



The Texas Com Patriot



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Sons of the American Revolution © 2023
Spring 2023

Memorial Day at Mt. Gilead

Members of the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter Color Guard participated in the 13th Annual Memorial Day Celebration at Mt. Gilead Cemetery in Keller, Texas, on Monday, May 29, 2023. The memorial service was hosted by the Golden Triangle Rotary Club and the Keller Rotary Club.

As a lead-in to the memorial service, the audience was entertained by the Frontier Brigade Band for 30 minutes prior with period music. The Band also provided the music for the National Anthem.

Boy Scout Troops 1910 and 1920 performed the Flag Raising duties and conducted a U.S. Flag Retirement Ceremony. The names of all veterans buried in Mt. Gilead Cemetery were read and a rousing, patriotic speech was provided by the keynote speaker, Guy Snodgrass, Commander, U.S. Navy (Ret). Jimmy Lucas read a moving rendition of Johnny Cash's *Ragged Old Flag* accompanied by background music provided by The Frontier Band.

The Firing Squad completed three volleys (21-gun salute) and was composed of individuals in period dress, carrying period firearms, and representing the following wars:

- **The Sons of the American Revolution**—
Ron Turner [SAR, SCV, War of 1812]
Kevin Shellman [SAR]
Vann Cunningham [SAR]
Dan Hamilton [SAR]
Mike Fairchild [SAR]
- **The General Society of the War of 1812**—
Drake Peddie [SAR & War of 1812]

- **The Sons of the Republic of Texas**—
Gerry Gieger [SRT & SAR]
Jim Young [SRT]
- **The Sons of Confederate Veterans**—
Robert Gresham [SAR & SCV]
Joe Wade [SAR & SCV]
- **The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**—
Mark Parkison [SAR & SUVCW]
- **The First World War**—
Paul Porter
- **The Second World War and Korea**—
James Alderman [SAR & SCV]
- **The Vietnam War**—
Jake Behringer

Following the service, attendees enjoyed a lunch of hot dogs, chips, and a drink.



The Rifle Squad 'At Ease'
Mt. Gilead Cemetery, Keller, Texas

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Is Your Chapter Publicizing Its Activities?

Every Texas SAR Chapter has many activities and events that are NOT being shared outside the respective chapter.

Is this your chapter?

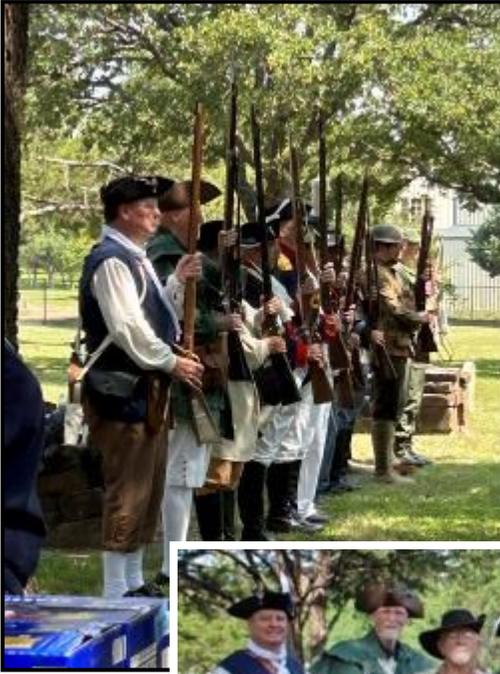
Every Chapter President should appoint a member of the chapter to report chapter news, activities, or events (especially Color Guard) to the editor of *The Texas Compatriot* for inclusion in the quarterly newsletter.

Information on how to submit articles and photos is located on the last page.

Mark Your CALENDAR

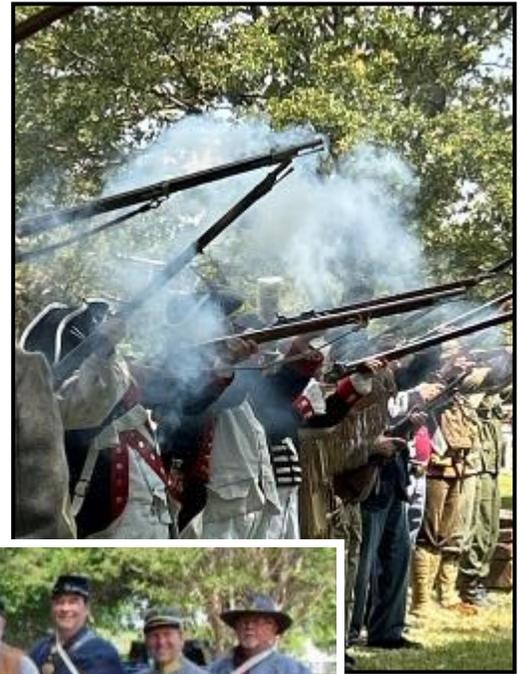
2023

Jul 13-20	133rd Congress, Orlando, FL
Jul 29	Texas SAR Summer BOM, Zoom
Aug 25-26	South Central District Meeting, Wichita, KS
Sep 21-23	Fall Leadership Meeting, Louisville, KY
Oct 20-22	Texas SAR Fall BOM, College Station



The Rifle Squad at
'Present Arms'

The Rifle Squad fires
Volley #1



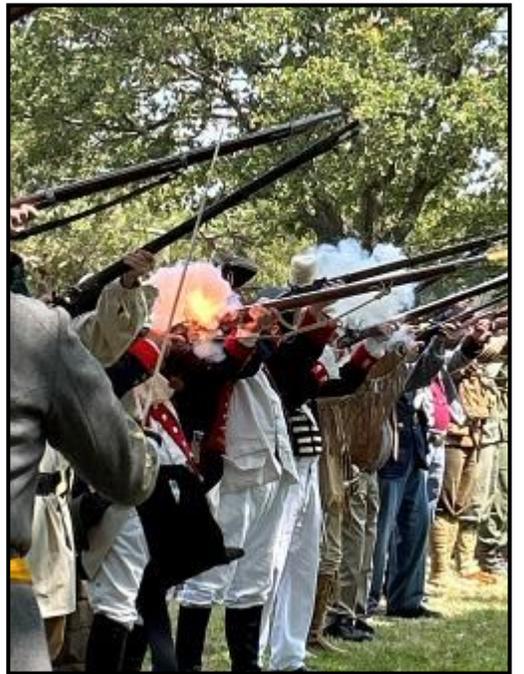
Standing from left to right: Mike Fairchild, Dan Hamilton, Vann Cunningham, Kevin Shellman, Ron Turner, Drake Peddie, Jim Young, Gerry Gieger, Mark Parkison, Bobby Gresham, Joe Wade
Kneeling from left to right: Jake Behringer, James Alderman, Paul Porter



The Rifle Squad at
'The Ready' to fire
Volley #2

The Rifle Squad fires
Volley #3

*Small Photo Credits:
Ora Jane Johnson*



Students Enjoy “Revolutionary Era”

Guard members of Dallas & Arlington joined parents and teachers at Providence Christian School in Dallas on April 12th during an elementary student “Revolutionary Era” education program. They presented flags (explaining a brief history on each) and answered the youngsters’ questions. All students in attendance were dressed in colonial attire and enjoyed a morning of American Revolution period games, crafts, food, & historical lessons.



Participating Color Guardsmen in the center photo are (l to r): Bill Watts, Jerry Pinkerton, Brent Harshman, Tom Whitelock, Tom Van Fossen, J.D. Martin, Bill Covington, and Mark Harrison.

50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration Event at Annual Meeting

During the Banquet Chairman Frank Rohrbough, Veterans Committee, conducted a Commemorative Event to recognize SAR members and their spouses (who were in a supporting role), who served on active duty during the Vietnam War Era to “Honor Them and Thank Them for their Service”.

This National Commemoration was authorized by Congress in 2012 to recognize the unsung patriotism of our Vietnam War veterans who served on active duty during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location.

The Texas Society SAR became a Commemorative Partner in 2014 with the Vietnam War Commemoration Program. We were privileged to have President-General Bruce Pickett and Texas SAR President Jim Kuykendall present Vietnam Lapel Pins to the service member or a Family Pin for their supporting role. When each Pin was given to them the phrase recited was “A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You”. The phrase is also engraved on the back of the Lapel Pin.



