



# The Texas Compatriot



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Sons of the American Revolution © 2023

Summer 2023

## Van Zandt Bestows SAR Life Saving Awards

On Monday, June 19th, at the Parker County Hospital District EMS Training Center in Weatherford, Texas, officers and compatriots of the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter #6, Fort Worth, recognized and honored two EMT's with the SAR Life Saving Medal.

On February 14, 2023, "an 18-Wheeler rear-ended another 18-Wheeler at interstate speeds on I-20 in Weatherford. The driver of the vehicle was trapped inside; he was unconscious and barely breathing upon the arrival of our EMS crew. They inserted a rescue-airway device and started breathing for the patient until he could be removed from the cab. The driver had significant injuries to his lower extremities, including an amputated leg, requiring x3 tourniquets to be placed to stop the bleeding. Two of our Critical Care Paramedics, Mindy Lane and Jordan Tolliver, were sent to the incident. The patient was intubated, given two units of blood and one unit of plasma. The patient's breathing deteriorated, so the critical care medics performed bilateral finger thoracostomies."

"Their advanced training and expertise prevented a loss of life and allowed the victim to make a full recovery despite the loss of a leg."

The Parker County Hospital District provides emergency medical services in Parker County. EMS Units are all staffed with Paramedics in Mobile Intensive Care Units.

In addition, Mindy and Jordan received a Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Challenge Coin.



L to r: James Alderman, Cody Sheppard, Mike Connelley,  
President Bobby Gresham, Mindy Lane, Jordan Tolliver,  
Mrs. Tolliver and their son, Vaughn Oliver, John Anderson,  
Bill Goodman, and Ron Turner

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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

- Sep 21-23 Fall Leadership Meeting, Louisville, KY
- Oct 20-22 Texas SAR Fall BOM, College Station
- Oct 28 Patriot Grave Marking, 10:30 am, Washington, Louisiana, Yellow Fever Cemetery
- Oct 28 Patriot Grave Marking, 1:00 pm, Opelousas, Louisiana, St. Landry Church Cemetery
- Nov 15 Texas SAR President H.P. Eller Grave Marking, Pecan Grove Cemetery, McKinney

On Tuesday, June 20, 2023, chapter officers and compatriots recognized and honored three officers of the Fort Worth Police Department for saving the life of a kidnapped, abandoned infant.

On May 18th, officers responded around 7:00 pm to reports of a kidnapping. A woman reported that a man had jumped into her car and taken off with her 6-month old baby boy still in the car.

The search for the car was immediately bolstered with officers from other divisions including narcotics, gang, and direct response units. It took them an hour and 20 minutes to find the car, about a mile and a half away from the home of the mother, but the baby wasn't in it.

A suspect was taken into custody when police found the car and officers questioned him while they continued to search the area. By this time, darkness was quickly approaching. The suspect directed the officers to where the baby was abandoned. It took about five minutes for Sgt. Ronnie Chau and Officers Steve Smith and Wesley Davis to find the baby in a ravine located off a dead-end street in a residential area. The ravine was about half a mile away from where the car was located. Fortunately, the baby was unharmed but the outcome could have been much different if not for the swift response by the Fort Worth Police Department and especially the three officers involved.

For their actions, the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter awarded the three police officers with the SAR Life Saving Medal. They also each received a Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Challenge Coin.

Unfortunately, Officer Wesley Davis was not able to attend the ceremony but will receive his medal, certificate, and Challenge Coin from FWPD management.

Following the ceremony, Texas SAR Vice President District 5 Ron Turner presented FWPD Chief Neil Noakes with a Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter Challenge Coin. In return, Chief Noakes presented each SAR Compatriot with his personal FWPD Challenge Coin.

Members of the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter enjoy a great rapport with the Fort Worth Police Department and vice versa. They are very appreciative of our efforts to honor and recognize their officers with the SAR Public Service awards.



L to r: FWPD Chief Neil Noakes, Sgt. Ronnie Chau, Officer Steve Smith, President Bobby Gresham, and Past President Mike Connelley



President Bobby Gresham presents Officer Steve Smith with the SAR Life Saving Medal and Certificate, along with a Chapter Challenge Coin.



President Bobby Gresham presents Officer Steve Smith with the SAR Life Saving Medal and Certificate, along with a Chapter Challenge Coin.

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## Arlington Inducts New Member

At their June 17th chapter meeting, Arlington President Dan Hamilton inducted the chapter's newest Compatriot, Lee Brian Ehrler. His Patriot is Jacob Weygandt who served as a Captain in the Pennsylvania Continental Line and is buried in Easton Cemetery in Northampton County, Pennsylvania.



L to r: Assistant Chief Joseph Sparrow, Executive Assistant Chief Robert Alldredge, Past Chapter President James Alderman, Chief of Police Neil Noakes, Sgt. Ronnie Chau, Officer Steve Smith, Chapter President Bobby Gresham, Past Chapter President Mike Connelley, Texas SAR Vice President District 5 & Past Chapter President Ron Turner, Chapter Historian John Anderson, and Compatriot Capt. David Fleming



## Audie Murphy Day, Farmersville

Every June, in commemoration of Audie Murphy's birthday and Homecoming Ceremony in June, 1945, his hometown of Farmersville remembers and honors Murphy and all veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Audie Leon Murphy was the most decorated combat soldier in WWII.

