



The Texas Compatriot



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Fall, 2020



**BUT OUR FLAG
IS STILL THERE!**

From the president

Drake M. Peddie

Many of you who have heard me speak in person over the past few years know that there is one thing I will never fail to remind you of and will continue to do throughout my term.



Each of you has a certificate hanging on the wall somewhere there at your home – or maybe in a 3-ring binder. Regardless, the name on that certificate is a real person that lived a real life that you share your DNA with. He or she lived during some extraordinary times and during their lifetime, did some extraordinary things for your family and our country. Today, we also live in extraordinary times – challenging times, like we have never seen in our lifetimes, maybe not in several generations.

So while we are quarantined in our homes and slow-

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A Tribute to a Great Man and Past State President and Nat'l V-P General Marris II



Members of the honor guard and piper were wearing appropriate masks.

By **Stu Hoyt**

On June 22, 2020 William Marshall Marris II left the camp ground and went to points beyond

Bill is survived by his wife Sylvia and a long list of family members. He will be remembered as a Texas State President, and a Vice-President General, but most of all for his work in updating the SAR IT system and his 10 years as the Texas State Secretary. When he left that job it took three people to cover all that he did.

At his request, his remains were cremated and the urn containing them was placed center of the altar table at his memorial service. The service was held at

Round Rock United Methodist Church on Saturday, July 11.

As part of the eulogy, both Past President Generals Tom Lawrence and Ed Butler shared remembrances of his life in the Sons of The American Revolution. In the congregation were Past-Texas State Presidents Stephen Rohrbaugh, Larry Stevens, Bob Cohen, David Temple and current President Drake Peddie. Members of the Texas SAR Color Guard participated in the service as an Honor Guard.

In addition to acting as a Bridge of Honor, as the family was escorted in, the Color Guard, wearing Black Plumb Feathers, paired up as guards at the urn table, in a ceremonial rotation throughout the



William Marshall Marris II

service. The Patrick Henry Chapter, of which Bill was a member, presented his widow with an SAR Memorial Certificate. The family requested a Bag Piper, who played an interlude prior to the start of the service.

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ly starting to get back out, we still cannot do parades, veterans' visits, school programs and all that we do in the community. I know it frustrates many of you, as it does me. What can we do to keep our Society and Chapters active so our members do not get bored or lose interest? Well, we can and should continue to have our chapter meetings (virtually), continue to modernize our society by refurbishing our infrastructure and make ourselves better and more efficient as a society for starters. These things can happen in many ways with your support.

Having in-person meetings is not really an option as far as I am concerned. There are so many free video and teleconference options out there, that so many chapters and our executive officers are already using, there is no reason not have your regular chapter meetings. As a matter of fact, many chapters who are doing this, report an increase in meeting participation from members who have not recently attended in-person meetings. This is great news and may go a long way in helping with retention and renewals – staying connected to your chapter members.

In the past couple of months, I have dialed into GoTo Meeting, ZOOM and FreeConferenceCall meetings. If you have them, let me know please!

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Without a doubt, the virtual online meeting is a wonderful way to keep chapter meetings going and members participating while never leaving the house. This is how our Texas SAR Executive Committee has been doing business for the past two months and it works fine – no issues.

Large chapters as well as small are making this work for them too. As a matter of fact, some chapters will keep them going even after the current health scare goes away and have a Zoom meeting, or a teleconference going coincident with their regular meetings. They can be recorded and even added to YouTube if you like for more to see or promote your chapter.

There are so many advantages to doing a video teleconference. First, you do not have to find a place to meet, worry about social distancing at a restaurant, or deal with the restaurant quotas for safety. Next, every member in your chapter that has a computer, or a smart phone, can access and virtually attend the meeting and not worry about getting out or traveling distances farther than they want. Joining a meeting is as simple as clicking a trusted link in an email and clicking on two buttons as the conference comes up.

Finally and maybe most important, it opens up a huge number of options for you as far as guest speaker

options.

Getting good quality speakers is often hard for many chapters. We have a Speakers Bureau on our state website. But many times travel distances make it difficult to get any to your chapter. So if you need speakers, if they are willing, they can be conferenced in and speak on their normal topics. Not just SAR members. A college professor dialed in to a local chapter last week up in the north and gave his presentation.

Gentlemen, this is how the society is moving and how businesses are keeping going during our current situation and it really should be no different for us. More members showing up, keeping your meeting going and more speaker options should be more than enough reasons for this to start in your chapter with your very next meeting. Our ancestors overcame a lot of extreme situations during the war and managed to overcome them all.

I am confident, we can overcome social distancing and move forward and still be successful as a Society and make our ancestors proud as well.

An other very important thing that we can do as we come out of seclusion gradually over the next few weeks is to review and better document our processes on how

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The Show Must Go On!

By **Stu Hoyt**, State Historian

When the Declaration of Independence was finished on July 4, 1776, it was noted that this would become a day of celebration.

Little did they know that there would be periods of history that would alter that celebration.

