



Robert Rankin Chapter #62

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution



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Our Veterans' Day Celebration

by Tom Jackson (President, 2008-2009)

was a grand event carried out in three parts to the delight of over thirty compatriots and guests. Included were remembrances of Veterans' Day Parades, recollections of Vietnam, and awarding of War Service and Military Service Medals to our Compatriots. All of this took place at America Buffet on Highway 6 in November. Finally a separate room, good lighting and sound, and enjoyable food and fellowship. Does it get any better than this?



The Celebration of the Veteran's Day commenced with a tale of remembrances by Douglas Thornton, standing at the podium with Compatriot Jackson paying rapt attention. Douglas recalled three Veteran's Day parades when the date was known as Armistice Day. His first recollection was as a boy with his Mother in Atlanta Georgia as he stood and saw soldiers marching by on Peachtree Street and his Mother pointed and said, "There goes Sgt. York!"

His next recollection was when he was a ROTC student marching in the parade on Peachtree Street in Atlanta, Georgia as Battery Adjunctant and he was reprimanded by his Company Commander for marching with his mouth open!

His third remembrance occurred when he was marching in Japan, this time as a Veteran of World War II, and noticed an elderly Japanese citizen watching the troops go by & wondering what his thoughts must have been.



(In the picture above, from left to right, Tom Jackson, David Jones, and Douglas Thornton.) Major David Jones, retired US Army, recounts his Vietnam experiences. Ask him about the assault on the beach as a green Lieutenant! His stories of his unit's mascot, a monkey replete with uniform, brought laughter from the crowd as well as his sanitary musings! Major Jones was awarded the Bronze Star three times.

The third part of our Veterans' Day Celebration was the awarding of SAR Medals to our Veterans. Timothy Kerr, a Vietnam Veteran and brother of Compatriot Patrick Kerr did not receive his as he lives out of state.



From Left to right: Veterans Committee Chairman Bob Smith (l) & Fred Jackson(r) . Fred Jackson was a 1st Lieutenant in the Air Force from 1957 until 1959. He served as Base Petroleum Officer and Aircraft Maintenance Officer in the 3551st Flight Line Maintenance Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Valdosta, GA. He was responsible for periodic maintenance for F-86L all weather interceptors. He wrote several articles for Air Force maintenance publications. His reserve career ended in 1971 with rank of Captain.



(From left to right, Bob Smith, Stephen Tanner, and Tom Jackson.) Steve served in the United States Air Force from 1967 to 1971. He was an aircraft weapons load team member. He served honorably in Vietnam and served a year at RAF Upper Heyford in England. He attained the rank of Staff Sergeant. He is Treasurer and Reunion Planner for the 510th Fighter Squadron Association.



(From Left to right, Bob Smith, Doug Thornton, Tom Jackson.) 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.



From left to right, Bob Smith, Tom Jackson, Ralph Aniol. Ralph served in the Korean War as a 1st Lt.