The day includes a free breakfast for veterans, a showing of Audie's movie "To Hell and Back", a parade through downtown on the old brick road, and a free lunch for veterans.

A contingent of SAR color guardsmen from several chapters including Athens, Plano, Dallas, Maj. K. M. Van Zandt, McKinney, and Edmund Terrill gathered to participate in the parade.

Following the parade, participants were presented with the Audie Murphy Days 2023 commemorative cap.

The celebration highlights include Farmersville's Patriotic Parade and Veteran's Recognition Ceremony. Veteran's and their families, registered for the event, receive complimentary breakfast and lunch on Saturday. All visitors

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Texas SAR Vice President District 5 Ron Turner presented a



Chapter Challenge Coin to FWPD Chief Neil Noakes.



will enjoy special events on Friday and Saturday including the Farmersville Heritage Museum's Audie Murphy Exhibition.



Participants included Bill Sekel, Tom Milson, Ted Wilson, Benjamin Roper, Steven Hole, Bob Ketrill, Bob Johns, Alan Roach, Nick Gilliam, Dennis Vierling, Randall Van Heyst, Kara Van Heyst, and Reagan Van Heyst.



## San Antonio Memorial Day

On Saturday May 27, 2023 the San Antonio Chapter#4, Texas and friends placed over 50 flags on veterans at the historic San Antonio City Cemetery #1. These veterans had service dating back to the Texas War of Independence through Viet Nam era.



Left to right: Larry Loop, Frank Rohrbough, Stephen Rohrbough, Marie Rohrbough, Kevin Kanter, Blair Rudy, Peter Baron, Frank Kebelman



Left to right: Frank Kebelman, Nancy Peterson (wife of the trumpeter), Larry Loop, Ron Finch, Frank Rohrbough, Diane Rohrbough (DAR), Stephen Rohrbough, Kevin Kanter, Harper Grace (C.A.R. & granddaughter of Candy & Blair Rudy), Candy Rudy (DAR), Blair Rudy, Mrs. Finch, Peter Baron, Bob Peterson (trumpeter), and Mike Bowles (photographer)

Not pictured: Nicole McLeod (San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department), John McCannon, and Charles Thacker

Blair Rudy and C.A.R. Granddaughter Harper Grace placing a flag at Sam Maverick grave. Sam was elected to flee the Alamo and ride East to get help from Sam Houston. He was of course not successful. He became a very early mayor of San Antonio.



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Blair Rudy, Candy Rudy (DAR & wife of Blair Rudy) and their Granddaughter Harper Grace (C.A.R.) with companion "Sam" placing a flag with a short ceremony to recognize the veteran.



## Houston Area DAR Regents Council Flag Day Luncheon

On June 10, 2023, Ten Texas Color Guardsman answered the call to serve as Color Guard for the DAR Houston Area Regents Council Flag Day Luncheon. Held at the Junior League in Houston Texas, Saturday, 10 June 2023, the sixteen local Chapters were represented by their Regents with over 200 DAR members in attendance. DAR President General Pamela Rouse Wright and Texas Society President Sam Massey were honored guests.

Led by Texas Southern Color Guard Commander David Hamaker, Compatriots from Freedom, Paul Carrington, and Bernardo de Galvez Chapters came together to present and retire the Colors for the Daughters. Color Guardsmen present included: Sam Massey (TXSSAR President), John K. Thompson (past TXSSAR CG Commander), Art Byrum (Freedom Chapter President), Don Hayes, William Meyers, Ed Sellards, David Peavy (Paul Carrington Chapter Past President), Wesley Vick, and Michael Bierman.

Mrs. Marcy-Carter-Lovick, State Regent for the Texas Society DAR and guest speaker for the Luncheon, chose as her topic "Stars and Stripes Forever: Honoring Old Glory". She spoke on the history of an early 19th Century American Flag variant of the Stars and Stripes, the Driver Flag, and was known affectionally by the name

'Old Glory' by its original owner. The flag was originally designed to unfurl grandly from a ship's mast. Driver received the homemade 17' x 10' flag with 24 stars in 1824, sewn for him by his mother and young Salem female admirers to celebrate his appointment, at the age of 21, as a master mariner and commander of his own ship, the *Charles Doggett*. The original flag now resides in the Smithsonian Museum of American History.

Thank you, Daughters, for this opportunity to serve and take part in this fine remembrance and celebration of our Nation's Flag.

~ Story by Ed Sellards (Freedom Chapter)  
~ Photos by Mrs. Pat Spackey



DAR President General Pamela Rouse Wright and Texas SAR President Sam Massey



L to R: William Meyers, Ed Sellards, Art Byrum, DAR President General Pamela Rouse Wright, David Hamaker, Logan DAR Chapter Regent & Hostess Alisa Clark, Don Hayes, Wesley Vick, & John Thompson

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# Arlington Chapter Changes Meeting Location

The Arlington Chapter outgrew its previous location and is now holding Chapter meetings at the Skillet N’ Grill Café at 1801 W. Division St. in Arlington (intersection of Division & Parker). The private dining room can seat 40 plus people in a U-shape setup, plus can accommodate overflow in booths. Their meeting time required an adjustment to 10:00 a.m. The Chapter meets on the second Saturday of each month and breakfast seating begins at 9:30 a.m.





