



Robert Rankin Chapter #62

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

The Rankin Register



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Our January Meeting

by Pat Kerr, President (2007-2008)

As always, our January meeting has a full agenda. It is at this meeting that we pick our essay contest winner as well as our poster contest winner. In addition, the proposed slate of officers for the upcoming year is announced. Many thanks to Richard Shanks for stepping in to take command of this task when surgery required one of our compatriots to step aside.



Douglas Thornton, standing at the podium) gives a stirring ancestral account while Richard Shanks, left, prepares to announce the officer slate.

Proposed Officer Slate:

President	Thomas Jackson
Vice President	David Jones
Sec./Treas.	Bob Smith
Chaplain	Doug Thornton
Sgt at Arms	Ed Raines
Registrar	Gus Mistrot
Chancellor	Allan Henshaw
Historian	Open



Rankin President Patrick Kerr (left) has just awarded to Kelly McBride (right) his War Service Certificate. Compatriot McBride is a Past President.



The winning poster is held by Ed Raines and will travel to Arlington. Below, two under consideration.



Member Spotlight

**Douglas W. Thornton Jr.,
Chaplain Elect, Robert Rankin Chapter**



Personal:

Douglas W. Thornton (Doug) was born June, 1922 in Atlanta Georgia where he has resided for most of his life. Doug, a widower, remarried in May 2006 to Margaret Chapman, a native of Forney, Texas. He has two children, Richard an architect living in Georgia and Paula who is temporarily living in Calgary, Canada. Paula is a 25 year member of the DAR. Doug's two grand children include Laura, a junior at Texas A&M and Matt who is living with his parent in Canada. A music afficionado, Doug fondly remembers a John Phillip Sousa conducting performance at the city of Atlanta auditorium featuring bands of the Bulldogs as well as the Rambling Wrecks.

Educational:

Doug is a proud graduate of the University of Georgia where he earned his BA with high honors in French. He returned to his alma mater to earn his JD. While at Georgia, Doug was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and also served as President of Omicron Delta Kappa. Although Doug is known to wear the red and black of the bulldogs often and with pride, his two children are graduates of the Georgia Institute of Technology (the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets).

Military:

Doug served in the Army from July 1943 until January 1946 in the 24th infantry division. He was a staff sergeant and also a

rifle squad leader. Decorations he received include the Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, Asiatic Pacific Medal with three battle stars, Phillipine Liberation Medal, GCM, North American Defense Medal, and the WWII Victory Medal. He was wounded July 4th 1945; the end of the Southern Pacific campaign was July 5, 1945. He was in a general hospital when he heard the news of the surrender of Japan on August 15th.

Professional and Volunteer:

Most of Doug's working career was as an accountant with Ralston Purina. In 1957 he became Secretary/Treasurer of Scott Huggins Realty and Mortgage, a joint venture partner of Tramell Crow in Georgia. From 1972 until his retirement in 1984, Doug worked for the State of Georgia as Departmental Budget Officer. He served as Vice President of Samaritan Together of Clayton Co., Georgia and was founder and served for seven years as a Director of Operation Jobs.

Genealogical:

Doug joined the Marquis d' Lafayette Chapter of the Georgia Society of the SAR in 1998. He subsequently transferred to Piedmont Chapter in Alpharetta, Georgia and then to the Rankin Chapter in 2007. Doug has been nominated for the position of Chaplain of the Rankin Chapter for the 2008 – 2009 year. His ancestor is John Morell II, a French Huguenot. Morell was a Captain in the Georgia militia and served as President of the Council of Safety in Savannah, Georgia. Both his father and his brother signed an oath of allegiance to the British Crown and were both lost at sea.

Upcoming Events:

Mar 12th Annual Chapter Meeting
(at Carrabbas on Katy Fwy.)

March 27th to 30th

State Conv. in Arlington*

*Check State Website