



*Robert Rankin Chapter #62*  
*Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution*  
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*Thoughts from the Gavel*

*by David Jones, President (2009-2010)*  
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A theme of my administration is to reinforce our ties with the DAR. Thus, we celebrated October with a joint meeting with the Tejas Chapter of the DAR. Hosting these joint meetings has become a cornerstone of the Rankin Chapter. These meetings remind our members (and theirs) of our joint goals and shared dreams. Coordination with CAR Societies is also enhanced. Tonight we recognized the very special support of our chapter provided by the Tejas Ladies.



In the photo above Ms. Mary Johnson, Regent of the Tejas DAR Chapter, (Houston, Texas), is to the right of Rankin President David Jones.

The Tejas Chapter was formed in 1952 and boasts a current membership of over 100 members. This DAR group is nationally recognized for their support of juniors including activities of the Children of the American Revolution and is a proud sponsor of the James Bates Society; the Rankin Chapter also enthusiastically supports this Society. The Tejas and Rankin Chapters are quite active in presenting flag programs to the public and have made joint presentations to over 20,000 people! In addition, both chapters have fully endorsed their respective organizations programs recognizing the American flag. The two groups also participated in the DAR grave marking of Patriot Alexander Hodge.

In recognition of the support provided by the Tejas Chapter to the Rankin Chapter, we have decided to award the first ever Medals of Appreciation to members of the DAR for their support of our Chapter..

The SAR Medal of Appreciation, shown below and authorized in 1960, may be presented by a chapter to a member of the DAR in good standing in recognition of and in appreciation for outstanding services rendered to the SAR to include significantly aiding SAR programs.

The medal is gold in color and bears on the obverse a relief of Molly Pitcher and is inscribed "Medal of Appreciation." The medal is suspended from a chest ribbon of the SAR colors and is accompanied by a certificate.



In the photo shown below, from left to right is Ed Raines, Gail Raines, Richard Shanks, and Vionna Shanks. Gail and Vionna have just been awarded the first two SAR Medals of Appreciation by the Rankin Chapter. These medals were for six years of support and participation of the Rankin Flag Shows.



The ladies generally come attired in colonial dress and help with the unloading of flags, helping to set up the stands, placing the flags in chronological order, furling the flags and wrapping with Velcro. They also assist by talking with the students and critiquing the presentation! Previously, both ladies received Martha Washington Medals after three years of service relative to the Flag Program.

*(Editor's note: The flag program, originally known as the Tom Green flag program, is considered the single most important program with which the Rankin Chapter is associated.)*

### A Mother Daughter Recognition!

In another Rankin First, a Mother (Virginia Evans) and Daughter (Michelle Bohreer) are both recognized in the same evening.



In the photo above, TXSSAR Past President Tom Green is in the background on the left, in the center is Virginia Evans who has just been pinned with the SAR Medal of Appreciation by Michelle Bohreer who is on the right.

Virginia received this award in recognition of six years of playing the role of Betsy Ross in conjunction with the Tom Green/Rankin Flag Program. Additionally, she is constantly on the lookout for additional venues and audiences for presentation of the program.

Virginia Evans will assume the role of Regent of the Tejas Chapter of the D.A.R. in 2010.

E. Michelle Bohreer received the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal in recognition of her noteworthy service. Michelle is the President of the Rotary Club of Houston and was the first female to chair the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Rotary Club of Houston. She serves on the executive council of the Gulf Coast Region of the American Cancer Society and received the American Cancer Society Shining Star Award of 2005. She is also a partner in the Law Firm of Bohreer & Zucker.



In the picture above from left to right is Gail Raines, Virginia Evans, Michelle Bohreer, and Reverend Harper. Virginia is pinning the Bronze Good Citizenship medal on her daughter Michelle Bohreer.

That completes the Mother Daughter recognition. Well done President David Jones!

The evening had yet one additional recognition to be given to a Tejas Chapter member, past regent Marti Thorne. Marti also received the Bronze Good Citizenship

In the photo below, Marti Thorne is on the left on Tom Green on the right. Marti has just received the BGCMB for noteworthy accomplishments from the Rankin Chapter.

