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## Robert Rankin Chapter #62

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

# The Rankin Register

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### *Looking Back & Ahead*

by David Jones, President (2009-2010)

This evening represents all that is good with the Robert Rankin Chapter. We are honored to have present at our meeting President General Ed Butler, TXSSAR President-Elect James T. Jones, Jr. TXSSAR Past President Thomas Green, and Virginia Evans, Regent of the Tejas Chapter.

Our chapter is also blessed with having two District Vice Presidents as members, Ray Cox and Allan Henshaw, both of whom are invaluable to the Chapter.

This past year our Chapter recorded over 23,000 points on the state annual report, which once again should be the highest in the state and the final point total from the state may be the highest in our chapter history.

The significance of what this Chapter did this past year is that if we measured ourselves nationally against the winners of the prior year we would have come out on top once again!

I would like to thank the officers and committee chairs for their hard work over the past year. The Chapter owes you a debt of gratitude for the time spent and the devotion and energy you have displayed over the past year. If we are to continue to set the standard, we must do it together as a team. Our strength has always been a unified effort. So I encourage all of us to devote ourselves to the Chapter and the accomplishments of its goals and objectives. Once again thanks for your help and support.

At the March meeting of the Rankin Chapter: Installation of Rankin Officers, from l to r: President General Ed Butler, Bobby Smith (President), Stephen Tanner (Vice Pres. & Treas.), Ed Raines (Sgt. at Arms and Secretary), Allan Henshaw (Chancellor), Ralph Aniol (Historian), Fred Jackson (Registrar), David Crum (Chaplain).



## Recognition of Leadership

The SAR authorizes the issuance of a BGCM for recognition of leadership in furthering the ideals of America. In the case of an SAR member, he shall have served in at least four of the leadership capacities in specified local organizations: Church, School, Scouting, Fraternal, Business Associations, Government, Patriotic, Military, Veterans, Conservation, Hereditary, Genealogical, Historical or organized Sports.

At the March meeting 2009, this recognition was initiated by awarding a BGCM and certificate to Richard Shanks and Gus Mistrot. This year we honored three new Compatriots. In the photo below, after the award of the medals and certificates, from left to right are Bobby Smith, President General Judge Ed Butler, Doug Thornton, and Kelly McBride.



**Bobby R. Smith** was a class officer his sophomore year at Texas A&M, a member of the Town Hall Staff his junior and senior years, a member of the Ross Volunteers, and selected a Distinguished Student and Distinguished Military Student.

Bob was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. in the Infantry and served as a platoon leader and Company Commander. During Bob's thirty-eight year business career he advanced steadily until he was President and Chairman of the Board of Southern Form Co. for over ten years. Bob has been President of the Piney Woods Chapter, SAR, President of the Sam Houston Chapter of SRT, and Chairman of the Southern Heritage Ball. Bob, a Life Scout, has been very active as an adult in scouting and has served at various positions of leadership in the Sam Houston Area Council.

**Douglas Thornton** is a graduate of the University of Georgia where he holds a BA Degree in French and a Law Degree. While at the University of Georgia, Doug was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and also President of Omicron Delta Kappa fraternity. Doug served as Rifle Squad Leader during World War II in the Pacific Theatre. He is the recipient of the Purple Heart and Combat Infantry Badge, among other awards and decorations. Most of Doug's career was spent with Ralston Purina in accounting. In 1957 Doug became Sec. and Treas. Scout Huggins Realty and Mortgage. From 1972 until his retirement in 1984 he worked for the State of Georgia as Departmental Budget Officer. Doug first joined the Marquis d' Lafayette Chapter of the Georgia Sons of the American Revolution and transferred to the Rankin Chapter in 2007.

**Kelly McBride** served as both the President of the Student Council and as the President of the Florida State Honor Society. He was Company Commander at Culver Naval School and later was a Captain in the USAF. Kelly, a graduate of Dartmouth College, served as President of the Houston Dartmouth Club. He was an officer in the Dartmouth Chapter of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity. Eagle Scout McBride was also an adult Cub Scout leader. In business he was a Director of the Houston Association of Personnel Consultants and also Sales Manager of the Corrugated Box Division, Weyerhaeuser Paper Company. Within his community he was twice Chairman of the Westchester Homeowners' Association as well as a five term President of the Memorial Spring Branch Optimist Club with one term as Regional Lt. Governor and one term as Governor. Kelly is also a Past-President of the Robert Rankin Chapter. He was active in sports first as a two year letterman on HS State championship basketball team, next as a starter on the Freshman Soccer Team at Dartmouth, and then as a coach of soccer for two years, Memorial Sports Association.

One of the very first SAR youth programs initiated by the Rankin Chapter is the George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest. This contest was originally named in honor of President Calvin Coolidge, who won a local SAR essay contest while a student at Amherst. The program is designed to give junior and senior high school students an opportunity to explore events that shaped American history.

Students must submit an original essay with topics based on original research and deal with an event, person, philosophy or ideal associated with the American Revolution, Declaration of Independence, or the framing of the United States Constitution.



In the photo above from left to right is Penny Rosas, John Harvey, and James Yang.

