoming Events:**

*Mar 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Chapter Meeting  
President-Elect Bob Clark will attend!*

*State Convention in San Antonio. Check  
State Website*

*Editor: Thomas Jackson  
Contact: [longhorntij@yahoo.com](mailto:longhorntij@yahoo.com)*