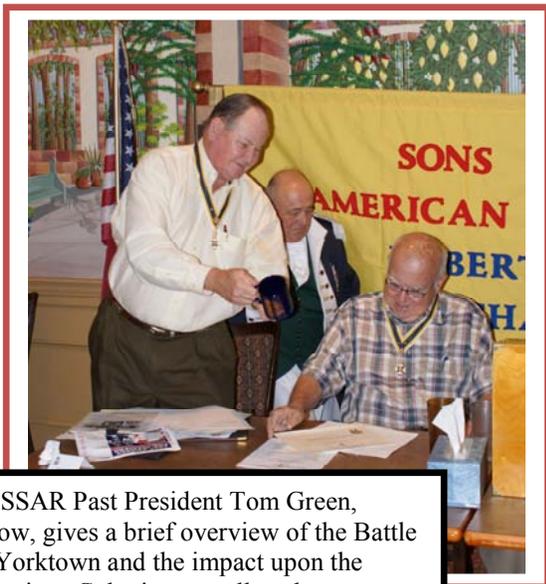


Marti's accomplishments and contributions are too many for our newsletter. She has been active in Scouting for over ten years and received the BSA Mustang District Award of Merit in part for establishing 5 Cub Scout Packs, Chairing the fundraising committee that secured \$100,000 in funded pledges, and served in various Pack and Troop positions of responsibility. In addition she serves as a Commissioner on the Fort Bend County ESD #2 Willowfork Fire Department and is the Coordinator for Marine Corp Toys for Tots drive.

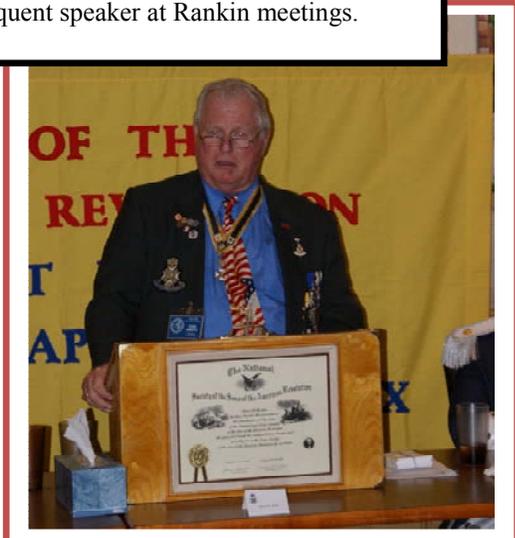
The support of the Rankin Chapter by Marti approaches legendary status. She has assisted in three joint meetings of the Rankin Chapter, Tejas Chapter, and the James Bates Society of the CAR. Further, she has supported the Rankin Eagle Scout program and the CAR Essay Contest with three of her nominees representing the Rankin Chapter over the years.

Our October speaker was Reverend Harper who spoke on Religion in the American Colonies. He reminded us that our Founding Fathers were not of one denomination or faith, but did share a strong belief and conviction in an Omnipotent Presence.

In the photo below, from the left, Vice President Bob Smith, President David Jones, and Reverend Harper. Bobby Smith is awarding Rev. Harper with the Rankin traditional coffee mug and Speaker Certificate of Appreciation. *(Editor note: Who knows the basis of this tradition? Look for the answer in a future newsletter.)*



TXSSAR Past President Tom Green, below, gives a brief overview of the Battle of Yorktown and the impact upon the American Colonies as well as the war around the world. *(Editor's note: Did I really say brief?)* Tom Green has been a frequent speaker at Rankin meetings.



Compatriot Richard Shanks honors one of his 17 ancestors.

This is a regular feature of the Rankin Chapter Programs and is a tradition that Past President Kelly McBride started.

What is a Rankin meeting without a Flag Certificate presentation? In the photo below from the left, Tom Jackson, Ms. Bohreer, Ms. Evans and Compatriot Green. The certificates were awarded to Michelle on behalf of the Rotary Club's Flag Program and to Virginia for her efforts in display of the American flag during the Houston Quilt Show.



"Doc" (Dr. Joe A. Rice) reminds us, "In seventeenth-century America, colonial officials viewed newspapers as the source of "disobedience and heresy and . . . libels against the best government." The Governor of Massachusetts once warned, "Great inconvenience may arise by the liberty of printing."

*Freedom of the press? Thanks Doc!*

*Upcoming Events:*

*Nov 11<sup>th</sup> Chapter Meeting*

*Board of Managers Meeting*

*Oct 30<sup>th</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>*

*Richardson- Check State Website*

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