At its March meeting the Rankin Chapter recognized its Chapter winners to include:

**First Place: Joseph Choe** received the SAR Chapter Essay Medal with certificate and a \$300.00 Savings Bond.

**Second Place: John Harvey** received a BGCM with certificate and a \$200.00 Savings Bond

**Third Place: James Yang** received the Good Citizenship Lapel Pin as outstanding AP History Student and a \$100.00 Savings Bond for finishing third in the essay contest.

Texas Society President-Elect James T. Jones, Jr. presented the Robert Rankin Chapter's Outstanding American History Teacher Award to Ms. Penny Rosas. She is a history teacher at Mayde Creek High School in Katy ISD. She was also presented with a flag certificate. Ms. Rosas also won the Texas Society's Outstanding American History Teacher Award and will receive her award at the Annual State Meeting and then be entered in the National Society's competition. In the photo above, from left to right: Past President Tom Jackson, President General Edward F. Butler Sr., Ms. Penny Rosas and TXSSAR President-Elect James T. Jones, Jr.

## *Special Presentations*

A Rankin Chapter meeting is known for its special presentations and tonight was no different. Outgoing President David Jones is shown in the photo below in the center receiving his Past President's Pin from President General Ed Butler on the left while TXSSAR President Jim Jones applauds on the right.



David was also the recipient of the Bronze Chapter Service Medal with certificate in recognition of his three years of exemplary committee service at the Chapter level. David has finished his third year as Chairman of the Knight Essay Committee, which he revamped, and his second year as Chairman of the American History Teacher Contest, which he started. For these two committees David announced his goal of having Rankin Chapter sponsor the winning candidates in each of these two state contests. Last year the Chapter entries finished second in state in both contests while this year the Chapter entry finished first in state in both contests. He has also been a contributing member of the Public Service and Flag Certificate Committees.

President Jones also received the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal for his three years of participation in the Flag Show Program. David assisted in twenty-four of the programs and now has a speaking part in these shows presented to schoolchildren at elementary, junior high, and high school as well as to adults.

(Editor's note: This program has been presented to over twenty thousand adults and children. Rankin Compatriots Ed Raines and Richard Shanks received a BGCN for three years of flag show service in 2006/2007. DAR Tejas Chapter members who were also recognized include Gail Raines, Vionna Shanks, and Virginia Evans. Ed, Gail, Richard, and Vionna were recognized again in 2009 for their ongoing support.)



Compatriot Doug Thornton, shown above, received the Wounded Warrior Medallion and Certificate from President General Judge Butler in recognition of wounds suffered by Douglas in the Pacific Theatre during World War II. The Wounded Warrior Program was started by Judge Butler and Douglas was among the first compatriots in Texas to be so honored.

The Rankin Chapter was privileged to have both President General Judge Ed Butler as well as TXSSAR President-Elect James T. Jones, Jr. present at their meeting as speakers. Judge Butler is shown at the podium while President Jones is seated to the left in the photo below.



President General Butler urged Compatriots to attend the family oriented National Convention in Cleveland this coming summer. He also spoke of partnerships the National Society had entered into with Remant Trust and the Frazier Museum. Both organizations will loan works to the SAR Library and the Frazier Museum will provide security services. The NSSAR is also building a relationship with the Smithsonian, in hopes that the NSSAR will be designated as an affiliate of the Smithsonian. This would permit the NSSAR Museum to be called “The Smithsonian – S.A.R. Museum of the American Revolution History.” Judge Butler also reminded Compatriots to modernize, publicize, and socialize. Among the accomplishments of his term in office included the creation of the Wounded Warrior Program, emphasizing Spain’s involvement in the Revolution, and marking the grave of Horace Porter, third NSSAR President and the sleuth who found the remains of John Paul Jones.



In the photo above, from left to right: Past President Tom Jackson, President General Edward F. Butler Sr., and TXSSAR President-Elect James T. Jones, Jr.

Past President Tom Jackson made a special presentation to President General Butler and Texas Society President-Elect James Jones. President General Butler received copies of *On Seas of Glory* and *Middle Temple Lawyers and the American Revolution*. President-Elect Jones received *Revolution, Reform & the Politics of American Taxation, 1763-1783*.



In the photo above, from left to right, Judge Ed Butler, TXSSAR President-Elect James Jones, Rankin now PAST President David Jones, and Mrs. James Jones. Jim exhorted the Chapter to continue on their path and to expand their reach and activities. He reminded Rankin members of the \$500 per chapter national contribution challenge to support the Center for Advancing America’s Heritage.

## *Other Thoughts From Our Meeting*



In a tradition that started with Past President Kelly McBride, the Rankin Chapter celebrates its birthday and changing of officers by holding a joint meeting with a DAR Chapter. This year the joint meeting was with the Tejas Chapter and shown above is Tejas Regent Virginia Evans. Behind her is Ralph Aniol and to his right is Ash Jackson.

In the photo below Judge Ed Butler on the left has just received the Rankin traditional Speaker Certificate of Appreciation and coffee mug from newly sworn in Rankin President Bobby Smith.



Listening to our President General is Nita Smith, the new First Lady of the Rankin Chapter.



A frequent guest and strong supporter of the Rankin Chapter is TXSSAR Past President Tom Green, shown here in the photo to the left. He spoke of his appearance before the Texas Educational Agency and urging the study of Galvez!



### *Upcoming Events:*

*Mar 26,27,28*

*State Convention. in Houston*

*Check State Website*

*October 29,30,31*

*State BOM in Houston,*

*Hosted by Rankin Chapter*

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