Shown from L to R are President Jim Kuykendall, Judith Lano, Charles Lano (Freedom Chapter), President General Bruce Pickett, Hugh Ferguson, Jr. (Bernardo de Galvez Chapter) and William Sole (Hill Country Chapter).



Denton County Commissioners Court Approves Proclamation Declaring April 19, 2023, Patriots Day in Denton County

What got the American Revolutionary War off to a quick start? The ride of Paul Revere on April 18 and April 19 of 1775, alerting the citizens of the New England colonies that the British were on the move. Remember - “the shot heard round the world.”

True except for one thing: Revere did not ride out alone. Two other Patriots accompanied him; Samuel Prescott and William Dawes - all going in different directions to sound the alarm throughout New England. And most important from the Denton Chapter view is that Denton Chapter member Tom Richards is a descendant of William Dawes.

The British Army activity indicated a planned crackdown on the local Massachusetts government. The Patriot plan was to warn the local citizens of the advance of the British Army. The Sexton at Boston’s North Church used a lantern to alert the Patriots of the British advance. Revere and Dawes then rode to warn John Hancock and Samuel Adams in Lexington, and then headed toward Concord to warn the colonists of the British movement to capture military supplies in Concord. The ride played a pivotal role in future Colonial victories and today is part of the lore of “The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere....”

Denton Compatriots Jim Hobdy, Scott Smith, and David Cook prepared a petition to the Denton County Commissioners Court declaring April 19th “Patriots Day” in Denton County, explaining this local historical connection to a major event in the creation of this United States of America.

Denton County Judge Andy Eads and the Commissioners Court approved a Proclamation declaring April 19, 2023, as Patriots Day in Denton County, Texas. The Proclamation was read in open court with several chapter members and members of the Flower Mound DAR Chapter present in the audience.

Denton Chapter member Scott Smith also presented a Proclamation to the Mayor of Trophy Club for the naming of April 19th as Patriot Day by the Trophy Club City

Council. The Proclamation was met with strong citizen support from those in attendance.

All in all, a good day for American freedom and for the citizens of these North Texas communities. Thanks to William Dawes, Paul Revere, and Samuel Prescott, along with all the other Patriot soldiers of the American Revolution.



Attending the reading of the Proclamation in Denton County Commissioners Court on April 19, 2023, was (from left to right) Denton Chapter member Randy Nusbaum, Past Chapter President Mike Connelley, Chapter member Tom Richards, Chapter member David Cook, DAR Regent Andi Tart, Vice Regent Soundra Smith, and current Chapter President Jim Akers.





Shown are President-General Bruce Pickett, Diane Rohrbough (wife of Frank Rohrbough), President-General Joe Dooley (2014) and President Jim Kuykendall.

Those 14 recipients were: William Sole (US Army), Hugh Ferguson (US Army Texas National Guard), Charles Lano (US Army Infantry) and his wife Judith, David Zimmerman (US Army) and his wife Linda, Mervin Hartwick (US Navy) and his wife Martha (Jeannie), Candy Rudy then spouse of Capt. Tom Graham (US MC), LTC Robert Lantz, Jr (USAF), Diane Rohrbough, Spouse of Colonel Frank Rohrbough (USAF), Kevin Kanter (USAF) and his spouse Jean, and Michael Bierman, Son of Jack Bierman (USAF).

Origins of the Memorial Day Holiday

By Blair Rudy

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service.

Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War and a desire to honor our dead. It was proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed on May 30, 1868, when 5,000 participants placed flowers on over 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers graves at Arlington National Cemetery.

The first state to recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. In the era, Southern states decided to recognize

other days to honor their war lost. For example, Texas' was on January 19. Following the Great War, otherwise named World War I, the holiday became further accepted and recognized as honoring all Americans who died fighting in any war. We continue that tradition today.

It is now celebrated on the last Monday in May with Congressional passage of the National Holiday Act of 1971.

In 1915, inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields," Moira Michael replied with her own poem:

"We cherish too, the Poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led,
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies."

She then conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial Day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war.

MODERN OBSERVANCE

Traditional observance of Memorial Day has diminished over the years and many Americans have forgotten the meaning and traditions of the day. To most, it is a three-day weekend with no Monday mail service. In many cemeteries, the graves of the fallen are increasingly ignored or neglected.

To help remind Americans of the true meaning of Memorial Day, Congress passed the "National Moment of Remembrance" resolution in December 2000. It asks that at 3 p.m. local time all Americans "voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to Taps."

On Saturday, May 27, the San Antonio Chapter #4 of the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution along with DAR, CAR [sic] and friends, will take a few moments to honor the final resting place of the 58 veterans on the grounds of the Historic San Antonio City Cemetery No 1. These heroes served Texas and our nation reaching back from our Texas War of Independence through the Vietnam war timeframe. We will say their names to keep green their memory in our hearts, recall a bit of their past and place a flag at the markers of these American patriots.





Blair Rudy, a Blanco County resident, is first vice president of the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution San Antonio Chapter #4. He'll give an address on Memorial Day this Saturday.

The above article was published in the *Blanco County News* on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, page 4.

Patriot Medal Awarded Spring 2023

By John Anderson
Texas SAR Historian

Last April at the 2023 Texas Annual Congress, Patriot Medals were awarded to compatriots as the highest award that may be presented by a State Society. It recognizes long, faithful, outstanding, and distinguished service at the state and chapter level. The selection committee is comprised of other Patriot Medal recipients from across the state. Below are the recipients and their nomination notes. For reference, the verbiage given was made prior to the 2022 Fall Board of Managers meeting. And the listed services to the Chapter and/or the Texas Society organizations are not given herein. Congratulations to these deserving recipients.

THOMAS E. CARSWELL, JR., compatriot since 2009, is a member of the Hill Country Chapter, meeting in Kerrville. Nomination notes:

Within a matter of months of joining the SAR, Tom Carswell was a major leader in Hill Country Chapter 31. He started out as the Chapter Vice President and two years later he assumed command as the Chapter President. A feat unmatched by many, if any. He set the example for others by purchasing and wearing a Revolutionary War uniform at every meeting, all city and county Veterans and Memorial Services and marching in all the parades. That got the Chapter a lot of positive attention. He has been a member of the Texas SAR Color Guard for over 10 years and has been instrumental in making it the top of class organization that it has become.



Tom has worked diligently to ensure that the Chapter upholds the SAR mission of being an organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and promoting education to our future generations. In that effort, Tom's focus has been presenting Chapter JROTC Awards at schools in San Antonio, Kerrville, Del Rio, Uvalde, Castroville, Carrizo Springs, and Pearsall. He also presented ROTC Awards at universities in Kerrville and San Antonio. Of course, all the ceremonies were in Revolutionary War uniform. That continued for over 11 years, until the COVID pandemic shut things down.

And when the pandemic did not allow us to hold Chapter meetings in person, Tom developed our ZOOM chapter programs. The first such meeting was conducted while Tom was in bed with a serious illness. What a grand show of initiative and drive! Our Chapter Web Site was built by Tom, and he has continued to build it from 2011 to the present. In 2016 he even bought and presented to the chapter a projector, screen, and laptop so we could have better presentations at our meetings.

Tom Carswell's tremendous accomplishments and support to both the Texas Society and Hill Country Chapter make him an exemplary candidate for the Patriot Medal.

KEVIN L. KANTER, compatriot since 2015, and is a member of the San Antonio Chapter. Nomination notes:

He has been a dedicated member of both the Chapter and State since induction to the Society. He has participated in multiple ad hoc committees at the Chapter level.

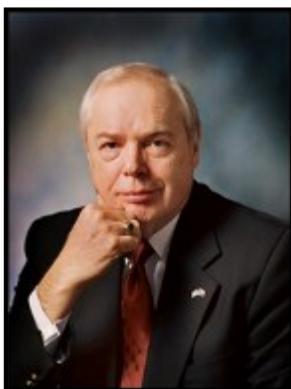


In 2021, after reviewing the Chapter website, he prepared a report for the Chapter Executive Committee and received approval to move the Chapter Website to the State sponsored server. Working with State IT Chairman, he transferred all data from an existing out-of-date website to a new and improved website. This resulted in a much-improved communications channel as well as assisting the Chapter in reducing the Chapter budget through the saving of costs for website hosting. As President, he established an ad-hoc committee to review the Chapter By-laws, resulting in a general update of the Chapter By-laws. As Chapter President, he was instrumental in establishing a Compatriot Grave Marking initiative and has participated in 58 Compatriot Grave Marking Ceremonies. San Antonio Chapter is the first Chapter west of the Mississippi to embark on this initiative.



