



# The Texas Compatriot



Published three times per year by the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Winter Edition

February, 2015



**Robert S. Cohen, President  
Texas SAR  
2014-2015**

## President's Message

Greetings Compatriots.

I hope your year is progressing just as you planned. We continue to visit Chapters and promote the campaign, **Celebrate the Past, Strengthen the Present, Shape the Future.** Chapter visits include the Hill Country, East Fork Trinity, William Hightower, Texas Tech, Panhandle Plains, Freedom, Col. Turner Sharp, Paul Carrington, Edmund Terrell, Capt. William Barron, Red River Valley, Plano, Athens, Heart of Texas, Bluebonnet, Freedom, and Maj. K. M. Van Zandt Chapters. Currently, visits are planned for the San Antonio, Boerne, Independence, East Texas, Brazos Valley, Laredo, Freedomia, Arlington and Laredo Chapters. We've enjoyed meeting so many nice people, installing officers and frequently presenting the program on "Spain and the American Revolution - An Intrinsic Gift." Jane has promoted the Ladies Auxiliary and the quilt designed by a new SAR member's wife, Phoebe Hartline. Thanks to the District VP's for their assistance.

The Texas SAR lapel pins **Emphasizing the Brand** continue to be a popular item. We have given out the 500 pins originally ordered, and have received a second order so we can, during my term as President, continue to present one of the pins to each Texas SAR member who attends

a SAR meeting where I am in attendance. Wear the lapel pins proudly and help recruit prospective SAR members. Publicize Texas SAR, and use the "brand." Chapter Presidents, if I haven't visited your chapter, please give me a call or send me an e-mail to invite me to your meeting, so I can give the lapel pin to your members while I am still President.

**Brochure and Elevator Speech Contests.** The 2015 deadline for the Elevator Speech Contest and the Brochure Contest are both February 28. If you plan to enter the **Brochure Contest**, please notify Stephen Lee ([lgr1207@yahoo.com](mailto:lgr1207@yahoo.com)) of your desire by February 28. Entries are to be made on one 8.5"x11" sheet of paper and may either be flat, bi-fold, or tri-fold (front only or front and back). He will give you instructions on how, when, and where to submit your entry. Entries in the **Elevator Speech Contest** can be made by sending a copy of your completely written speech to Jim Kuykendall, Contest Chair, by February 28.

**GoToMeeting Sessions.** Three GoToMeeting sessions were conducted in 2014 primarily for Chapter Presidents and Registrars. Topics were: "Member Recruiting and Retention" (May), "Member Recruiting and Genealogy" (July) and included Genealogist General, Larry Cornwell, and "Tools for Proving Lineages" (September) which included Cynthia Weatherby of Florida who has proven over 1,100 DAR applications. David Tem-

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President Cohen's Message	1-3
Promoting Membership	4
Fall Board of Managers Meeting	5
Elevator Speeches	6-7, 12
Chapter News	8-14
In Memoriam	15
Editor's Remarks & Future Dates	16

ple did an excellent job of leading these sessions with additional help from Peter Baron and thanks to Bill Marrs for the use of his GoToMeeting subscription. These sessions provide a way to share ideas and training to help SAR.

**Board of Managers Meeting.** The Heart of Texas Chapter did an excellent job of hosting the Fall 2014 Board of Managers (BOM) Meeting in Temple at the Hilton Garden Inn. On behalf of Texas SAR, I want to thank them for an outstanding job. Chapter members are always welcome to attend any BOM meeting and are encouraged to volunteer to serve on a committee. At the suggestion of the State Meetings Committee, the BOM Meeting began with a general sessions, a change from previous meetings. Committees continued to develop and execute their plans for Texas SAR during the remainder of Saturday.

At the banquet on Saturday, Texas SAR began with the Vietnam 50-year Anniversary Celebration. All Vietnam-era veterans present were honored by the Texas SAR Veterans Committee, chaired by Frank Rohrbough. All Texas SAR chapters should sign onto the national website and participate in the multi-year event.

**State Registrar Resigns.** Gerald Irion has resigned as the Texas State Registrar (Coastal). After consultation with David Temple, State Registrar (Inland), and others, I will leave this position vacant until the March State Convention when another State Registrar can be elected by the members. Until that time, member applications and supplements are to be sent to David Temple at [reg\\_coastal@TXSSAR.org](mailto:reg_coastal@TXSSAR.org). I wish to extend my sincere thanks to Gerald for his numerous years of service as an excellent genealogist.

