



Robert Rankin Chapter #62

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

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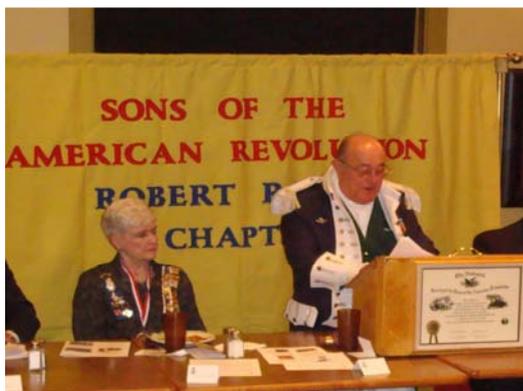
Our September Meeting

by David Jones, President (2009-2010)
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The September meeting represents a reality check for a new President as the planning of the summer will start bearing fruit in the fall. At the August BOM the Rankin Chapter was challenged by the state leadership to do a bit more. For our Chapter, that is a daunting task; however, our Compatriots are blessed with great talent and good hearts.

Specifically we were urged to recognize more individuals for their public service. Earlier tonight we awarded our Chapter's first Medal for Heroism, our 3rd and 4th Medals for Law Enforcement, and our first, second, and third Good Citizenship Lapel Pins awarded to adults.

We now start our youth programs and fall flag shows. Fellow Compatriots, step up and join us in the fun!

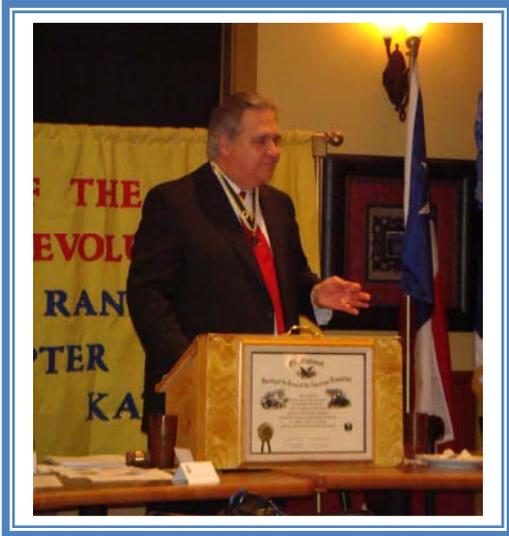


In the photo above Ms. Ida Fay Schmidt, Regent of the Libertad DAR Chapter, (Liberty, Texas), is to the left of Rankin President David Jones. This is the third joint meeting of the two Chapters.

Our guest speaker was Nancy Brandli, past Regent of the Libertad DAR Chapter and current Treasurer of her Chapter and also pictured at the podium below with Judge Lawrence on the right. She gave an educational presentation on the history of the DAR, founded on October 11, 1890. Women were excluded from men's organizations formed to perpetuate the memory of revolutionary era ancestors and thus formed their own group. The objectives of the DAR are historical, patriotic, and educational. Over 800,000 members have joined the DAR since its inception in 1890. The NSDAR awards scholarships to students pursuing degrees in history, law, nursing, and education.



Libertad Chapter, originally called the Sophia Harrison Chapter, was organized in 1934, and renamed in 1950. With over 100 members it is active in working with students, women, and veterans. Nancy is president of Woman's Federated Club, president of Friends of the Library, and a member of both the Master Gardener Association and the Liberty Jubilee Celebration. Nancy has also been honored for her literacy volunteer work.



The Robert Rankin Chapter was honored to have the Texas State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution President, Judge Tom Lawrence, at their September meeting. This was his third appearance and he was last present for the March 2008 meeting where we had the changing of the guard.

Judge Lawrence had two principal reasons for attending the meeting. The first was to formally present three National Awards to the Rankin Chapter for the calendar year ending December 31, 2008.

Foremost of these awards was the President General's Activities Award which is awarded to the Chapter, based upon size, which shows evidence of the *most complete practice* of implementing SAR programs and resolutions. Next was the presentation of the Liberty Bell Americanism Award which is awarded to the Chapter, based upon size, which presents evidence of *best implementing* S.A.R. resolutions and principles. Basically it means that the **Rankin Chapter** was judged to be the **Outstanding Chapter Nationally!**

The third of the National Awards was the Partners in Patriotism Certificate for participating in the 2008-2009 PIP Program by working hand-in-hand with a veterans group in pursuit of a common goal.

Judge Lawrence has just presented to the Rankin Chapter the President General's Activities Award and the Liberty Bell Americanism Award. Receiving the award on behalf of the Chapter, from left to right, are the Past Presidents and the Regional Vice Presidents that are members of the Rankin Chapter: Richard Shanks (2004-2005), Raymond Cox (V.P. 2008-current), Patrick Kerr (2007-2008), A. Kelly McBride (2006-2007), Edwin Raines (2002-2004), Allan Henshaw (V.P. 2002-2008), Thomas Jackson (2008-2009), Gustave Mistrot III (2005-2006), TXSSAR President Thomas Lawrence.