He also assumed the office of Vice President District although he is located in District 3.

JERRY W. PINKERTON, compatriot since 2012, is a member of the Dallas Chapter. Nomination notes:



Jerry Pinkerton has been a long-time leader in the Dallas Chapter. As Assistant Registrar and Registrar, he has effectively managed multiple applications and supplemental applications for the chapter. Jerry has been awarded the Liberty Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters in recognition of this work. Jerry also has served as Assistant Inland Registrar and was recently selected to serve as a temporary Inland Registrar. His work in this area has impacted the entire Texas Society.

Also, Jerry's efforts as a long-time member of the Color Guard for the Dallas Chapter have served as a great example for many of our members. He has been recognized with the Bronze 250th Anniversary Medal.

ROBERT D. SMITH, MD, PHD, compatriot since 1989, is a member of the Hill Country Chapter, meeting in

Kerrville. Nomination notes:

During a protracted period during which the Hill Country Chapter was stagnant, Dr. Bob Smith committed to a program of service and leadership in which he made numerous major contributions toward revitalizing the Chapter. As chapter president (2019-2021), Dr. Smith relentlessly worked on developing leadership in-depth via a leadership track for chapter officers and a fail-safe plan of succession. During his presidency, there were some exceptional challenges as the COVID pandemic necessitated a hiatus from in-person meetings in favor of Zoom meetings, particularly when there were spikes in local COVID cases. There was a profound and very real concern that the lack of in-person meetings with a sumptuous lunch and enlightening and entertaining speaker would cause the chapter to die on the vine. Nevertheless, Bob successfully maintained member interest, kept the chapter active, finished his term and handed over the gavel to the succeeding president (Bill Sole) in March 2021.



Also, as Chapter President, in 2020, Dr. Smith lent his expertise in internal medicine, geriatrics, neurology, and psychiatry to evaluate the Kerrville VA Hospital for suitability for a Snoezelen Multi-Sensory Room, a therapeutic room which provides novel calming stimuli, for patients with agitation due to post-traumatic stress disorder and/or dementia. With Dr. Smith's evaluation and guidance, this room was graciously funded through a \$2000 grant from the Hill Country Chapter.

Upon returning to the vice presidency, Bob Smith wholeheartedly supported the president's dynamic plan for post-pandemic revitalization, including a return to in-person meetings with captivating speakers on the American Revolution and gourmet lunches. He assumed the Presidency (pro tempore), single-handedly rounded up support from the chapter membership, and through sheer force of will kept the Hill Country Chapter active, dynamic, and moving in the direction of increased recruitment and membership retention. After winning this war for the chap-



ter's survival, Bob resumed his supporting role as chapter vice-president, chaplain, and mentor to junior officers. In summary, Bob played an instrumental role in the survival and growth of Hill Country Chapter through his record of service before self, his efforts to have the chapter fund the best possible therapies for severely disabled veterans, and his work in support of the SAR's patriotic, historic, and educational goals.

CHARLES R. WAGNER, compatriot since 2014, is a member of the Paul Carrington Chapter, meeting in Houston. Nomination notes:

Chuck has received the Liberty Medal, along with three oak clusters. He has also received the Hartsell O. Stephens award, the Silver Roger Sherman Medal, and the Texas Society Silver Distinguished Medal. At the Chapter level, Chuck has been awarded the Texas Society Chapter Service Medal, the Chapter Meritorious Achievement Medal and the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal. As Chapter Genealogist, he has assisted 200 new members in becoming members, and processed more than 40 supplemental applications.



Chuck has served the Texas SAR in several important roles, including Paul Carrington Chapter President for two terms, serving as the Chapter Genealogist for multiple terms – and he continues that today, and currently serving as Genealogist for the Texas SAR's Coastal Region. Chuck is also an active member of the Texas SAR Color Guard.

Chuck served as the Paul Carrington Chapter President when Houston hosted the 128th Annual Congress, helping to organize logistics of entertainment and excursions for guests of the Congress.

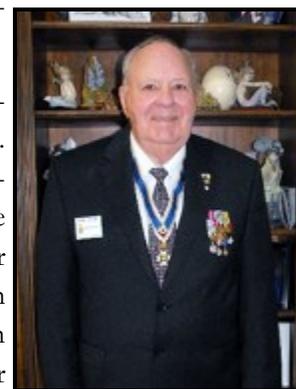
Chuck has also served the chapter chairing the membership retention committee (removing deceased members and persuading many members to become reinstated), as well as chairing the chapter's annual George Washington Dinner, which honored Houston businessman Jim MacIngvale and Astronaut Colonel Walter Cunningham (Ret.) in the years 2018 and 2019 respectively.

Chuck's time contributions towards his duties as both

Chapter and Regional Genealogist are both substantial and exemplary. By my estimates, Chuck spends about 4 hours on each application he processes for the Chapter and about half that for each regional application that he vets and assists the chapters. Based on the 200+ membership applications for the Paul Carrington Chapter since he began his responsibilities, I would estimate that Chuck spends about twenty hours each month performing his duties at a very high level of dedication and quality.

RODNEY WEEMS, compatriot since 2016, is a member of the Cradle of Texas Chapter, meeting in Lake Jackson, Bay City, and Wharton. Nomination notes:

Rodney was immediately installed as Chapter Secretary. However, even before induction he volunteered for the role of Education Chairman after learning of the contests from Chapter Guest Speaker, John M. Hamlin at the November 2016 meeting.



Taking on the role led to immediate results, as Rodney reviewed the requirements and due dates of the various contests. After review, he set out to identify and collect contact information for all newspapers, all ISDs and Private schools in our coverage area. Additionally, he established contact with the coordinator for the Home School Program in the State. With that information he sent an email to all contacts, who in turn supported the Chapter with advertising. In less than six weeks after learning of the contests open to students, and still not inducted by the Chapter, he had an entry for the "George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest." The entrant, Ashley Turbett, was submitted to the State, where she placed "Third" for all contestants. After being sponsored by the Chapter to the State, a news release was submitted to all newspapers, where two elected to publish the release, and after placing third at State those two papers again published her story and representation of the Chapter.

Since then, Rodney has continued to annually promote the Youth Contests, and has processed a submission for Eagle, two Enhanced JROTC entrants, Knight Essay Contest, and one Poster Contest, who placed 1st in the



State Competition. All the students received coverage by local papers from where they live. Additionally, Rodney has coordinated the presentation of the Bronze Junior R.O.T.C. Medals to cadets at five High Schools in our coverage area for School Years ending 2017, 2018, and 2019. School Year ending 2020 did not have recognition/promotion banquets for their cadets.

For the school year ending 2021 two schools held recognition/promotion banquets and Rodney ensured those students received their medals. And, in May of 2019 Rodney presented “Flag Certificates” to 11 students of

Congratulations

As a past Color Guard Commander, I would like to congratulate three of my North Texas Compatriots who recently received the Von Steuben Medal for sustained achievement in the NSSAR Color Guard. It is the 2nd highest medal given to Color Guardsmen from National- the highest being the Gold NSSAR Color Guard Medal. My compatriots are **BILL WATTS, JOHN GREER, AND T. L. HOLDEN.**

Each is deserving of this medal and should be congratulated.

Ted Wilson

Memorial Day—Galveston

The Bernardo de Galvez Color Guard members Hugh Ferguson, Billy Mayo, William Adriance, John Loper and Frank Steele participated in the annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the Bay Area Veterans Memorial Park in Seabrook. Compatriot John Loper played taps at the conclusion of the ceremony. Compatriot Frank Steele is the newest member of the color guard and destined to be the Color Guard Commander in the near future.



Don't Be Tricked by Phishing!

Please be advised that SPAM/PHISHING Emails and Text Messages are on the rise. If you receive an email or text from any National Officer or your State or Chapter Officers asking for money, gift cards, etc., assume this is fake. Note the following indicators:

- Asking you to send money or gift cards
- Email or text just doesn't look right
- Name spelled incorrectly or not the usual format
- Phone number is not recognized
- Sending email address is unknown
- Asking you to verify any account, credit card, etc.

If you receive any communications that just plain looks suspect, DO NOT REPLY. Call or email the officer or Compatriot separately to verify.

NEVER EVER click any links or download any attachments unless you are sure where they are originating from.