**George Washington Birthday Parade in Laredo.** I plan to participate in the George Washing-

ton Birthday Parade in Laredo on February 21, along with the SAR President General and four other national officers. Additionally, approximately 40 SAR members from Florida, Georgia, New Hampshire, and Texas will be participating. I am told that there will be millions of spectators lining the parade route. In the future, some chapters may want to participate in the largest George Washington Parade in the world.

**Spring Leadership Meeting.** The SAR Spring Leadership Meeting will be held on March 6-7 in Louisville, Kentucky. At this meeting the National Committees report progress on projects and develop plans for the upcoming year. Additionally, the elected Trustees of this Society and other societies carry out the business of SAR. Texas has a large delegation each year. Information is on the national website. If you would like to be a member of a National Committee, you will need to attend the Spring and Fall Leadership Meetings and volunteer to participate. Eventually, a President General will appoint you to your committee of choice.

**2015 State Convention.** The 2015 State Convention will be held on March 26-29 in Houston. The headquarters hotel is the Marriott Greenpoint in Houston (Marriott Houston North). You can register for the Convention by going to [www.txssar.org/reg\\_mar15.htm](http://www.txssar.org/reg_mar15.htm). I encourage you to make plans to attend and hope that each chapter will have two (or more) members in attendance!

**125-Year Anniversary.** On April 30, 2014, the National SAR reached a milestone in the history of our organization. Chapters should celebrate our 125th year as an organization. Be sure to acknowledge this achievement at your SAR meetings. Include that fact in news releases and captions of pictures. Some examples might be,

“Pictured here is Tom Green, a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, a 125-year old organization” or “Local police officers and members of the fire department were honored by the Midland SAR Chapter, an affiliate of the 125-year old Sons of the American Revolution (SAR).” When this fact becomes known, some individuals will become interested in joining. The Texas Society was formed on December 8, 1896,—one hundred eighteen years ago.

**Long-Range Planning.** Chapter officers should be guiding their members through the development of long-range plans. This is best done by determining the strengths and weaknesses of your Chapter. Asking the membership how they think the Chapter is doing and then asking them where they would like their chapter to be in three to five years should provide helpful information. Once this is accomplished, the Chapter officers should propose a long-range plan to the membership and let them make suggestions about how the plan could be better. Chapter officers should then develop an action plan to accomplish those goals. One suggestion to broaden the talents of your Chapter members might be to recruit at least one member from each professional field. For example, Chapters may recruit a physician, professor, rancher, farmer, accountant, journalist and so forth. The list is endless!

**SAR New Member Information.** The National SAR brochure entitled, “SAR New Member Information” tells how the SAR is organized and how plans are developed and executed. This brochure will be especially helpful for new members. Go to the National website ([www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org)) and search for Form 0914.

**Lineage Research Committee.** A few Chapters have developed Lineage Research Committees. The purpose of this committee is to assist individu-

als identified as potential Chapter members with proving their ancestry. This committee also provides some relief for an overworked Chapter Registrar.

Thank you for all you do for Texas SAR and I hope to see you at the 2015 State Convention in Houston.

Remember. . . Recruit, Retain, Reinstate.

Sincerely,

Bob Cohen



**The Texas SAR lapel pin which is presented at Chapter meetings by Texas SAR President, Robert Cohen.**

**2015 Texas SAR State Convention**

**March 26-29, 2015**

**Marriott Greenspoint, Houston, Texas**

**Register at:**

**[www.txssar.org/reg\\_mar15.htm](http://www.txssar.org/reg_mar15.htm)**

## Texas SAR Brochure Contest Deadline is February 28

A Texas Chapter SAR Brochure Contest will be held at the State Convention in Houston, March 27-29, 2015. The purpose of this contest is to encourage Texas SAR members to develop a chapter brochure.

The brochure should be suitable to give to prospective members at promotional exhibits and events, passed out at meetings of other organizations, left at genealogy libraries, etc. The brochure should encourage prospective members to become interested in joining the Sons of the American Revolution, as well as increase the reader's awareness of the existence of SAR and its main purposes. All chapter members should carry a few brochures to give to prospective members.

The contest is open to SAR members. The brochure may be front and back and bi-fold or tri-fold on a single page, landscape or portrait format.

