

Robert Rankin Chapter #62

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

The Rankin Register

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Content vs. Time

by Kelly McBride, President (2006-2007)

In our May meeting we experimented with our goal of increased content and a full agenda and ran into a rather unforgiving Father Time. I am pleased to say that those of you who were in attendance were more forgiving. As stated in our May newsletter and at our May meeting, we are planning to initiate a SAR veterans program for the chapter. I am pleased to say that David Jones is spearheading this effort. In furtherance of this goal our speakers for both our May and June meetings are veterans and David circulated a veteran's information form in order that we may recognize all of our Chapter members who are veterans with the appropriate SAR recognition. Please take the time to mail that form into David.

JROTC Update

The Robert Rankin Chapter has presented 6 bronze ROTC medals and certificates to the following: Cadet/Sergeant-Major Hector Vazquez, Westside HS; Jonathan Henry, Cypress Falls HS; Jordan Scott Smith, Cy- Fair HS; Anthony Milligan, Cypress Springs HS; Kathy Ambros, Jersey Village HS; and Derek Torres at Cypress Ridge HS. Presentations were made by Richard Shanks, Ed Raines, and Gus Mistrot. Thanks Compatriots!

Our May Meeting

Our special guest and speaker was Captain Marc Koepplinger, Team Leader, Special

Forces Reaction Team in Afghanistan and Iraq. Marc, a graduate of West Point, was involved in Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan, and made an inspiring Patriotic presentation on the American involvement in those two countries. His use of personal photos in his Power Point presentation brought us all into the events more closely.

An Educational computer slideshow presentation was made by Tom Jackson on the Battle of Lexington & Concord. An interesting colonial stew was served with a dash of poetry added to battle maps, art works and recorded comments of survivors and widows. David Crum made a Historical presentation on his relative, John Drake. The origins and significance of Memorial Day were noted by Tom Jackson.



Pat Kerr thanks Marc Koepplinger for his service to the US and his presentation. He presents him with a SAR mug and Certificate of Appreciation.

Upcoming Events

June 7, 6:30 p.m. – Social Meeting at IHOP, Ed Raines “Our Flags”

July 8-12, - NSSAR Annual Convention in Dallas

August 4-6, - TXSSAR Board of Managers meeting in Lake Jackson

Member Spotlight

**William Marion (Bill) Hall,
Member, Robert Rankin Chapter**



Personal:

Bill was born June 23, 1932 in Enid, Oklahoma to Edgar Woodie and Sarah Gregory Featherston Hall. After his birth, Bill was brought home to the

family ranch and locker plant at Fort Cobb, Oklahoma. This was located next to the Anadarko Indian Reservation, which is known as Indian City U.S.A. Edgar, Bill's father was one of the very few white men who enjoyed a close relationship with the Indians living on the reservation at that time. However, this did not stop Bill from being chased home on numerous occasions by Indian Braves on horseback for taking games of Cowboys & Indians a little too seriously!

Educational, Military, & Career: While in his teens, Bill began corresponding with a pen-pal named Sylvia Grace O'Dell who lived in Newport, Isle of Wight, England. In 1949, Bill joined the United States Army-Air Force, eventually choosing to be career Air Force. During his early years in the Military, Bill became a Methodist Minister with the goal of ministering to his fellow soldiers. During an assignment in France, Bill took the opportunity to visit his pen-pal, Sylvia in England. Bill and Sylvia were married March 6, 1954 in Newport, Isle of Wight, England. As he married a Catholic, his military career took off in a different direction. Bill's military career lasted twenty-one and a half years, during which time he served with the Occupation Forces in Germany, as well as tours in Korea and Vietnam. He received numerous medals and commendations during this time, including four Oak Leaf Clusters. While in Vietnam, Bill began an orphanage for Vietnamese Children.

After he retired, Bill went back to school and received an Associates Degree in Bio-Medical

Engineering. During his second career, he held numerous positions in manufacturing, including a position as Plant Manager of FMC Corporation, as well as Vice President of Manufacturing for SunStone Oil Company. Bill was a 32nd Degree Mason and a lifelong lover of history, especially the Civil War era and military. He was also an enthusiastic antique firearm collector and woodworker.

Genealogy: He spent over forty years as a genealogist, trying his darndest to get his children interested in their family history. Finally, his daughter was bitten by the genealogy bug, and became a member of the NSDAR, San Jacinto Chapter. After this was accomplished, Bill joined NSSAR by going in under his daughter! His Revolutionary War Ancestor is Colonel William Loftin, whose daughter Lavinia married Jesse Featherston. Bill and Sylvia were married for 51 years and left a legacy of four children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Bill passed away on June 11, 2005. Sylvia missed her childhood pen-pal so much that she joined him in Heaven on January 23, 2006.

Poster Contest Update

282 certificates, 7 ribbons, and a cash payment in lieu of a savings bond were presented to students at 7 different KISD elementary schools and 4 teachers were awarded Certificates of Appreciation during May by Ed Raines and Ash Jackson. Winners of the SAR Poster Contest, Robert Rankin Chapter: 1st place - John Hernandez, 2nd place - David Kropke, 3rd place - Tushar Raslogi, Honorable Mention, Allie Liles, Santiago Espiroso, Sabrina Lopez.



Robert Rankin's First Place Poster Contest Winner
Mr. & Mrs. Hernandez, John Michael Hernandez,
and teacher Melinda Martin of Franz Elementary in
Katy, Texas.