## Plano Flag Retirement Ceremony

On Saturday, June 17, the Plano Chapter conducted its annual Flag Retirement Ceremony in conjunction with and supported by the Plano Fire Department, the City of Plano, the Dallas SAR chapter, and the Mary Shirley McGuire DAR chapter.

Meeting at Plano Fire Station #12, the chapter conducted the 40 minute ceremony produced every year close to Flag Day, June 14.

Introductory remarks by Lt Daniel Daly, the Plano FD Information Officer, Plano City Councilman Shelby Williams and emcee, Plano Chapter Color Guard Commander and Veterans Programs VP Bob Johns. The participant group was photographed.

At the start of the ceremony, the history of the national flag is told and the U S Flag Code is read. A participant reads the poem "I Am Your Flag". The pledge of allegiance is recited and "God Bless America" sung by a professional musician.

During the ceremony, three tattered flags are held by DAR, SAR, and Explorer Cadet teams for ceremonial inspected by Plano Chapter member Major General Keith Thurgood, (U S Army Ret).

The U S Flag code is read and then the flags are declared no longer fit for display and are retired by burning in our open firebox, burning as directed by the Flag Code.

Taps is played by a bugler in honor of the retired flags, and our chaplain closes the event with a benediction.



Participants were Michael Goode, Robert Kittrell, Dan Reed, Ron Wasson, Bob Johns, Tom Whitelock, Dave Fautheree, Rocky Miller, Chuck Brenneman, Scott Knightly, Larry Melton, Steve Drozier, Tom Van Fossen, and Kevin Ennis.





## Boerne Chapter = 23 Flag Certificates

As part of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution's national initiative of recognizing those who fly the American flag every day, the Boerne Chapter on June 23rd presented Certificates of Appreciation to two Boerne institutions, the Family YMCA and the Kendall County Abstract Company. The presentations were made by the Chapter's Immediate Past President, Pat Blackman, and current President, Dale Tidwell.

"There are other Boerne institutions who qualify for the certificate and we will be recognizing them over the next few months," said Tidwell.

The Sons of the American Revolution is a fraternal organization open to all males who can trace their ancestry to those who fought for or had a hand in the Revolutionary War. The organization participates in local, state and national patriotic events, grants, scholarships, and sponsors other events dealing with the formation of the United States.



Immediate Past President of the Boerne Sons of the American Revolution Chapter, Pat Blackman, left, and current President Dale Tidwell, right, present a flag appreciation certificate to Kendall County Abstract Company president, Rick Pfeiffer and his wife, Ashlee.



Pat Blackman, far left, Immediate Past President of the Boerne Chapter and Dale Tidwell, third from right, current President of the Chapter, present a flag appreciation certificate to YMCA staff members, left to right, Rhonda Browning, Kelle Rhoads, Selma Angelucci, Brandon Chaney, and Lucy Miranda.



## Hamilton Receives Silver de Galvez Medal

District 5 Vice President Ron Turner attended the Arlington Chapter Meeting on Saturday, July 8, 2023, where he presented Chapter President Dan Hamilton the Texas SAR Silver Bernardo de Galvez Medal. Vice President Turner presented the medal on behalf of North Texas Color Guard Commander Gary Barker who was not able to be present. Dan is a very active member of the Texas SAR Color Guard and is usually in attendance at Color Guard functions.

## How to Report Public Service & Heroism Awards

There are Five National Public Service and Heroism medals the Chapters may present.

- ◆ Law Enforcement Commendation Medal
- ◆ Fire Safety and Commendation Medal
- ◆ Emergency Medical Services and Commendation Medal
- ◆ Heroism Commendation and Medal
- ◆ The SAR Life Saving Medal

The Microsoft Word blank Public Service & Heroism Awards document is located on [NSSAR's website](#). Do not type anything. Save the blank form to your computer. Then, open the file and click the radio button for the appropriate medal. Complete the fields with the pertinent information and save it.

Create a folder named **Public Service Awards**. Save the completed document (Save as) to the Public Service Awards folder.

Complete this same procedure for all five awards.

Then, email the file as an attachment to Wayne Brown [engineerscorner@gmail.com](mailto:engineerscorner@gmail.com). Wayne will send a confirmation that he has received your report. If you do not receive a confirmation receipt of the completed form in 3-4 days, contact the chairman of the PS & Heroism Committee.

This program is an excellent way to recognize deserving individuals in our community and the public sector. We do suggest that those individuals, in the public sector of Law Enforcement, Fire Safety, and Emergency Medical Services, who are being considered for a Heroism Commendation, be previously recognized by their division head for their heroism. Department heads generally welcome the opportunity to recommend deserving individuals for recognition.

The commendations may be presented at either chapter meetings, departmental meetings, or other suitable events. The presentation of NSSAR commendations is an excellent means by which our Society can receive recognition and broaden our exposure and recruitment of potential new members. This program is also an excellent vehicle for publicity. The presentation of PS&H commendations

at chapter and state meetings should be noted and reported by local media optimally; however, the recipient may elect not to have the commendation published for privacy concerns. Questions about the National SAR Public Service and Heroism Committee may be directed to a state's representative or the current chairman of the Public Service and Heroism Committee.



## How long has the Texas Color Guard Been Around?

Texas Society President R. Carl Tumey, Sr. has announced that the Society has organized an official American Revolutionary Color Guard, which will be dressed in uniforms of the day and armed with muskets and weapons of that time. The group will perform at Society functions and various civic affairs.