Judging will be based upon:

- Information included
- Content and accuracy
- Organization
- Visual appeal
- Image quality
- Effectiveness

The winner of this contest will receive \$52 towards his SAR dues, courtesy of Texas SAR President Bob and Jane Cohen.

Bring your brochure for display and judging at the State Convention. Each chapter is encouraged to have at least one entry at the state convention and must send a PDF, JPG, or paper copy of your Chapter's Member Brochure to both Stephen Lee and Bob Cohen by February 28.

Stephen Lee  
1207 Wimbledon Dr.  
Tyler, Texas 75703  
[lgr1207@yahoo.com](mailto:lgr1207@yahoo.com)



Bob Cohen  
3655 McCullough Rd.  
College Station, TX 77845  
[r-cohen@aggienetwork.com](mailto:r-cohen@aggienetwork.com)

# Promoting Membership

The SAR flag flies at the fall Board of Managers Meeting at the hotel in Temple.



The Independence Chapter staffed an exhibit at the local heritage fair, explaining SAR and the benefits of membership. Chapter members invited interested males to attend a chapter meeting. State President Bob Cohen and Independence Chapter President Jim Boone staffed the display at the Booneville Heritage Days at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History.



Plano's traveling shovel shows the Chapter name and is engraved with the names of recent Chapter Presidents.



Plano Chapter has a podium on which the Chapter's name is engraved. This podium is used at meetings and public presentations. Outgoing President Howard Roach (right) presents the traveling shovel to the incoming President Larry Melton (left).

# Fall Board of Managers Meeting, Hosted by the Heart of Texas Chapter



Frank Rohrbough, Veteran's Committee and Vietnam 50th Year Commemoration Committees Chair, at podium, recognized 27 SAR members and spouses who served in Vietnam or were in service during those years. Larry Stevens receives yjr Commemoration medal from Bob Cohen, State President, assisted by Stephen Rohrbough.



Fall Executive Committee meeting. l-r Larry Stevens - President Elect, Mike Radcliff - Staff Secretary, Hank Voegtle - State Secretary, Bill Marrs - Advisor, Bob Cohen - President, Sam Massey - Communications Secretary, John Beard - State Treasurer, Stephen Rohrbough - Past President.



Pat Taylor (center), wife of State Chaplain, James Taylor (right), shares a portrait that Jim Johnson (left) drew that evening.



Food and fellowship at the BBQ restaurant in Temple. Bill Marrs and James Taylor, State Chaplain, welcome SAR members.

## Do you have an Elevator Speech?

Happy New Year Compatriots!

2015 is going to bring great things to the Texas Sons of the American Revolution and its members! Starting with the opportunity to get the message of American patriotism to those we know and come in contact with every day. How many people do you see who can use what you and I know we have? How many people would benefit from associating with a group dedicated to preserving the great heritage our forefathers created? You are right, everyone could benefit in some way. There are those, however, who are waiting for someone to tell them about "how" they can get involved and "belong" to an organization that is committed to something greater than themselves.

I am talking about your taking the initiative to step out and bring up the subject of the SAR. I'm talking about your invitation to them to check us out at a meeting or on our website. We call our recruiting initiative an "Elevator Speech" but that's just a name. It is really an "anywhere - anytime" short speech that conveys information and an invitation to know us better. Let me tell you how easy this can be. I recently attended a funeral for a beloved compatriot and was dressed in my Color Guard uniform. As I walked through the hallway of a large church beside an older couple, the man commented on my uniform. I told him I was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. I then took the "opportunity" to ask him,

Me: "Do you know who we are?"

Him: "I have heard of you but don't know much about it."

Me: "We are an organization of men who can trace our lineage back to those involved in the American Revolution. We are committed to preserving our heritage by educating people about our great history."

Him: "I could not join. My family didn't come over until after that time. My wife could join the Daughters of the American Revolution as she has done the research on her family."

Me: "Did you know that even if your family came over after the Revolutionary War, that with all the marriages since then, you may still have a lineage back to that time?"

Him: "I did not know that. I haven't done any research, other than what she (my wife) has done."

Me: "If you're interested, we can help you get started."