Texas SAR Historian's Corner

by John Anderson; historian@txssar.org

Texas History Volume III



Targeted for 2025 development and publication, Volume III is in the collection phase. Articles, photos, lists, compatriot biographies, memorials, Color Guard ceremonies, etc., that document our Texas SAR history since last published in 2005 are being identified and collected. Your Chapter Historian should review and contribute your activities. A committee and editor are needed. Several chapters have experienced newsletter editors. Please consider and volunteer. Please review Volume II and provide a list of your significant activities and awards since.

Patriot/Compatriot Graves

To my knowledge, no immediate Patriot or Compatriot grave markings are in the plan.

Our committee wishes to be involved in Patriot or Compatriot grave marking ceremonies across both the northern and southern Color Guard commands. Please include us with your plans.

Prominent Compatriots

We all know our compatriots are all considered prominent in some way. And this sub-committee has a few active projects.

First is the collection of photos of Texas SAR Patriot Medal members. In the 58 years since 1966, 219 medals have been awarded. Please ensure your chapter has identified and contributed photos of your past Patriot Medal recipients.

Second is the ongoing watch towards our Texas SAR Past Presidents, NSSAR officers, and all SAR public servants.

UNT Archives

The UNT Libraries, Special Collections, has very recently advised us that we should HALT our archive donations. Their reasoning is under investigation.



Therefore, as they requested, please immediately HALT your chapter archive donations to UNT until this is figured out!

Chapter Yearbook Judging

Last year's winners were identified in the 2023 Winter edition of this newsletter. Your chapter Yearbook committee should already be underway collecting this year's documents, photos, etc.



Suggestions are.

- Collecting Programs, Speakers with topic, Agendas, Minutes are a great start.
- Strive for: Newsletters, Civic activities, JROTC activities, Photos with captions, Awards given, Awards received, Speaker's Bureau activities.
- Organization by some criteria with a Table of Contents is great; by date, by activity type, whatever makes sense to the reader.
- Video category: be creative and thorough.

Bring your prior year Yearbooks to the spring annual conventions for judging within chapter size categories.

Next Committee Meeting

This Archives/History/Yearbook committee meets several times through the year and not just at state meetings. Some great ideas have evolved from both new and old members alike into some great history projects. Breakout meetings by project are sometimes called.

**Thurs.
July 6
6:30 pm**

The next committee meeting will be via zoom and two-three weeks prior to the next Texas SAR Conference. Whether in-person or otherwise, our committee meetings are open to committee members, past Texas Historians, Chapter Historians, and all Texas Compatriots. Send me an email so I can add you to the zoom list. We welcome your participation and contributions.

See you at the 2023 Texas SAR Summer Zoom Conference!



James Lemmon

April 1763—04 July 1858

Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Patriot

By Ted Wilson

The grave marking ceremony of James Lemmon, a North Carolina/Virginian in the Revolutionary War, a soldier in the War of 1812, and a citizen of the Republic of Texas, was done on March 19, 2023, with several SAR, DAR, SRT, DRT/1812 chapters in attendance. Each of these events in the life of James Lemmon would be covered by various speakers from that society or organization. Our host for the event was Sam Massey, Texas SAR President - Elect at that time. He welcomed approximately 90 people who had gathered and introduced a descendant of the patriot, Andrew Hawkers. After the invocation, the Color Guard, led by former State Color Guard Commander Bill Watts was asked to advance the colors which they did between two rows of flags representing the various flags present at many of the Revolutionary War Battles. Once presented, the pledge of allegiance to the U.S. Flag and the SAR Flag were cited. Children of the American Revolution led all in the National Anthem. The following made comments about their society and organization:

- The introduction of the SAR by Tom Van Fossen
- War of 1812 by Drake Peddie, President, Texas Society
- U.S. Daughters of 1812 by Ora Jane Johnson
- Sons of the Republic of Texas by Paul Ridenhour
- Daughters of the Republic of Texas by Ora Jane Johnson

There is a lot of written information about James Lemmon and his life. You can find some biographical infor-

mation on Find-a-grave plus other articles on the internet, and newspapers. Each one will give various information on his life and together they provide a detailed history of his life and where he lived. He is also included in the book Clovis H. Brakebill wrote about American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas.

Barbara Thomas (Richard Brad NSDAR) presented the life of James Lemmon.

As many of the earlier settlers of the 13 Colonies came to America from other countries, the same is true with the Lemmon family who came from County Tyrone, Ireland, about 1750 and settled in Baltimore, Maryland. Brothers Robert, John, and James fought in the French Indian War and at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War they entered the service of their country as Captains in the Maryland and Virginia lines. James was the son of Robert and served as a messenger boy (as he was only twelve) for George Washington. When he became of age, he enlisted in the Continental Army as a private until the war ended. During that time, his Uncle James was killed at the Battle of Brandywine. After the war, all the Lemmons began moving West into Kentucky. It was in Bowling Green that James met his soon-to-be wife Sarah Carr and they were married around 1800, and had seven children. While there, he volunteered as a Sergeant Major in Captain John Hamilton's Company of Kentucky Volunteers. His wife Sarah dies in 1815 and James gathers his family together and moves to Indiana. There he met Ann Rawlins and they are married on April 2, 1818. This union produced eight more children. In the mid 1830's, they were lured to new land in Illinois and settled in Green County next to Roderick Rawlins, a cousin of his wife.

Approximately ten years later, while Texas was a Republic and had plenty of land, Roderick Rawlins gathered his family together for a movement south taking with him Robert Lemmon, one of James' sons, to help with the move. Through the Peter's Colony they obtained a land grant near Lancaster, Texas. Robert was so impressed that he walked back to Illinois to get his father and mother and in August 1845 again moved to a new land known as Texas. Here James Lemmon resided until his death on July 4, 1858. He is buried in the Edgewood Cemetery, close to Roderick Rawlins (who also fought in the War of 1812 and who gave the land near Lancaster, Texas, in



south Dallas County for the cemetery.)

As the ceremony drew to a close, the Color Guard marched past his grave placing red carnations on it, thanked him for his service, and giving a salute. After that, others followed with their offering of thanks. A Color Guard firing squad, composed of Sons of the American Revolution members, formed a musket line and fired a salute to James Lemmon. Taps was played afterwards by Terry Bauer.

The grave is at Latitude 32.579738, Longitude 96.747121.



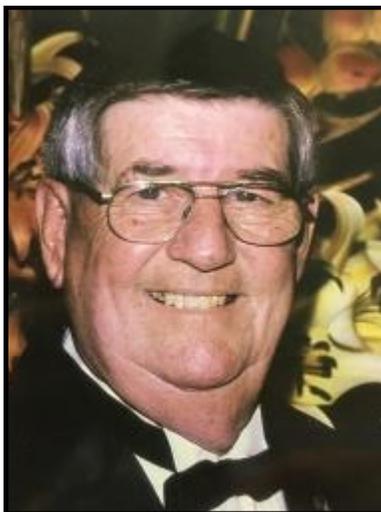


Harry Millard Fife, Jr. Texas SAR President 2008-2009 Requiescat in pace

Harry Millard Fife, Jr., passed into eternal life on May 14, 2023 in Tyler, Texas, after a short illness. He was born on July 24, 1939, in Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas, to

Harry Millard Fife, Sr., and Leota Mislivets Darby Fife. At the age of five, he moved to Richardson where he was raised by his Mom and Stepdad, Harold Thomas.

After graduating high school, Harry entered Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, where he took his basic



courses. After a short time at Tech, he joined the Navy. During his Navy tour, he served on the aircraft carrier, the *USS Bennington*. He was part of the VW-1 crew weather squadron that searched for typhoons. The Navy ignited Harry's passion for flying and travel, which he was able to fulfill later in life.

He married Linda Cathryn Colley on January 23, 1967, and together they resumed his Naval residence in Hawaii until his tour of duty ended. At that time, Harry completed his studies at Texas Tech and graduated in 1969 with a degree in Business Administration. During that time, their daughter, Cathryn Leigh Fife was born.