*~ Originally published in the SAR Magazine, Summer 1983, page 41*



## MOH Museum Topping Out Ceremony

During the last week of July, the Medal of Honor Foundation reached a major milestone in the construction of the National Medal of Honor Museum with the placing of the structure's final steel beam during a special "Topping Out" Ceremony. Prior to its placement, the beam was signed by over 400 individuals who helped make the project possible.

The Museum is set to open its doors in March 2025 and will contain more than 100,000 square feet of space, with 31,000 square feet of that area dedicated to Exhibition Galleries telling the history of the Medal of Honor and the stories of the American heroes who earned it. The Museum also will have dedicated spaces for classrooms, meeting venues, symposiums, memorials, and ceremonies.



## Texas SAR Historian's Corner

by John Anderson; [historian@txssar.org](mailto: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 of editors is needed. Several chapters have experienced newsletter editors. Please consider and volunteer your review since Volume II and provide submission of your significant activities and awards.

### Texas SAR Archives



UNT Libraries' Special Collections has advised us we should **HALT** our archive donations. They also advised we can keep our existing archives with them if we wish, it is our choice. Therefore, a special "Archives" committee has been formed and met on July 6 to investigate alternatives. Fortunately, we have a compatriot whose profession is a College Librarian Archivist; some of you may know Jason Bourgeois. It was perceived that one of UNT's complaints is the shelf space consumed by paper, photos, binders, memorabilia, yearbooks, etc. and that electronic donations would be preferred. This committee will continue to meet, continue its investigations, and eventually make recommendations to the Texas SAR Executive Committee. Those recommendations may identify a new archive outsource location or may recommend we use the Texas Society servers at our disposal to preserve our own archives. More to come later...

### Patriot/Compatriot Graves



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.

On Thurs., Nov. 16, 2023, at 4:40 pm, we will be marking the grave of Texas SAR President 1940, Horace Eller, at the Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney, TX. Contact Compatriot Bill Watts, [Bill\\_Watts@att.net](mailto:Bill_Watts@att.net), for details.

It's very exciting of the gracious Louisiana SAR Color Guard invitation to the Texas SAR Society Color Guard to attend two opportunities of mass Patriot Grave markings. These two State Color Guard communication and sharing opportunities are encouraged. See that opportunity herein elsewhere.

### Prominent Texas Compatriots



We all know our compatriots are all considered prominent in some way. And this subcommittee has some active projects to include in the next TXSSAR History Volume.

We are searching to identify our Texas SAR past officers, NSSAR officers, public servants, award recipients, etc. Has your chapter presented an award in the past that we can include? Contact Compatriot John Greer, [JohnL.Greer@juno.com](mailto:JohnL.Greer@juno.com), for details.

### 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. Be creative with your submission. Even if your chapter doesn't compete, preservation of your chapter history and story is important. Contact Don Hayes, [dhayes04@hotmail.com](mailto:dhayes04@hotmail.com), for more details.

### Next Committee Meeting

This Archives/History/Yearbook committee meets several times throughout 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.

Thursday, 6:30 pm  
Oct. 12

The next committee meeting will be via zoom and a few 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. Discussions will be prioritized towards the advance preparations of the Friday, October 20th, meeting. We welcome your participation and contributions.

Friday, 4:00 pm  
Oct. 20

An additional committee meeting seeking a personal exchange of ideas and a common goal towards preservation of our future Society and Chapter Histories is scheduled for Friday at 4:00 pm, Oct. 20th, at the Texas SAR Fall BOM. The implications of potential Texas SAR Archive alternatives and the potential impact to Chapter Yearbooks will be discussed. Your chapter input is important.



See you in person on Oct. 20-22, 2023 at the Texas SAR Fall Board of Managers meeting in College Station.

## Who was Roger Sherman?

The Texas Society and Chapters have presented many Roger Sherman medals.

Roger Sherman has a distinct place among America's founding fathers - he is the only one who signed the three major documents which formed the American government, the 1776 Declaration of Independence, the 1777 Articles of Confederation, and the 1787 U.S. Constitution.

~ Originally published in the *Texas Compatriot*, Summer 2002, page 41.



## Patriot Grave Marking Opportunity

Billy LeJeune of the Louisiana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution has graciously invited the Texas Society to participate in a Louisiana Society Patriot Grave marking on October 28, 2023. The Texas Society participated in the Patriot Grave Marking of Martin Camersac in March of this year in Lake Charles, Louisiana. We had a great turnout from the Texas Society.

This is an opportunity for the Texas Society to participate

and receive Patriot Grave Marking Credit. The credit can be obtained in two different ways;

- 1) Participate in the Patriot Grave Markings at the Yellow Fever Cemetery in Washington, LA at 10:30 am, and receive credit for 5 Patriot Grave markings. Participate in the Patriot Grave Markings at the St. Landry Church Cemetery in Opelousas, LA at 1 pm, and receive credit for 5 Patriot Grave Markings.
- 2) Help purchase the Grave Stones. If you donate \$60.00 for the grave stone for the Opelousas Patriot Grave Marking you will receive one Patriot Grave Marking Credit. If you donate \$60.00 for the grave stone for the Washington Patriot Grave Marking you will receive one Patriot Grave Marking Credit. A total of 2 credits are earned if a member donates to both Markers.