We then briefly spoke more about his wife's research and the Ancestry.com website. I left him with the invitation to check out the TXSSAR website. All of this took place in a matter of 30 to 40 seconds while walking down a long church hallway. I was not perfect, but I was somewhat ready to take the "opportunity" that was presented to me. The only thing I did not have, that I wished I had, was a business card with TXSSAR information on it and my name and phone number. I had the opportunity, the prospect, and gave the information, but did not have something to complete my talk and give him

TXSSAR information on it (or my name and phone number). I had the opportunity, the prospect, the information, but did not have something to help complete the talk and give him something to follow up on. I also did not get his name and number to call him later. The situation of wearing a uniform with little or no pockets is no real excuse. I simply did not have a card in my haversack to hand out, and that is something that I will correct! I learned from this experience, and will strive to do better later. It was just like fishing; I got one on the line, and he got away! I will learn from the experience and throw the line back in the water and continue fishing! Your attempts will not all go smoothly, and you, too, will get better and better at it. I challenge you to try it. Then try it again, until you're comfortable doing it. You will be surprised at how easy it is to talk about something in which you believe!

Compatriot, now is the time for you to work on your "Elevator Speech" so you can and will be ready to relay information about SAR to those with whom you will have "opportunity" to speak. Take a minute in the coming months to say your speech at the chapter meetings - if only in an informal way. Encourage other members to join you. This is how we will grow our great organization, and more importantly this is how we will teach others about patriotism and our great heritage. We will be hosting a competition for the best "Elevator Speech" at the State Convention in March, 2015. Each Chapter should have a member or two in the event. I need you to send me a copy of your "Elevator Speech" by February 28, so I can have it on file. Send them to: [jimkuy@aol.com](mailto:jimkuy@aol.com). Also, if you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me.

In the meantime, practice your twenty second speech and try it out on those you meet!

Regards!

Jim Kuykendall  
Publicity Chairman

p.s. Please see the Elevator Speech contest guidelines on page 12.



The Hill Country Chapter posts a sign at their meeting location on the day of their meeting. Pictured is President James Barkley (l) and State President Bob Cohen (r).

**Want to learn more about your  
Compatriot ancestor?**

Take a few moments to visit the Southern Campaigns Revolutionary War Statements and Rosters at <http://revwarapps.org/#w>.

**Texas SAR is now on  
Facebook!**

**Take a moment to go  
to  
[www.facebook.com/  
TXSSAR](http://www.facebook.com/TXSSAR) to see read**

**Editor's Note: Due to the volume of material from the submitted Chapters, "Serendipity" and the Americanism Trivia Quiz will return in a future issue.**

## Chapter News

In October, the San Antonio Chapter hosted a gala celebrating the Victory at the Battle of Yorktown and honoring Vietnam veterans. The guest speaker was Colonel (USAF Ret.) Donald Spoon, an F-4 pilot who was shot down on January 21, 1967.

Colonel Spoon spent six years as a prisoner of war.

In this photo, San Antonio Chapter President, Robert Hancock (left) presents Colonel Spoon (right) with the DOD Program POW Lapel Pin, a SAR Certificate of Appreciation, and a bust of George Washington.



The Major K.M. Van Zandt Chapter Color Guard



Major General (USAF Ret.) Michael J. Butchko recently gave a presentation to the Fredonia Chapter about the status of our national defense preparedness. Pictured, from left, Farrar Bentley, Chapter Chaplain; Major General Butchko; and Chapter President, Daniel Rogers.

## Publicity Can Lead to New Members

Every American needs to hear who we in the Sons of the American Revolution are, and more importantly, what we're doing for our great nation.

Joseph Benham, a journalist for over half a century and the Chaplain, Publicist, and Past President of the Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution offers the following guidelines for **getting your chapter's story in print or on the air**.