Upon graduation, Harry was offered a job at Shell Oil, so he moved his family to Stafford near the Houston area. Two years later their son, John Michael Fife, was born. In Stafford, Harry was an active member of the Methodist Church. He was especially known for his beautiful yard, wonderful chef-like cooking (especially steaks) and as a popular host. Harry's personality was contagious to everyone around. He loved the outdoors—fishing, hunting, camping, and the family Dogwood Farm carried wonderful memories of him for family, cousins, and friends. Everyone knew about his abilities as an avid fisherman. The fish just came to him when no one else was catching fish. Eventually, Harry moved his family to Dallas to take over his stepfather's Excavation Business. After a divorce and a period of time, he met Suzanne Homan Helberg. Harry and Suzanne were happily married on September 11, 1982. Included in this union are his two stepchildren, Michelle Helbur McClanahan and Barry Wayne Helberg, whom he loved like his own. Harry went back to work for Shell and his passion for travel finally came to fruition. He worked in Saudi Arabia for three years.

Harry was happiest when traveling. His children visited and they traveled to many countries together.

Harry was a proud member of The Sons of the American Revolution. He served as President of the SAR, Texas Society 2008-2009 and was a member of the General Society of the War of 1812.

Upon retirement, Harry and Suzanne moved to Cedar Creek Lake near Gun Barrel City, Texas, where they remained for his lifetime.

Harry was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Suzanne; his two children, Cathryn



Leigh Fife Lorenz and husband, Kevin; and John Michael Fife and wife, Julianne; stepdaughter, Michelle McClanahan and husband Mark; and stepson, Barry Helberg and partner, Kathy Wettman. Harry is also survived by three grandchildren: Caitlin Cathryn Lorenz, Parker Lee Lorenz, and Sarah Maxdon Fife; step grandchildren, Travis Ward, Devon Carrol, Phillip Helberg, and great-grandson, Wayne Helberg.



Cathy, his daughter says, *“My father was larger than life. When he was in a room, he always left with more friends than when he entered. He was interested in learning about everything and everyone around him. Truly living life to the fullest was his motto. Our yearly years of traveling fostered my love of adventure and with his guidance he encouraged me to never look back but always forward. One of the pillars of my life, his love, kindness and unwavering support shaped me into the person I am today. The legacy he leaves behind will carry on through my own children and our entire family. He may be gone but never forgotten, and it is my greatest honor to be his daughter.”*

Mike, his son says, *“Some of my fondest memories with his father involved the outdoors—camping in their pop-up trailer, hunting, fishing, crabbing, and clearing brush at the family property. Once, while fishing, Harry took a fishhook to the scalp. Despite the circumstances, he had everyone laughing about it even during the (certainly painful) extraction. Harry had a way of bringing joviality and happiness to any place he entered, and he would regale anyone listening with stories of international adventure.”*

He joined SAR under Patriot John Ogletree, Sr., on June 18, 1996, through the Athens Chapter #54. His NSSAR membership number was 146612 and his Texas SAR number was 7929. Harry also was registered under Patriots Jesse Saunders/Sanders, James Yancy, and Meshack Turner.

At a Memorial Service held on June 3, 2023, at Cedr

Creek Lake United Methodist Church in Tool, Texas, twelve members of the North Texas Color Guard were in attendance, with three SAR members also in attendance. The Guardsmen formed an Honor Guard as the family filed into the church and then Texas SAR Past President Drake Peddie led the Honor Guard into the church where they sat as group at the front. Vice President, District 5, Ron Turner posted the American flag and Vice President (acting), District 10, Bill Sekel posted the Methodist Church flag. Bill Sekel, as one of three “Witnesses to a Life” offered his remarks on Harry and his participation in SAR. Texas SAR President-elect Tracy Pounders presented an American flag and a SAR Memorial Certificate to Mrs. Suzanne Fife. Following that presentation, in a very moving moment, Bill Sekel transferred Harry M. Fife, Jr., from the Athens Chapter to the Chapter Eternal.

Participating Color Guardsmen were: Drake Peddie, Bill Sekel, Ron Turner, Tom Van Fossen, Michael Goode, Bill Watts, Tom Whitelock, Ted Wilson, T.L. Holden, Bob Johns, John Greer, and Steven Hole.

Other SAR members in attendance were Tracy Pounders, Leslie Anderson, Clayton R. Starr, and John Anderson.

Photos below are courtesy of Leslie Anderson.





North Texas SAR Color Guardsmen pictured left to right:

John Greer, Tom Van Fossen, T.L. Holden, Steven Hole, Drake Peddie, Bill Sekel, Ron Turner, Ted Wilson, Michael Goode, Bill Watts, Bob Johns. Not pictured: Tom Whitelock



Rudy Receives SCD Medal

At the Texas SAR Convention in Houston in April, South Central District Vice President General Charles McLemore of Arkansas presented Compatriot Blair Rudy with the South Central District Silver Roger Sherman Medal for Blair's two year's service as the South Central District's Color Guard Commander.

Huzzah!



Rear Admiral William R. Furlong

William Rae Furlong was born on May 26, 1881, in Allenport, Pennsylvania.

He was a 1905 graduate of the United States Naval Academy with the rank of ensign and was assigned to the armored cruiser *USS Maryland*.



From 1910 to 1912 he was assigned to the protected cruiser *USS Chicago*. He then attended Columbia University and graduated with a Master of Science degree in electrical and radio engineering in 1914.

In April 1914, Admiral Furlong participated in the Veracruz Expedition in Mexico. In July he was assigned as the Fleet Radio Officer on board the battleship *USS New York*.

From 1916 to 1917, Furlong served as a gunnery officer on board battleships *USS South Carolina* and *USS Nevada*.

Between 1918 and 1941, he served in various commands and on various ships, some of which were the *USS West Virginia*, the *USS Neches*, and the *USS Marblehead*. On June 23, 1938, he was promoted to rear admiral.

From February to December 1941, he served as commander of Minecraft, Battle Force at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He was present at the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, when he was on board his flagship, the minelayer *USS Oglala*, when it capsized after being strafed and torpedoed by the Japanese.

From December 12, 1941, to nearly the end of the war, he was commander of the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard and was charged with salvaging and repairing ships sunk during the Japanese attack and returning them for use in the Pacific war. Most notably, he oversaw the righting of the battleship *USS Oklahoma* which capsized after being torpedoed during the attack.

After retiring, Admiral Furlong was elected commander-in-chief in 1949 of the Military Order of World Wars. He also was a member of the Naval Order of the United

States and in 1949 he joined the District of Columbia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and as assigned national membership number 71282 and society number 2662.

In 1950, he was presented with the Freedoms Foundation award.

Admiral Furlong died on June 2, 1976, in Bethesda, Maryland.

His legacy is the Admiral Furlong Award. It is awarded by the Sons of the American Revolution for the public display of the American flag by a non-governmental organization.

In 1981 Furlong's book *So Proudly We Hail: The History of the United States Flag* was published by the Smithsonian Institution Press.

The ribbon bar of Rear Admiral William R. Furlong^[2]



1st Row	Legion of Merit with one 5/16" gold star	Mexican Service Medal	
2nd Row	World War I Victory Medal with Atlantic Fleet Clasp	American Defense Service Medal with "FLEET" clasp	Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one service star
3rd Row	American Campaign Medal	World War II Victory Medal	Order of the Cross of Liberty, 1st Class (Finland)

Patriot Camersac Grave Marking

The following is the text of the speech delivered by Compatriot Richard Lee Zdunkewicz at the Grave Marking for his Patriot Martin Camersac in Lake Charles, Louisiana, on Memorial Day, May 29, 2023.

Mayor Hunter, Father Buller, Louisiana Society President Randall Domingue, Texas Society President Sam Massey, Granaderos y Damaz de Galvez Louisiana Governor Robert Freeland, Louisiana DAR Regent Cheryl Winslow Gott and Texas DAR representative Catherine Massey. Good afternoon.

Representatives of the General Society of the War of 181, the Society of the Founders of the City of New Orleans, the Texas Navy, the staff of the Imperial Calcasieu Museum, and of course the Louisiana and Texas SAR Color Guards, on behalf of the



family, I want to thank all of you for being here today to honor Patriot Martin Camersac.

Before I speak about Patriot Camersac, I want to first recognize my mother, Mary Rose Todd Zdunkewicz, born to Ima LeBleu Todd here in Lake Charles.

Patriot Martin Camersac was born in Bordeaux, France, in August 1742 and baptized at the Cathedral of St. André in the city of Bordeaux. The son of a captain of the Navy of L'Amiraute of Bordeaux, Mathieu Camersac and his wife Marie Redeuil, Camersac, made his way to southeastern Louisiana from France around 1770 and settled first in Orleans Parish. He moved on to St. Landry Parish soon thereafter. We know from the historical record that he was a part of the Opelousas Militia and was recorded at the Opelousas Post on April 15, 1776.