I picked Michel Ritter 279577 from Germany a soldier in the Opelousas Militia buried in the St. Landry Church Cemetery and Pierre Savoie 284909 from Chipoudy, Canada a Fusilier in the Opelousas Militia buried in the Yellow Fever Cemetery. I used the National Society Patriot Research System (PRS) to identify 2 soldiers that I felt needed my assistance to honor their sacrifice in obtaining our freedom.

You may want to do the same. Log on to the National Society web page, go to PRS and find a Patriot that needs your help and assist the Louisiana Society in honoring their sacrifice to gain our freedom.

Please mail your check to Bill LeJeune 446 Vallery Road De Ridder, LA 710634 - make sure you indicate which cemeteries you are going to donate; Washington or Opelousas or Both. I identified my Patriot and the Cemetery.

There are two Certificates listed with this advertisement; one for the Yellow Fever Cemetery in Washington, LA and a second for the St Landry Church Cemetery in Opelousas, LA. Take your time and pick your Patriot.

I've already made reservations for Buster and me at the Holiday Inn in Opelousas, LA for 10/27-10/29. I hope to see you there!

Bill Watts  
Patriot Grave Marking Chairman for North Texas

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# CALL FOR DONATIONS



Grave Marking Ceremony for the below 11 Patriots will be held at 10:30 am, 28 OCT in Washington, LA. Please contact Billy LeJeune if you wish to donate. For each \$60 donated, you can choose a name below and a receipt of your donation will be provided to receive credit toward the Grave Marking Medal (1 credit for this ceremony).

*DONATO BELLO  
MICHEL BRIGNAC  
LAURENT DUPRE  
FRANCOIS LEMELLE  
PIERRE PRIMEAUX  
MATURIN TESSON*

*MICHEL CORMIER  
ROMAIN DE LA FOSSE  
JOSEPH LAMIRANDE  
ANDRE MONDON  
PIERRE SAVOIE*

Billy LeJeune  
(318) 451- 4544  
campljn@yahoo.com

# CALL FOR DONATIONS



Grave Marking Ceremony for the below 30 Patriots will be held at 1:00 pm , 28 OCT in Opelousas, LA. Please contact Billy LeJeune if you wish to donate. For each \$60 donated, you can choose a name below and a receipt of your donation will be provided to receive credit toward the Grave Marking Medal (1 credit for this ceremony).

<i>ANTOINE BELLARD</i>	<i>AMABLE BERTRANT</i>	<i>CHARLES BOURASSAS</i>
<i>MICHEL CARRIER</i>	<i>PIERRE CARRIER</i>	<i>PIERRE DOUCET</i>
<i>HENRY FONTENAU</i>	<i>PHILIPPE FONTENOI</i>	<i>PIERRE FRUGE</i>
<i>JOSEPH GUILLORY</i>	<i>JEAN B JANEAU</i>	<i>MICHAEL JANISSE</i>
<i>PIERRE JOUBERT</i>	<i>ANTOINE LANGLOIS</i>	<i>BLAISE LE JEUNE</i>
<i>FRANCOIS PITRE</i>	<i>MICHEL PRUDHOMME *</i>	<i>FABIEN RICHARD</i>
<i>PIERRE RICHARD</i>	<i>VICTOR RICHARD</i>	<i>MICHEL RITTER</i>
<i>NOEL ETIENNE SOLLEAU</i>	<i>SILVAN SAUNIER</i>	<i>AUGUSTE SOLLEAU</i>
<i>J GEORGE STELLY</i>	<i>CHARLES VIGE</i>	<i>JOSEPH WAIBCE</i>

Billy LeJeune  
(318) 451- 4544  
campljn@yahoo.com

*AUGUSTINE BROUSSARD: ATAKAPAS MILITIA / LOUIS LAVERGNE: NEW ORLEANS MILITIA  
NOEL JACQUES ROY: POINTE COUPEE MILITIA*



## Bernardo de Galvez Awards

Eagle Scouts Samuel T. and William A. Whatley were presented Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Certificates of Recognition during their June Eagle Scout Honor Court by Bernardo de Galvez Chapter President Hugh Ferguson, Jr.



Pictured above (from left to right) are Compatriot Billy Mayo, Samuel Whatley, Compatriot Frank Steele, William Whatley and Compatriot Hugh Ferguson, Jr. Samuel and William Whatley became Junior members of SAR in 2009 and recently became regular members on their 18th birthday.



Bernardo de Galvez Chapter President Hugh Ferguson, Jr. presented SAR membership certificates to long time Compatriot Charles D. McBee, Jr. for his sons Charles D. McBee III and William A. McBee, who live outside of the area.



During the July Bernardo de Galvez Chapter meeting, President Hugh Ferguson, Jr. swore in Compatriot Robert M. Cassat, Sr. into the Sons of the American Revolution Society (SAR) and presented him with his membership certificate and SAR rosette. Pictured above are President Ferguson, Compatriot Robert Cassat and Chapter Registrar David Zwahr.



During the July Bernardo de Galvez Chapter meeting, President Hugh Ferguson, Jr. swore in Compatriot William P. Sullivan into the Sons of the American Revolution Society (SAR) and presented him with his membership certificate and SAR rosette. Pictured above are President Ferguson, Compatriot Sullivan, Past President Billy Mayo and Chapter Registrar David Zwahr. Interesting all four are members of the Texas Bay Area Genealogical Society.

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Compatriot Andrew P. Griffis was presented his 5-Year Member Service Certificate and Pin by the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution President Hugh Ferguson, Jr. during the July chapter meeting.