- Accept the fact that news is a buyer's market. We must take our stories to the new media.
- Give them a written story. Hand-delivered is fine; email is just as good, and fax is okay.
- Sell your story on its merits. Never tell a reporter or editor that it's his/her civic, patriotic, or religious duty to print or broadcast your story.
- Tell the story directly, without trying to write deathless prose. Accept the fact that your story may be edited.
- Stay focused. Your mission is informing them about the SAR.
- Keep your opinions of their paper or station to yourself.
- Write in the order that you'd tell your spouse, co-worker, golf partner, etc., about your event, starting with the most interesting and/or important part. Who was your speaker and what was the most important and/or interesting thing he/she said?
- The way NOT to do it is with a set of minutes.
- Your next paragraph should identify the SAR as the venue. My usual wording: "Gen. or Rep. or Mr. or Ms. Blank spoke at the monthly meeting of the Hill Country Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), one of the nation's oldest and largest patriotic organizations for men."
- Calling the SAR a lineage society makes the editors think that we're just another genealogical group, about as newsworthy as coin-collecting or weight-watching.
- My usual wording: "Known as Compatriots, SAR members are men who can document having at least one ancestor who served in state militias or the Continental Army under George Washington, or in the Colonial Navy, or supported the cause of American independence by donating such things to the revolutionary cause as weapons, ammunition, uniforms, medical supplies, blankets, cash and food for troops and sailors and their livestock."
- That takes care of the lineage thing with wording that editors should find much more interesting.
- My next paragraph typically points out that we do a lot more than talk about our ancestors.
- In addition to promoting respect for our Founding Fathers and their sacrifices in winning American independence, SAR activities include promoting respect for the American flag and teaching American history: support for veterans, active duty military, and ROTC programs in high schools; and participating in patriotic observances.
- If we induct new members, or present or receive any awards, that comes next.
- The next paragraph tells readers, viewers, and listeners where and when the chapter meets, and that genealogical assistance is available to men who are interested in joining the SAR.
- Finally, we supply phone numbers and email addresses of chapter officers for persons wanting more information on the SAR and its activities.
- If you can e-mail one or more photos illustrating what went on at the meeting, so much the better.
- So, you've written a highly professional news release. What now?
- Re-check it for accuracy and clarity, then send it ASAP.
- Be sure to add names and phone numbers of officers willing to provide more information. Hardly any editor will use information sent to him/her anonymously.

## Chapter News



The Hill Country Chapter gave the organization's Daughters of Liberty Award to Marilyn Davis during a recent meeting. Ms. Davis, who is Immediate Past Regent of the Kerrville Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), received a medal and a certificate of recognition from the SAR.

The Hill Country Chapter also honored eleven veterans of World War II and those who served in the Armed Forces more recently. The veterans of World War II who were recognized with a standing ovation by members and guests were SAR members Frank Douglass, Dr. Lawrence Huff, Sam Smith, Dan Montgomery, Ken Batchelor, Jack Stevens Sr., Bill Wilson, Dell Sheftall and Dr. John Nunn, and guests Boardman Chambers, Jim Chaney and Martin Noyd.

President Barkley then asked all veterans of other wars and of service during the Cold War to stand, for another strong round of applause.



David A. Benham, son of Verna and Joseph Benham of Kerrville, went aboard the British battleship HMS Belfast on October 4, to be promoted to Commander in the U.S. Navy. Rear Admiral Robert Kamensky performed the swearing-in duties, with Benham's wife, Dr. Bennet Burt and sons JB and Dax looking on. Kamensky, a onetime member of the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M University, and Benham, a graduate of Rice University and its Naval ROTC program, are assigned to the Naval Command of NATO in suburban London.

The Belfast, whose heavy guns supported Allied troops landing on the Normandy Beaches on D-Day, and in Korea, is moored in the Thames River near Big Ben and the Tower Bridge.

Benham was commissioned an ensign the day he graduated from Rice University in May of 1997. Before the NATO assignment, he was based in Florida, Maryland, Texas, Hawaii, California, and Italy. While at Rice, he received the ROTC Leadership Award. Commander Benham has four navy citations, two of them from admirals for whom he served. Benham also has a master's degree in public affairs from San Diego State University and is a lifetime member of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and is a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International. Commander Benham's father, Joseph, also a life member of SAR, is the past President of the Hill Country Chapter and currently serves as Chaplain and Publicist.

The Benham's home of record is Kerrville.

## Chapter News

The Bernardo De Galvez Chapter inducted new officers in Galveston prior to the Annual Dickens Parade and Festival.

L to R; Larry Stevens President Elect Texas; Gordon R. Robinson; Tom Jackson (Freedom Chapter); John Hamlin, John P (Pete) Lenes, Merlin E. Shaner; Larry D. Tidwell- President Galvez; Bill Whatley – Past President Galvez; Pat Kerr (Freedom Chapter); Jim Mitchell.



Members of the Freedom Chapter participated in the Oakridge North Christmas Parade. Heeding President Cohen's charge to "Recruit, Retain, and Reinstate," Compatriot John Thompson used the parade as an opportunity to distribute Texas SAR business cards to spectators.