Little did we know that 2020 would be one of those years with a pandemic haunting every gathering.

Each year the city of Wimberley, has a three-day rodeo with fireworks and parade around the 4th of July celebration.

It would not be this year because of the restrictions imposed on social distancing.

The Wimberley VFW sponsors these events each year and could not let this year's celebration go by unnoticed.

They teamed up with the TX SAR Color Guard to perform an all services flag raising ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Plaza in the morning.

The top of a hill, on the southwest side of the town, had been leveled a few years ago and flag poles were mounted around a large green with the US flag in the center.

All military service flags were placed a half-staff for the start of the ceremony. The Texas SAR Color Guard led off by circling the green, with the Betsy Ross Flag, and stopping at the US flag pole.

As the National Anthem, followed by state and each military service was projected over the speakers, The SAR color guard assisted the VFW members in raising the flags to full staff.

The Post Commander gave a short talk on the significance of the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution.

There was not a large crowd because of the conditions but it was significant and poignant.

The celebration continued that evening at the VFW Post with three days of fireworks being shot off in one evening.

What a BANG!



From left: Rowan Carlisle (drummer), Ron Moulton (played taps), and Casey Cotton (Patrick Henry), Stu Hoyt (William Hightower), Fred Duncan and Jim Clements (Patrick Henry), Jason Bourgeois (San Antonio), Jim Horton and Robert Hites (Patrick Henry).

Congratulations to newsletter winners

Chairman Larry Stevens reports that the Ross Shipman Judging Committee for the 2019 chapter newsletter contest has made its choices. And the winners are:

The multi-sheet newsletter – This competition is for the best newsletter using the multi-sheet format of five or more pages:

1st Place “Chisholm Trails”, Van Zandt Chapter No. 6

2nd Place “Pine Shavings”, PineyWoods Chapter No. 51

3rd Place “Edmond Terrill News”, Edmond Terrill Chapter No. 34

4th Place “The Hightower Recorder”, William Hightower Chapter No. 35

5th Place “East Fork – Trinity Chapter Newsletter”, East Fork Trinity Chapter No. 47

The single-sheet newsletter – This competition is for the best newsletter using the single-sheet format of one to four pages.

1st Place “Town Crier”, Heart of Texas Chapter No. 26

2nd Place “Cradle of Texas Crier”, Cradle of Texas Chapter No. 33

3rd Place “The Boerne Patriot”, Boerne Chapter No. 64

Congratulations to all who participated and did the hard work of producing a newsletter!

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we do things so the next guy coming along does not have to reinvent the wheel and there is no need to search high and low for the tribal knowledge to find out how to do things. This is relevant and important, both at the chapter and state levels.

I would like to see us build a pool of knowledge and lessons learned in the form of a Frequently Asked Questions page, or library, on our website. With this new page, as it grows, our current and prospective members will not need to search endlessly for how to do something, how something works or who to talk to.

As a matter of fact, this project has already started and is fully functional on our Texas SAR home page. You can find links on the home page right now. While there is not a lot there at this time, it is a work in progress and will continue to grow during my tenure and beyond.

I have challenged our executive committee to come up with additional topics to add. We are happy to accept your input as well – the one caveat is that if you ask us a question, you have to supply the answer as well to get it added – no open ended questions please. My hopes are that this will help end some frustration for our members about finding important information in the future and make our society more transparent and better educated

on Texas SAR.

Finally, following up in addition to the sharing of information and building lessons learned is improving how we train our new and current members to become our future leaders at all levels. While we have lots of great material available right now; Chapter Presidents Manual, Color Guard Manual, State Registrars Manual, State Secretary and Treasurers Manuals, etc. etc. etc., you have to look a lot of places to find these and they are not always current. We are going to revitalize and re-task our training committee to pull all these together, get the right people to review and update them and make them available to all who are interested and keep them all in a central location preferably.

I think all of this is a good start and will have a long terms positive effect on our society. There is no real way to know how long our current environment will last or if it goes away and comes back again.

So it is important that we make efficient and valuable use of our time doing productive work that will help our Texas Society and our chapters grow and move forward that we normally do not have time to do because of our hectic schedules. The SAR and the Texas Society has prospered for many years and will continue to do

so with your feedback, positive actions and continued help. Like your ancestors, I know all of our members to be extraordinary individuals fully capable of meeting all our challenges that lay in front of us. I thank you so much for your support and look forward to working with all of you over my term.

Thank you.



NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

Please forgive this late notice, but it has come to your *Texas Compatriot* editor's attention that entries for the national newsletter contest are due by Dec. 15. Submit only one issue that you think is your best example to the national office in Louisville.

GOOD LUCK!