At the August meeting of the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter, President Hugh Ferguson, Jr. sworn in two new members into the SAR: Mark Kelso and William Alsobrook. Pictured above are President Ferguson, Mark Kelso, William Alsobrook and Chapter Registrar David Zwahr. TXSSAR Registrar Chuck Wagner and 7th District Vice Present Richard Zdunkewicz were in attendance to this ceremony.



The guest speaker at the Bernardo de Galvez August Meeting was TXSSAR 7th District Vice President Richard Zdunkewicz. VP Zdunkewicz provided an update on the TXSSAR project to install a monument honoring American Patriots who are buried in Texas; this monument will be located at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin. He spoke about his 5th Great Grandfather Martin Camersac, and the marking of his grave.



## Eller Grave Marking

Regent Susan Polk and Erin Graham (Chair of WAA) of the George Washington Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) were guest speakers of the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter of the American Revolution (SAR) meeting in July. The topic of their presentation was the annual DAR Constitution Week Program and the Annual Wreaths Across American (WAA) event. Bernardo de Galvez Chapter President presented them with Certificate of Appreciation for their program and confirmed that the Chapter Color Guard would support both events.

On Thursday, November 16, 2023, Texas SAR will mark the grave of Texas SAR State President H. P. Eller at Pecan Grove Cemetery, 1701 McDonald, in McKinney, Texas. The service will begin at 4:30 pm and muster time for Texas SAR Color Guardsmen is 4:00 pm.

After the marking service, you are invited to meet at Spring Creek BBQ, 1993 N. Central Expressway, McKinney, for dinner and everyone is welcome to stay and attend the McKinney Chapter Meeting.

Texas SAR President Sam Massey will be the speaker.



# Texas SAR Web Site

## Enhanced Search Capability

By Ray Cox

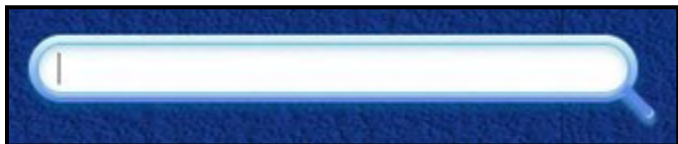
A comment I hear not infrequently is “I can’t find (fill in your item) on the web site.” This is understandable, because at any given time there are approximately 200 active pages on the public web site and approximately 70 active pages on the private web site. Those figures don’t include the numerous additional pdf, doc, and xls files that are part of the site. It takes time to go through the menus or even the Site Map pages to find what you need if you aren’t familiar with its location.

Your search has been made much easier by the enhanced search engine which has been added to the web site. As you may be aware, there are actually three web sites associated with the Texas SAR...the public site, the Ladies Auxiliary, and the private site. There are separate search indexes for the public site (which includes the Ladies Auxiliary), the private site, and another index for chapter web sites.

The easiest way to start your search is to click inside the search glass icon at the upper right of every web page. If you are on the public site, you will be initiating a public site search. If you are on the private site, you will be initiating a private site search. Searching from the public site will not give you private site results and vice versa.



Although the search glass looks too small to make an entry in, as soon as you click in it, it will enlarge so you can type your search terms.



Type the word(s) into the stretched search glass that are part of the page or document you wish to find and press **Enter** to get your results.

Using the search glass will result in a default search, which means that all words entered must be in the document in order to provide a search result and only web pages will be searched.

When your search results are presented, click on the link

of the desired page/file to go directly to that document. If you need to, you can further refine your search using the form at the top of the search results page. On the public site, you can select the number of results per page, whether you want results if “any” search words are found (or the default “all” words), and you can select from search categories of web pages, additional file types (pdf, doc, xls), and/or back issues of *The Texas Compatriot* (or any combination of these). Categories basically define what part(s) of the web site will be searched.

On the private side, search refinements are the same except the search categories which can be selected are web pages, State Meeting Minutes, State Officer Reports, State Committee Reports, Council of Chapter Presidents (CoCP) Minutes, and/or Member Rosters.

If you would like to go directly to the search selection form before initiating a search via the search glass, just click inside the glass and press **Enter** without typing anything and you’ll immediately go to a page with the search enhancements on it so you can refine your search.

There is a Search Tips page available on both the public and private sites with lots of information about how you can set up an effective, efficient search. You’ll find it by mousing over **Home** in the top menu and in the drop list that appears, select **Search Tips**.

Earlier in the article, I mentioned that chapter web sites could also be searched. That search is initiated slightly differently. Mouse over **Home** in the top menu of the public site and select **Search Tips** (Chapter). Then at the top of the next page you see, click the link “**Click here to enter your search!**” You are then taken to a Chapter Search form, and the category that you select from the drop list will be the chapter web site that you want to search. Since the chapter is the category for the chapter web search index, there are no further categories which can be selected.

All sites are re-indexed at least once a month and more often if significant changes are made to a web site.

If there are questions about searching the various Texas SAR web sites that are not covered on the Search Tips pages, please don’t hesitate to contact the webmaster at [webmstr@txssar.org](mailto:webmstr@txssar.org).



## Vanzant Cousin Joins SAR

By Ron Turner

On July 18th, Mrs. Kathy Hanlon, Elizabeth Crockett Chapter (Granbury), NSDAR, contacted me asking me if SAR ever expedited the application process. I assured her that SAR did have procedures in place to handle such situations. Mrs. Hanlon then requested we expedite a gentleman's SAR application. She was working on documenting a new member application for Fred Arlis Vanzant of Lowell, Arkansas.