At a recent meeting of the Athens Chapter, Robert W. Cohen, SAR State President, spoke to the Chapter on Spain's role in the Revolutionary War. He also updated the group on the state of the Texas Society.

Cohen inducted the Chapter officers for 2015. Elected officers are Clayton Starr, President and Sam Whitten, Secretary/Treasurer. Appointed officers are Harry M. Fife, Jr., Registrar; Charles Luna, Chancellor; Bill Sekel, Sgt. at Arms and Wayne Stafford, chaplain. The office of vice president is currently open.

# Elevator Speech Contest Guidelines

**Purpose:** The purpose of the “Elevator Speech” competition is to enable and empower our members to develop a speech that can be given within twenty (20) seconds, with or without the aid of a prop to a prospective member. The overall emphasis of this effort is to use this speech to recruit new members into the Texas SAR, while encouraging and educating our current members in learning more about who we are, what we do, and why we do it.

The “Elevator Speech” competition will be held at the Texas SAR State Convention in Houston on **March 27-29**. Competitions should be held at each Chapter meeting, with two members being selected to attend the State Convention in March and represent their respective Chapter in this competition.

## **Guidelines:**

1. Prepare and give a speech that you will give to a man who you want to recruit into the SAR.
2. The setting can be anywhere, but it is assumed that you are in a space no larger than an elevator. You do not have room to move around, etc.
3. The speech must not be more than 20 seconds in length.
4. You can use any props such as a business card, a pamphlet, lapel pin, etc. However, you must use your prop within the 20 second timeframe.
5. Your “speech” must be written out in full and sent to the committee overseeing the competition. Send it to Jim Kuykendall ([jimkuy@aol.com](mailto:jimkuy@aol.com)) AND Bob Cohen ([r-cohen@aggienetwork.com](mailto:r-cohen@aggienetwork.com)).
6. Entries must be received by February 28, 2015.

## **Judging Criteria:**

1. Presentation (this will be composed of body language, charisma, clarity, articulation, and passion).
2. Opportunity (this will be composed of identification, attractiveness, and situation/target customer identification).
3. Solution (this will be composed of value of the proposition, differentiation, and viability).
4. The Result (would you get another meeting?).

## **Competition Format:**

**Local Chapter Competition:** Each Chapter is encouraged to have at least one member give a speech at each chapter meeting. The more, the better, since practice makes perfect. This should be done until the end of February when each Chapter will select its two best speeches and have them submitted to Jim Kuykendall and Bob Cohen. The submitted speeches will be presented at the State Convention.

**District Competition:** The District Vice Presidents will have the opportunity to host a meeting where all the chapters of the District will be invited to attend and their members will give their speeches. This will serve to provide great fellowship among the Texas SAR District members and give an opportunity for practice. All arrangements and awards for participation in this meeting will be determined by the District Vice Presidents. No winners will be announced since it is the Chapter’s decision who will attend.

**State Competitions:** Each chapter will send two members who will give their speeches at the State Convention. Everyone giving a speech will be judged by the criteria above. President Robert and First Lady Jane Cohen have graciously agreed to give the winner \$52 to be used for their next year’s dues. Other awards will be given as well.

## Chapter News



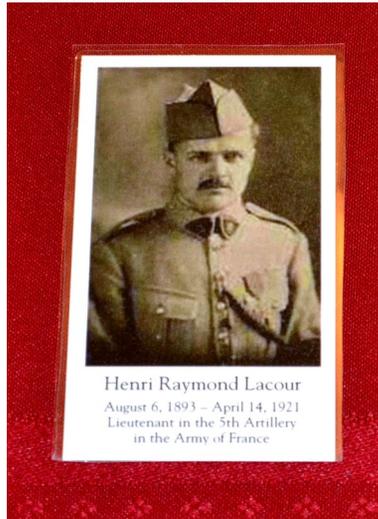
Texas SAR District 7 & 8 delegations including representatives from the Alexander Hodge Chapter, Robert Rankin Chapter, the Piney Woods Chapter, and the Freedom Chapter placed flags on the headstones of veterans at Houston's Holy Cross Cemetery during a Veterans Day recognition ceremony.