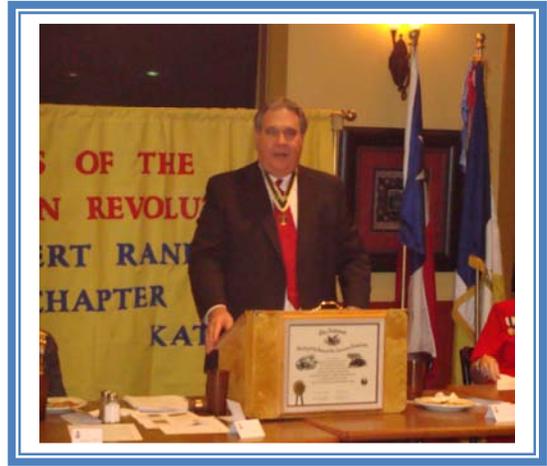




In recognition of the leadership, counsel, and advice provided to the Chapter and leading to the achievement of the National Awards, the Rankin Chapter authorized the presentation of Meritorious Service Medals and Certificates to Edwin Raines, Allan Henshaw, and Raymond Cox. The three Compatriots are shown in the picture above, left to right, to the right of Rankin V.P. Bob Smith.



In the picture above, Patrick Kerr pins the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal on his sister, Nancy Brandli. Nancy was awarded the medal for four years of service to the Rankin Chapter working with Patrick with publicity involving both the radio as well newspapers. This was Nancy's second time to speak before the Chapter. At the head table is Prosecutor Darwin Darby (l) and Judge Thomas Lawrence (r).



President Lawrence exhorted the Rankin Chapter to do a bit more and to be certain that they have a teacher nominated in the American History Teacher Contest. He also reminded the Rankin Compatriots that if they **want to receive a hard copy of the Texas Compatriot they must notify Texas Secretary Bill Marrs this month!** He also requested that when Patriot Fund donations are made that the donation is marked for current year program expenses.

Judge Lawrence was sworn in as presiding judge of H.C. J.P. Court on January 1, 1983 and still serves in that capacity. He was appointed by the Supreme Court of Texas to the Supreme Court Advisory Committee in 1999 and was elected Chairman of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct in 1996-1997; both are high honors for a JP Judge. He established one of Harris County's first Teen Courts in 1991. Additionally, he has drafted numerous bills that were enacted into law in Texas to include landlord tenant matters, small claims court and the suspension of driver's license of juveniles who fail to appear in court.

Within the SAR, Tom is a past President of the Carrington Chapter, National Vice Chairman Americanism Committee, National Vice Chairman Web Education Committee, and the International Vice President General.

How did they do it?

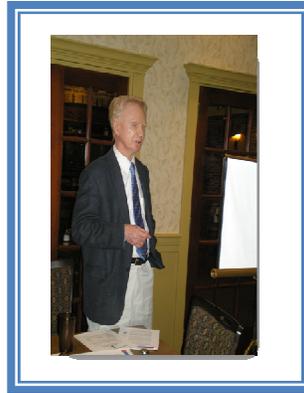
(Shown below, Rankin Presidents, current & past)



This was a question that several years ago was heard at State conventions and BOM meetings. At the August BOM, TXSSAR VP Steve Rohrbough remarked to the Americanism Committee that members needed to “take a look at what the Rankin Chapter was doing because they were running circles around all of the other Chapters.” So, how do we do it? Well, it didn’t happen overnight. The first three Presidents, Raines, Shanks, & Mistrot spent the first four years building a critical and sustainable mass in terms of members and in terms of programs. The next three Presidents, McBride, Kerr, and Jackson, then used the next three years by initiating new programs and gradually expanding existing programs. If we look at our annual report, the details emerge. 41% of our total points come from TXSSAR youth programs with most from posters and essays. 28% of our points come from our meetings and programs with the majority from our flag shows. Another 20% of the total is from special events with the majority from our flag certificates. The rest of the points are spread among Color Guard, CAR, publicity, and veterans. However, without the last group we would not have been eligible for the national awards! **So, how do we do it?**

Just a fine group effort!

High Hopes & Big Ideas



Big thinking Compatriots Ralph Aniol, left, and Ash Jackson, right, expressed their ideas at the close of the meeting. Ralph, who relayed his update to Tom Lawrence, is still working on his idea of a statue of George Washington to be designed by artist David Adickes and built taller than “Big Sam” who stands 67 feet tall. Compatriot Ash expressed his idea of creating Student Auxiliary Chapters of the SAR, with initial focus at the University of Houston and Rice University. Both men are working with past TXSSAR President Tom Green and Rankin Compatriot Ed Raines.

“Doc” (Dr. Joe A. Rice) reminds us that the Matthew Spring book, *With Zeal and Bayonets Only: The British Army on Campaign in North America 1775-1783*, was chosen as the outstanding book on the Revolution published last year and presents a view that the British Redcoats were not as hidebound to European tactics as often thought. A good read!

Upcoming Events:

Oct 14th Chapter Meeting
Nov 11th Chapter Meeting
Board of Managers Meeting
Oct 30th to November 1st
Richardson- Check State Website

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