Camersac served as a Fusillero, or rifleman, under Captain Juan B. Bienvenu in the 3rd Company of the official militia of the City of New Orleans, and esteemed Patriot Bernardo de Galvez, Spanish Governor of Louisiana. The force, under the command of Galvez, first marched on the British defenses under Lieutenant-Colonel Alex Dickson at Fort Bute, located on Bayou Manchac on September 7, 1779.

After taking that outpost by assault, Galvez moved on to what the British called Fort New Richmond, in

what is now Baton Rouge and after a brief siege claimed victory on September 21, 1779. The various militias from the areas in and around New Orleans were a key contributor to Galvez' victories as they represented nearly two-thirds of his total force of roughly 1,200 men.

Patriot Camersac was father to four children who were pioneers of the area that is now Lake Charles. Among those children were Marie Catherine Camersac LeBleu, my 4th Great Grandmother and spouse of Charles Sallier, after which Lake Charles is named. Marie Catherine's final resting place is here beside us.

In late 1814 and 1815, Patriot Camersac once again served the cause of the United States, as a Private in the 16th Regiment under Colonel John Thompson and Lieutenant-General Antoine Flaujac on the field in Chalmette in the Battle of New Orleans, the final battle of the War of 1812.

Patriot Camersac served the cause of liberty twice in his lifetime, both as a young man and in his later years.

What a courageous man he must have been!

7KPLC News in Lake Charles produced and broadcasted an excellent video report. [Watch it here.](#)



Members of the Louisiana & Texas Color Guards





Compatriot Richard L. Zdunkewicz, a descendant of Compatriot Martin Camersac



Randall Domingue, President, Louisiana Society, Sons of the American Revolution



Sam Massey, President, Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution

Remembering Our Departed

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.

Walter Eugene Holmes, Jr.

March 24, 2023

SAR #159962

Member Since March 19, 2003

Live Oak Chapter #55

David Nelson Grimes

April 7, 2023

SAR #165837

Member Since October 11, 2005

Permian Basin Chapter #18

Harry Millard Fife, Jr.

May 14, 2023

SAR #146612

Member Since June 18, 1996

Athens Chapter #54

Paying Homage

Compatriot Tom Whitelock, Dallas Chapter, paying homage to former veterans and planting U.S. flags on Memorial Day at Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery (top) and Rosemound Cemetery, Commerce (bottom).



Captain Molly Corbin Awards Banquet

The Color Guard for the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter posted the Colors at the Captain Molly Corbin Chapter DAR Award Banquet on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at Hackberry Creek Country Club in Irving, Texas.

The Guardsmen posted the Colors and then enjoyed a delightful dinner, followed by the DAR Awards program.

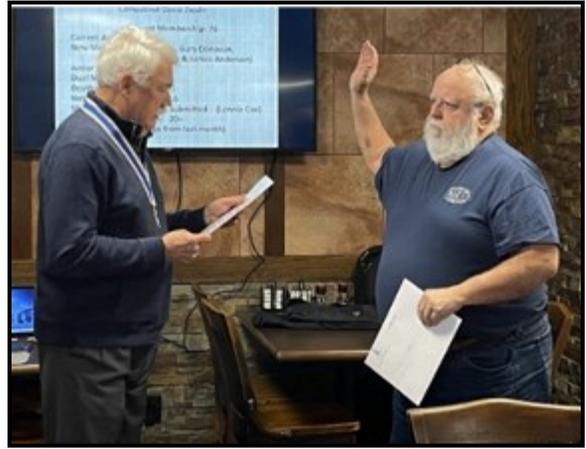
Shown in the photo at left are (left to right): Past President James Alderman, Texas SAR Vice President, District 5, Ron Turner, Georgiana Braydon, Regent Beth O'Shea, Compatriot Steven Hole, and President Bobby Gresham.



Bernardo de Galvez Chapter Has Busy Quarter



Chapter Registrar David Zwahr was awarded the Chapter Distinguished Service by Past Chapter President Billy Mayo for his outstanding service during the period 2021-2022. David has assisted more than 20 applicants with their applications. Chapter President Hugh Ferguson presented his Certificate and Medal to him during the



In February, Bernardo de Galvez Chapter President Hugh Ferguson swore in new Compatriots Frank Steele and Milton Betts and presented them with their membership certificates and rosettes.



February chapter meeting.

Chapter President Hugh Ferguson presented Harry Elmendorf with his 5-Year Membership Certificate of service in the SAR at the March Meeting.



In February, 7th District Vice-President Richard Zdunkewicz was presented a Certificate of Appreciation for his presentation on "The Chauvin-Camersac-LeBleu-Sallier Families in Louisiana."





At the April Dickinson High School JROTC Awards Ceremony, Bernardo de Galvez Chapter President Hugh Ferguson presented Cadet 2nd Lieutenant Davin Bacchus with the Sons of the American Revolution Society's Junior ROTC Bronze Medal and Certificate in recognition of his outstanding leadership qualities, military bearing and excellence.

At the March Chapter Meeting, Compatriot Ray Cox presented a program on "An Instrument of War." The program provided an excellent history of the use of the fife from the 15th Century in Switzerland up through the American Civil War. Chapter President Hugh Ferguson presented him a Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding presentation.

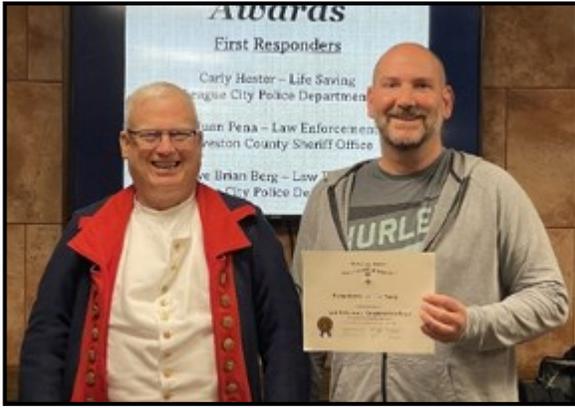


Compatriot John Loper, Bernardo de Galvez First Responder Recognition Committee Chairman, recognized Lieutenant Juan Pena with a Sons of the American Revolution Society Law Enforcement Medal and Certificate for his outstanding service with the Galveston County Sheriff Office and his many hours of community service. He is a Board Member for the Ronald McDonald House, The Sunshine Center in Galveston, Galveston Catholic Charities and the Upward Mobility Academy which serves underserved and potentially disadvantaged students in Galveston.



Bernardo de Galvez Chapter President Hugh Ferguson presented Msgr. James Anderson, Pastor of the Queen of Peace Catholic Church in La Marque, with his certificate of membership in the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) at the April meeting of the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter. Msgr. Anderson will serve as the chapter's chaplain at future meetings and events.





Compatriot John Loper, Bernardo de Galvez First Responder Recognition Committee Chairman, recognized Detective Brian Berg with a Sons of the American Revolution Society Law Enforcement Medal and Certificate for his 18 years of outstanding service with the Texas City Police Department. He was part of a combined law enforcement effort at combating the gang and narcotic activities of gangs that plagued Galveston County. He has continued his work in getting sizable amounts of narcotics, and illegal firearms off the streets. One of Detective Berg's "Plug" type of Fraud cases that he worked on was recently adopted by the United States Secret Service.



Compatriot Billy Mayo, ROTC Award Committee Chairman, presented a Bernardo de Galvez JROTC Scholarship to Cadet Major Deanna Garcia, a student at Dickinson High School. Cadet Major Garcia received a Certificate and a check for \$750. In 2022 she was awarded the Sons of the American Revolution Bronze Junior ROTC Medal and Certificate in recognition of her outstanding leadership qualities, military bearing and excellence.



Compatriot John Loper, Bernardo de Galvez First Responder Recognition Committee Chairman, recognized Carly Hester, League City Police Department, with a Sons of the American Revolution Society Life Saving Medal and Certificate for her quick actions and instructions to an emergency caller on how to perform the Heimlich maneuver prior to an EMS unit saved a choking victim's life.



As the chapter winner in the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution in the 2023 TXSSAR Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration Contest, William Lance Cartwright was presented a certificate and a check for \$150 by Chapter Youth Awards Committee Chairman John Loper. He also placed 3rd in the state level of this contest.