The Big Country Chapter recently inducted two new members. Pictured, left to right, are John Snapp, Chapter President; Clayton Longmire (new member); Casey Longmire (new member); and District 5 Vice President, James Alderman. Clayton and Casey are the grandsons of Compatriot James M. Casey who joined SAR in 1968. The meeting was held at the Abilene Country Club.



The Plano, Denton, and EFT Chapters of SAR were honored to participate in the dedication of the SAR Medal on Robby Hall's headstone in the Carson Cemetery near Ector, Texas. Robby's family was present along with his dear friends from SAR. Robby was a cherished man and loved by all.

## Chapter News



Texas SAR District 7 & 8 delegations including representatives from the Alexander Hodge Chapter, Robert Rankin Chapter, the Piney Woods Chapter, and the Freedom Chapter participated in a Veterans Day Memorial gathering held at the Holy Cross Cemetery in Houston with a French Delegation.

The event was held in memory of Henri Raymond Lacour, a WWI French soldier, who was decorated three times and awarded the *Croix de Guerre* for bravery at the Battle of Verdun. Lt. Lacour died in Houston at a young age following his return and relocation to Texas as a student at the University of Texas at Austin. Present were his family from France, the French Consul and Ms. Marie-Laure Reed, the *Assistante du Consul général de France*.



On January 10, President-Elect Larry G. Stevens conducted the officer induction for the Cradle of Texas Chapter in Angleton.

Pictured, from left to right, President Michael Bailey, Vice President Winston "Win" Avera, Secretary Theodore "Ted" Bates Jr., Treasurer Arthur O. Owens III, Registrar Bill Sanders Sr., Chaplain George Easterling, and Texas President-Elect Larry Stephens.

Not pictured is Color Guard Commander Frank Seidule.



**Wanted! Stories or brief essays about your patriot ancestors. Please send me (by email or snail mail) a brief essay about your patriot ancestor. I would like to include one essay in each issue of *The Texas Compatriot*.**

## In Memoriam

### Virgil Ellis (June 4, 1940-October 23, 2014)

Virgil was a member of the Major K.M. Van Zandt Chapter. He is survived by his wife, Beth; sons, Joshua and Daniel; daughter, Anna Metcalf; sister, Judy Dwyer; and five grandchildren.

Virgil's interment took place, with military honors, at the Dallas Ft. Worth National Cemetery.



### Jerry Fulenwider (April 29, 1931-November 1, 2014)

In addition to being a member of the San Antonio Chapter of Texas SAR, Jerry was a member of the Masonic Order and 32nd degree of the Scottish Rite and a Shriner. In 1965, Jerry took Betty and their children Cynthia, Lisa and Adam to the YMCA Camp of the Rockies, in Estes Park, CO. where the family found a love for nature. Jerry was active in his children's activities, serving on the Brookridge Country Club's Junior Golf Advisory Board from 1972-1979 and Indian Guides. He was a very active member of Christ Episcopal Church and served on their vestry.

Jerry and his wife were active members with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) for several decades, championing local and national public policy change fighting the stigma of mental illness. The couple received an advocate award from the Texas Psychiatric Council in 2005. Jerry was an active contributor to the NAMI Faith Net Programs. Among the many awards and recognitions, NAMI Texas presented Jerry with the 2010 Jackie Shannon Enduring Volunteer Award for his untiring advocacy and public service. He was a spokesperson for the Harvard Brain Bank. Jerry served on various committees and advisory boards in San Antonio: Center for Health Care Services, Behavioral Health Network Planning Advisory Committee, San Antonio State Hospital Clinical Research Unit Advisory Board, University of Texas Health Science Center, friends for Psychiatric Research, and the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for San Antonio Hospitals. On October 5, 2010, Jerry was appointed by Bishop Gary Lillibridge Chairman of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, Mental Illness Ministries in the Department of Christian Faith in Action.

Compatriots wishing to make a gift to the Perpetual Fund in memory of Virgil Ellis or Jerry Fulenwider may do so by going to <http://txssar.org/dues14.htm>

**Texas SAR  
PMB 363  
9090 Skillman St., Suite 182-A  
Dallas, TX 75243-8262**

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From the Editor: Please observe the following deadlines for submission of items for *The Texas Compatriot*: September 15 for the Fall Issue, January 15 for the Winter issue, and May 15 for the Summer issue.

We are always looking for chapter news, so whenever your Chapter volunteers in the community or participates in a event, please send me photographs and a brief description of the event. No event is too large or too small!

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