Mrs. Hanlon advised me that Mr. Vanzant was 98 years old and in failing health. Mr. Vanzant expressed a desire to join the Sons of the American Revolution before he died and expressly desired to join the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter in Fort Worth, Texas, as he thought he was related to Maj. Van Zandt.

Mrs. Hanlon transferred the application and supporting proof documents to me via Dropbox that same day and I began my review process. I contacted Jerry Pinkerton, Inland Registrar, Texas SAR, on July 24th and requested expedited processing from Gary Green, Genealogist General. We received approval quickly, in fact, the next



Fred Arlis Vanzant signs his application in the presence of two of his four grandsons, David Arno on the left and Daniel Arno on the right.

day (July 25th).

Mrs. Hanlon also included Mr. Vanzant's daughter, Katharine Vanzant Arno, of North Carolina. Mrs. Arno is also a member of the DAR. Following my review, I expedited the application on July 21st to Mrs. Arno who was visiting her father in northwestern Arkansas. Unfortunately due to the weekend, it did not arrive in Lowell until Monday, July 24th. She returned the signed application to me via overnight delivery since Jerry was leaving on a cruise later in the week. I met Jerry in the lobby of his high-rise on July 26th and witnessed his signing the application. He mailed it the next day to Lexington, Kentucky.

I was notified that Mr. Vanzant's application was approved and registered on August 9th. The national office mailed Mr. Vanzant's membership certificate and new member packet the same day to the Texas SAR Secretary for processing.

I contacted Mel Oller, Texas SAR Secretary, to alert him to expedite the certificate directly to me once he concluded his processing of the new member. I received the packet on August 16th.

At the August Chapter Meeting, the membership approved the awarding of the SAR War Service Medal to Mr. Vanzant for his service during World War II. I printed the certificate and fortunately, we had a medal in stock. I also included the SAR Rosette in the presentation case with the medal.

On August 17th, I sent the entire packet to Mrs. Arno who received it on Monday, August 21st. She framed the two certificates that day as she was leaving for Northwest Arkansas the next day.

It is such a satisfactory feeling to know that individuals from the DAR and the SAR worked so closely to get a very elderly gentlemen into the SAR and to fulfill one of his last wishes before he departs this earthly life.

### Fred Arlis Vanzant

By Katharine Vanzant Arno

Fred Arlis Vanzant joined the Navy in early 1943 when he was 17 years old. Fred boarded a train to Camp Perry outside Williamsburg, Virginia (today it belongs to the

*(Continued on page 18)*

CIA “the Farm”) for intensive training before heading to Port Hueneme in California. While there, he attended technical school, which the Navy calls “A-school“. Fred was a Navy seaman — also known as an Army engineer or Seabee — in the Construction Battalion and wore both the Marine and Navy uniforms depending on his assignment. From 1943 to 1945, Fred spent his time in the sweltering jungles of the South Pacific islands. Seabees in the Pacific theaters-built airfields, supply depots, advance bases for men and materials, training areas, repair bases, and bridges. They often worked on these projects while under enemy fire and in record time.

After 28 months in the jungle, Fred was admitted to the hospital on Midway Island with lymphoreticulosis fever. After his hospital stay, he was invited to a USO show with Bob Hope, Boris Karloff, and Frances Langford and was seated at their table. Towards the end of the war, Fred trained to invade Japan and had just taken their physical at Aiea Naval Hospital in Hawaii when news came that the war ended, and Japan surrendered. He returned as a Navy Petty Officer 2nd class (same rank as a Staff Sergeant in the Army).

After WWII, Fred wanted to live life to the fullest. With his love of flying, he built a Piper Cub airplane and began crop-dusting cotton fields. Fred returned to Northwest Arkansas to pursue a young lady, Kahylene Graham, whom he met before the war at a small community church while her parents performed with their singing group. He was just 17 years old, and she was 15. Kahylene wrote to Fred for the entire time he was in the Pacific, and he carried her photo with him. He planned to marry her and if she refused then he would move to Saudi Arabia, become a pilot for Standard Oil and perform aerial inspections of their pipelines. Fred used to fly over Kahylene’s farm and under the electric wires. She agreed to marry him provided he stopped his daredevil stunts! Fred and Kahylene went on to be married for more than 68 years and had six children, 17 grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren. They remained in Northwest Arkansas for the rest of their lives and served their community.

In 1949, Fred and Kahylene purchased their first farm and began planting apples, peaches, and grapes while remodeling its old home built in the 1850s. Both of their families had grown produce since the early 1800s in that area and Fred and Kahylene wanted to carry on their family legacy. They built a successful business and packed

produce for large grocery stores across the country. Fred has served in his church and community for the last 70 years. He was a gifted singer and often sang at church, community gatherings, retirement homes, and funerals until was diagnosed with throat cancer diagnosis when he was 88 years old. He never would take payment and enjoyed performing for others and their loved ones. Food donations to the local food pantries were important to him and he encouraged other farmers to donate. He and his family supported many migrant workers by providing food, water, books, and other items they needed to better their lives. Today, at 98 years old, he continues to be active in the community and donates to food pantries.