Allen Aing, a student at Odyssey Academy-Bay Area, was the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter winner in the Sons of the American Revolution American Poster contest. Chapter Youth Awards Committee Chairman John Loper presented him a certificate and a check for \$50.



At the April Ball High School JROTC Awards Ceremony, Bernardo de Galvez Chapter President Hugh Ferguson presented Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Jorge Campos with the Sons of the American Revolution Society's Junior ROTC Bronze Medal and Certificate in recognition of his outstanding leadership qualities, military bearing and excellence.



At the Texas A & M Maritime Academy ROTC Award Ceremony in April, Cadet Midshipman Nicolas Farmer was recognized with a SAR Silver Medal and Certificate by the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter of the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR).



At the May Clear Creek ISD JROTC Awards Ceremony, Bernardo de Galvez Chapter President Hugh Ferguson presented SAR Bronze Medals and Certificates to Cadets Kim, Morrow, Cline, Lloyd and Erickson in recognition of their outstanding leadership qualities, military bearing and excellence.



During the May Clear Creek ISD JROTC Awards program, Compatriot Billy Mayo presented Lieutenant Colonel David Lloyd from Clear Springs High School with a Bernardo de Galvez Chapter \$750 Scholarship. He had been awarded a SAR JROTC Bronze Medal earlier in the awards ceremony.





At the May Chapter Meeting, Bernardo de Galvez Chapter President Hugh Ferguson swore in Judge Lonnie Cox as a new member and presented him with his membership certificates and rosette. Chapter Registrar David Zwahr (center) pinned the Rosette on Judge Cox.



The Bernardo de Galvez Chapter has the privilege of presenting Tanisha Burri with a TXSSAR Certificate and check for placing 5th in the SGT. MOSES ADAMS Middle School Brochure Contest. She had previously received a certificate and check as the chapter's first place winner in this contest.

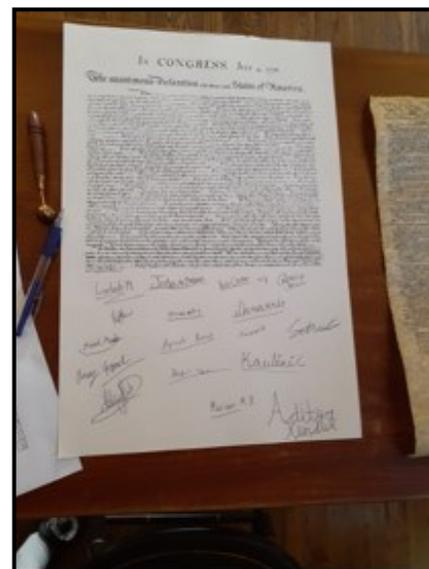


Chapter President Ferguson was presented his 5-Year Membership Certificate of service by Chapter Secretary John Loper during the May chapter meeting.

During the May Chapter Meeting, First Responders from League City and La Marque were recognized for their outstanding performance of duties and life saving actions. Blake Brazzel from the League City Fire Department received the EMS Award; Maya Frazer from the League City Fire Department received the Fire Safety Award; and Corporal Nicole Galindo from the La Marque Police Department received the Life Saving Award



DAR Education Day Dallas



Early Texas SAR History

For the first years of the Texas Society, 1896 to 1928, there were no Chapters—only Society Presidents.

The first recorded chapters listed in July 1929 were:

- Galveston Chapter No. 1, President, George N. Yard, care G. C. & S. F. Ry.; Secretary, Walter S. Mayer, 1404 39th Street
- Dallas Chapter No. 2, President, John T. Trezevant, Box 119; Secretary-Treasurer, James C. Jones
- Texarkana Chapter No. 3, President-Registrar, Henry S. Brashear; Secretary-Treasurer, Edward D. Levee, Jr.

July 1929, SAR Magazine, page 143

Dallas Chapter Meeting April



Left to right: Tom Van Fossen, Jim Akers (Denton Chapter, Ron Turner (Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter), and Art Munford (Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter)



Frank Pounders, David Temple, Jerry Pinkerton, and Tracy Pounders



Jim Akers and Tom Van Fossen



Rev. Frank Pounders offered the Invocation



Chapter President Mark Harrison visits with fellow chapter members

Special guest was Texas SAR President Sam Massey



Flag Retirement Certificate

FLAG RETIREMENT CERTIFICATE

Many of us that fly the United States Flag will eventually have to replace Old Glory. What do we do with the Flag?

- Call the local Fire Chief Office and ask where you can take the flags.
- Call the American Legion Post or Veterans of Foreign Wars Post and see if they collect the Flags.
- Check with the Boy Scouts.
- See if the local newspaper editor is aware of a place to retire the Flag.

Once you find where you can take the Flag, Then...

- Present them with a Flag Retirement Certificate.



These are available from the SAR Merchandise Department. A lot of the DAR chapters are now getting involved with this project. Offer to help them.

~ John L Greer

Public Service and Flag Committee Chairman

SAR Silver Good Citizenship Award

Randy Hall was the recipient of the Silver Good Citizenship Medal for an outstanding retired JROTC Instructor at the 2023 Texas SAR Convention in Spring, Texas.

For sixteen years. Randy was Aerospace Science Instructor at Aldine Senior High where he taught over 3,000 students aerospace science, military protocol, physical fitness, and military drills among other matters. Some of

his most special remembrances included his cadets winning the Texas State open drill meet in 2004 and finishing sixth nationally in 2008. In 2006 his cadets presented the colors at the NBA All Star game in Houston in addition to color presentations for the Houston Astros, Texans, Rockets, and Aeros in different years. He and his cadets were fixtures for annual events such as Wreaths across America in addition to Martin Luther King, Cesar Chavez, and Veterans Day parades

In 2011 he was named outstanding instructor for AFJROTC, headquartered in Maxwell AFB.

He was first runner up for teacher of the year at Aldine H.S. in 2008. Randy also served on the safety/security committee for the high school.

Randy is a certified JROTC instructor with the State of Texas with a degree in Logistics Management from the Community College of the Air Force. Since 2016 Randy remains a Competitive Swimmer competing in swim events with the VA and the senior games across the United States winning over 30 medals. He is a proud member of the Texas Sons of the American Revolution, Piney Woods Chapter. Currently Randy serves as the coordinator for Academy Lifelong Learning for Lone Star College.

He served as a C130 Hercules Instructor Loadmaster in the USAF from 1976-1996. Randy accumulated over 5,000 flying hours with missions in support of operations involving Iraqi Freedom, Restore Hope, Invasion of Panama, and Hurricane Hugo



In the photo from left to right Mark Harrison, VP Contest Medals & Awards, Randy Hall, Texas SAR President Jim Kuykendall, John Thompson, Chairman ROTC/JROTC



The Silver Good Citizenship Medal is the highest award that can be given to a citizen by the state and may only be awarded by the sitting state president. This recognition program was started in 2018 by Compatriot John Thompson who served as Chairman of the ROTC/JROTC Committee and the then Texas SAR President Tom Jackson.

Congratulations Captain Fleming

Friday, May 5th, was an exciting day in Compatriot David Fleming’s family. At a Fort Worth Police Department ceremony, Chief Neil Noakes promoted Lt. Fleming to Captain in the FWPD. David was joined by his wife Tricy and his son Weston. Captain Fleming is a 16+ year Police Officer. During his career, David spent three years as an Officer, three years as a Detective, five years as a Sergeant, and five years as a Lieutenant.

From Captain Fleming’s LinkedIn profile, he has “a demonstrated history of leadership in the Law Enforcement profession. Skilled in Law Enforcement Operations, Scaled Responses, Crisis Intervention, Community Outreach, Criminal and Administrative Investigations, and Emergency Incident Management. Strong background in building and managing teams across department, agency, and industry boundaries. Developed knowledge of community policing approaches, risk management, and applicability of municipal, state, and federal laws. Possesses a Master Peace Office License as well as a Master in Business Administration with a focus in Project Management.”

Lt. David Fleming with his Captain’s badge.



In the photo above, Captain Fleming said that since the SAR colors and insignia are not approved for his police uniform, he snuck the SAR symbolism in by putting his SAR tie on his son.

Captain Fleming has been assigned to the Violent Crime Initiative (VCI) and will be over Central, East, and South Divisions going forward.

Job well done, Captain! Congratulations again and . . .

Huzzah!