Constitution Week: a Public Law

by **Stu Hoyt**

Each year since 1956, Sept. 17 through 23 is declared Constitution Week by Public Law 915. Annually a proclamation inviting the people of the United States to observe such week in schools, churches, and other suitable places with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The Captain Thomas Moore Chapter DAR of San Marcos encourages such a proclamation by inviting everyone to ring bells at 3 pm on the 17th. One of their members, Martha Moore, a member of the First United Methodist Church, rings the historic church bell. This bell was given to the church by Benjamin Hawkins, an Indian agent appointed by George Washington, who first hung it in the Ft. Hawkins chapel in Macon, Georgia in 1806.

The Captain Thomas Moore Chapter called upon the TX SAR for color guard support. At 3 pm, the church bell rang out for one minute, Then "Town Crier" Blair Rudy, rang forth by large hand bell and followed by the reading of a Constitution Week proclamation by TX SAR State President Drake Peddie.



Pictured front from left Captain Thomas Moore DAR members Carol Blue-Garcia, Martha Moore and Athena Reiche, Constitution Week chairman with Blair Rudy following and Stu Hoyt, William Hightower Chapter, Wayne Courrege Jr. and Jim Clements Jr. of the Patrick Henry Chapter.

Views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily represent the views of the national, state, or any local chapter of Sons of the American Revolution. – Editor

2020 TXSAR goes Zoom

By **Jim Kuykendall**,
President Elect

Have you ever known or heard someone say to themselves - or someone else: "They will never get me to do that blasted computerized meeting stuff!!" Some may have thought it was too high tech, too involved, too much trouble to do. And then came COVID-19 and all of those thoughts and fears were laid right at our desktop!

First the annual meeting was postponed and cancelled and our society like the world around us was in quarantine. We could not have our meeting but we still had business to take care of.

Like our patriot ancestors we persevered and overcame and that technology that we were unsure of became our saving grace!

The Texas Society recently held one of our most well attended, informative meetings - and all of it was done virtually using home computers, laptops, cell phones and a program called Zoom.

The virtual meeting opened with an excellent video of the Color Guard under the direction of Commander Blair Rudy all in full uniform posting the colors (performed at the Medal of Honor Statue at the TX State Cemetery in Austin.) A video message came from Sen. John Cornyn, then greeting from President General Jack Manning, who attended the meeting on Zoom from his home in Situate, MA. Next came welcomes and greetings from state and national

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On Aug. 15, the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution presented their annual public service awards. Receiving awards from chapter president Bill Adriance were League City EMT Carlos Alexander and League City Firefighter Captain Keith Ozenberger.

Receiving the Law Enforcement Award and the Life-Saving Award were Sheriff Cpl. A. Espinoza and Deputy L.Hawkins.

In addition, the Hero Medal was presented to Galveston County Sheriff Henry A. Trochesset. Sheriff Trochesset's award read in part: "Sheriff Trochesset is receiving this award not only for himself but also for the heroic deeds of the Galveston County Sheriff's office during this time of crisis."

... also around the state



Jerry Pinkerton, Brent Harshman, Tom Van Fossen and "old crip himself" Tom Whitelock.

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officers of different organizations. Outgoing President David Temple and incoming President Drake Peddie co-hosted the meeting.

The morning session included officer and chairmen reports, followed by the presentation of awards, done by chapter and slide presentation. President Temple had a special video presentation for the recipients of the Patriot Award. Thanks to the special efforts and timing of State Secretary Jim Clements, the Patriot Awards were delivered to the homes of the recipients on the day they were awarded!

The Patriot Medal (illustrated at right) is the highest award presented to a compatriot by a state society and recognizes long, faithful, outstanding, and distinguished service at the state and/or chapter level. The following compatriots are the recipients of the Patriot Medal for 2019, Leslie Anderson, Albert Gibson, Jim Kuykendall, Ben Pollard, Blair Rudy and William Sekel.

Voting at the board of managers meeting was made easier due to the attendees all registering as delegates. Staff Secre-

tary Tracy Pounders used Zoom to create survey ballots for each member. The entire board of managers meeting that usually took us two days to do was completed in one somewhat long day.

We had approximately 107 compatriots attend the meeting by computer, perhaps more if we were to count those who were attending at other member's homes. That made this year's annual meeting one of the best attended.

It took a good deal of planning to make this happen and there were many compatriots involved in the planning and implementation. For example, we had 28 committee meetings that were held in the two weeks before the Saturday meeting. All committee except two met all on computers. From all reports we have the best attendance ever at these committee meetings and lots of business was taken care of.

We had 10 compatriots who served as host for the meetings. They set up the Zoom meeting, sent the chairmen the invite so they could invite interested

members. They also monitored the meeting and recorded it so the chairmen would have something to take minutes from.

It was a great effort, and like our patriotic ancestors, we rose to the occasion and were successful! This has opened the door for us to use this technology to enhance our efforts. We are already using it to do chapter meetings and reaching out to help train chapter members in many areas.

On behalf of President Drake Peddie, I want to thank everyone who helped make this happen, and everyone who took the initiative to use Zoom and to meet together. Despite a virus and a quarantine, we were able meet and get our work done!

Huzzah!! Huzzah!! Huzzah!!