In the photo above, FWPD Chief Neil Noakes presents



128th Annual Texas SAR State Convention Recap

Another successful annual state convention is in the books! Approximately 100 members from across our great State of Texas gathered at the Marriott Houston City Place/Springwoods hotel beginning on Thursday, March 30th and ending on Sunday, April 2nd.

Following Covid, our in-person meetings have been shortened by having the majority of our committees meet via Zoom ahead of the convention. This year, we returned to having some training sessions on Thursday afternoon. The first session was on Musket Gun Safety and that was followed by a Zoom training session on the Education opportunities at the NSSAR website and the Texas SAR website.

Friday morning began with a few of the committee meetings that do not meet via Zoom, i.e. Council of Chapter Presidents, Genealogy, and the Americanism committees. The afternoon began with the Color Guard Committee meeting, followed by the First General Session. The day ended with the President's Reception in an open-air pavilion with delicious Hors d'oeuvres, soothing drinks, and great conversations.

Saturday morning began with the Second General Session and for probably the first time in history, the convention concluded its business by 10:00 a.m.

The Youth Awards Luncheon was the first highlight of the day on Saturday. It is always enjoyable to hear the top oration contest winners present their orations and this year was no different. Following lunch, the always emotional and moving Memorial Service occurred where the Society remembers all those members who passed away during the previous year.

Due to the convention concluding its business in record time, delegates had some good down time to relax, go sightseeing, or simply renew or make new acquaintances before the Gala Dinner on Saturday evening.

The evening began with a cocktail hour prior to dinner. Following a delicious meal, the guest speaker was Denton Florian. He is one of the foremost experts on Sam Houston, the great Texas general, president, and governor (in that order); and Texas history in general.

The gala evening included the announcement and introduction of the 2023 class of Patriot Medal awardees. The Patriot Medal is the highest SAR award that a State Society can present to a member.

The convention was honored to have as its guest, NSSAR President General C. Bruce Pickette and NSSAR Vice President General South Central District Charles McLemore. PG Pickette installed the Texas SAR officers for this next year.









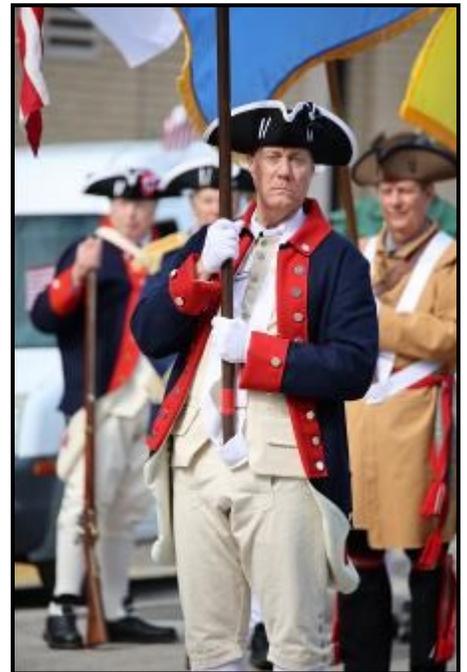




Medal of Honor Parade

Saturday, April 22nd, the city of Gainesville, Texas, hosted their annual Medal of Honor Parade and the Texas SAR Color Guard once again showed up in large numbers to participate.









Prior to the step off for the Medal of Honor parade, Texas SAR presented the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship medal and ribbon to Lead Petty Officer II Hope Ehlers, Naval Service Cadet Corp, Red River Battalion. Hope will lead the Naval Cadet Corp immediately after the SAR Color Guard.

The award is presented to a cadet who:

- 1) is in the NSCC Program (not the NLCC Program);
- 2) is in the last, or next to last, year in the NSCC program;
- 3) is at least a Petty Officer Second Class;
- 4) is in good standing militarily and scholastically at the time of selection and presentation;
- 5) demonstrates a high degree of merit with respect to leadership qualities, military bearing, and excellence in the performance of duties;
- 6) has the potential for greater leadership responsibilities; and
- 7) is recommended by the unit Commanding Officer.

Texas SAR members presenting the award to Cadet Ehlers in the photo above are Texas SAR President Sam Massey, Texas SAR Treasurer and Northern Color Guard Commander Gary Barker, and Gen. T. L. Holden (ret.)



RULES FOR THE ROSS L. SHIPMAN NEWSLETTER COMPETITION

The Ross L. Shipman Newsletter Competition Award is presented to a Texas SAR Chapter with the Best Newsletter for the calendar year. The Award is presented for three categories.

1. **The Multi-sheet Newsletter** - This competition is for the best newsletter using the multi-sheet format and **issuing at least 8 issues a year.**
2. **The Single-sheet Newsletter** - This competition is for the best newsletter using the single-sheet format and **issuing at least 6 issues per year.**

3. **The Electronic Newsletter** - This competition is for the best newsletter using the electronic format and **issuing at least 6 issues per year.**

Copies of the newsletter should be sent to the Editor, *The Texas Compatriot*, and the Chairman, Ross L. Shipman Newsletter Committee **after every publication.** The Chairman will file the newsletters and use them when time to evaluate them. The evaluation will occur in February of each year to determine the winning chapters in each category.

Announcement and awards are presented during the state annual convention.

Texas SAR Directory 2023 - 2024

President **Samuel P. Massey**
President-elect **Tracy A. Pounders**
Immediate Past President **James M. Kuykendall**
Secretary **Melvin L. Oller**
Assistant Secretary **John E. Ray**
Communications Secretary **Raymond W. Cox**
Staff Secretary **Kevin L. Kanter**
Treasurer **Gary L. Barker**
Assistant Treasure **Don E. Hayes**
Registrar (Coastal Group) **Charles R. "Chuck" Wagner**
Registrar (Inland Group) **Jerry W. Pinkerton**
Chancellor **Dustin S. Whittenburg**
Chaplain **Kevin L. Kanter**
Historian **John D. Anderson, Jr.**
Vice President, CM&A **Mark H. Harrison**
Vice President, District 1 **Larry D. Spradlin** (Acting)
Vice President, District 2 **Benjamin C. Pollard**
Vice President, District 3 **Robert D. Smith, MD**
Vice President, District 4 **Ronald J. Walcik**
Vice President, District 5 **Ronald J. Turner**
Vice President, District 6 **Thomas F. Van Fossen**
Vice President, District 7 **Richard L. Zdunkewicz**
Vice President, District 8 **Kenneth R. Graalum**
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How to Submit Items to

The Texas Compatriot

The Texas Compatriot welcomes submissions from compatriots. Here are some tips on getting your story published.

1. Keep your article as short as you can while still telling the story. Send stories in Microsoft Word format to compatriot@txssar.org.
2. Send digital photographs as attachments and not embedded into the Word document. They also should be sent to compatriot@txssar.org.
3. Make sure your images are high resolution, at least 300 DPI, and that no time or date stamps appear on the images.
4. Limit the number of photographs to those you would most like to see published.
5. Meet the deadlines published for and in each issue.

New Picture Policy

To publish photos of children under the age of 18 in *The Texas Compatriot*, your local chapter newsletter, or on your chapter website, you must have a signed parental form that gives us (the Texas Society SAR) permission to publish the child's name and photo. You can find the form on the Society's public website under **Contest/Programs > Permission/Release Form**.

https://www.txssar.org/pdf/Permission_Youth.pdf.

Before the child's picture can appear in *The Texas Compatriot*, the signed consent form must be on file in the editor's office.

Publishing Deadlines

Deadlines for content inclusion in *The Texas Compatriot* are: **February 28th, May 31st, August 31st, & November 31st each year**. Planned publication dates for *The Texas Compatriot* are no later than the last day of the months of March, June, September, & December each year.

Newsletter Committee

Ron Turner, Chairman of the Texas Society Newsletter Committee, is seeking members of the society who have an interest in serving on the committee.

The Mission of the Newsletter Committee is to insure the history of the Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution, is reported and preserved in a timely manner in a publication named *The Texas Compatriot*. It is a goal of this committee to publish newsletters featuring member activities at the National, State, and Local Chapter level, and to report on educational, public, and veteran activities, our Youth Programs, and those events honoring our public servants in each issue.

Compatriot Turner desires that every chapter in the Texas Society have a representative on the Newsletter Committee. Every chapter president should ensure that his chapter is represented on the committee. If your chapter has a newsletter, the editor of said newsletter should be on the committee as your chapter's representative.

All interested parties should contact Ron Turner at rjturner0815@gmail.com.

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