As a farmer, he served as a board member of Welch Foods, Inc. for 13 years. Welch’s is owned by 1,054 family farmers across America and Canada. Best known for their grape jelly, their products are sold throughout the United States and in over 50 countries around the globe. He also served on the National Grape board for 20 years of the National Grape Cooperative. Fred also served as the President of the Arkansas Horticultural Society and served on their board. In 1980, Fred and his family were



Fred Arlis Vanzant holds the award from his daughter’s home chapter in North Carolina. The Halifax Convention DAR chapter gave him the DAR Distinguished Citizen Medal award. Fun fact, when Kathy Hanlon was a National chair, she created this award.

*(Continued on page 19)*



recognized as the Northwest Arkansas Farm and District Farm Family of the Year. Fred and his family were invited by Governor Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton to the governor's mansion and recognized for their work in the community for better health and food. This program was started in 1947 and is still running today and is the oldest farmer recognition program in the country.

In July of 2023, Fred was recognized by the daughters of the American Revolution with a certificate and DAR Distinguished Citizen Medal for his service. Fred is honored to become a member of the SAR through the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter of Fort Worth, Texas. He is the third cousin once removed of Maj. K.M. Van Zandt.

Throughout his 98 years, Fred has served his country and community with his many talents. He often says that he simply “strives to leave every endeavor better than he found it.”

Garrett Vinsant abt 1726-1787	
Garrett Vinsint Patriot 1755-1830	Jacob Van Zandt Patriot 1751-1818
Jacob Vanzant 1791-1870	Jacob Van Zandt 1786-1834
Samuel L. Vanzant 1831-1899	Isaac Van Zandt 1813-1847
Fredrick L. Vanzant 1880-1950	<b>Khleber Miller Van Zandt 1836-1930</b>
<b>Fred Arlis Vanzant 1925</b>	



## Dallas Honors Patriot Medal Recipients

At their August Chapter Meeting, the Dallas Chapter honored the Patriot Medal recipients in the chapter. Honorees included Jack Haughton, Robert Northcraft, David Temple, Tracy Pounders, Robert M. Clark, Mark Hansen, Gary Sisson, Tom Van Fossen, Jerry Pinkerton, John Greer, Tom Whitelock, Robert Kittrell, Frank Pounders, and Henry Voegtle.

So, just what is Mr. Vanzant’s lineal connection to Maj. K.M. Van Zandt? It took me less than 30 minutes to work out the connection. The common ancestor is Garrett Vinsant, born about 1726 and died in 1787.

# FLAG PRESENTATION EVENT HONORING GENERAL RICHARD E. CAVAZOS

By Frank Rohrbough

On August 5, 2023, the Sons of the American Revolution, Texas Society, conducted a Flag Presentation Event at the Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery to honor General Richard E. Cavazos, a true American Hero. Four small US Flags and four Bouquet of Flowers were placed at the foot of the headstone. In January 2023, Ft. Hood, Texas, was renamed in honor of this gallant distinguished Texas Soldier.

Richard E. Cavazos was born in Kingsville, Texas, on 31 January 1929. He was raised on the King Ranch where his father, a World War I veteran, served as a foreman. He graduated with distinction from Texas Technical College (now Texas Tech) and was commissioned a 2nd Lt. through the Army ROTC Program. After completing his

basic officer training, and jump school, he deployed to Korea and served as an infantry platoon commander in the 2nd Battalion, all-Hispanic segregated 65th Infantry Regiment. In June 1953, while attacking and later defending Hill 412, he was wounded and then rescued several of his wounded comrades for which he received the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC).

His record continued to shine and in 1967 he deployed as a Lieutenant Colonel to Vietnam as commander of 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment. Later that year during a fight against NVA forces, he personally led a counterattack, then called in artillery fire, earning a second DSC.

In 1976 the Army chose him to become the first Hispanic Brigadier General and in 1982, he was chosen to be the first Hispanic 4-star general. Throughout his career and life he was a teacher, a mentor, and a proven combat leader. His Soldiers loved him and he loved them back. Among his countless decorations are two Distinguished Service Crosses, second only to the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Medal, two Silver Stars, two Le-



(Photo Above) Attendees from the San Antonio (\*) and Freedom Chapters (\*\*) include (L-R) Frank Keelman\*, Larry Loop\*, Michael Bowles\*, Frank Rohrbough\*, Don Hayes\*\*, David Hamaker\*\* (US Flag), Ron Finch\* (Texas Flag), Blair Rudy\* (Drummer), Edwin Sellards\*\*, Kevin Kanter\*, Daniel Farris\* and Bob Peterson (Bugler) Ft. Sam Houston Memorial Honor Guard.

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gions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, five Bronze Star Medals with Valor Device, the Purple Heart, The Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with Valor Device as well as numerous unit, campaign, and foreign awards and personal decorations.

General Cavazos retired from the Army in June of 1984 and resided in San Antonio, Texas, with his wife, Caroline Greek Cavazos, and their four children. He passed away on 29 October 2017, and was laid to rest at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery in section PG, site 51. It is said that “no finer man ever wore the uniform of a United States Soldier” and all who knew or served with him would agree with that quote.



## Battle of Medina Memorial Event

The 210th Anniversary of the Battle of Medina Memorial Ceremony was held on Saturday morning, August 12, 2023, at the Old Leming Elementary School located 5 miles north of Pleasanton, Texas, in remembrance of those Texians who fought the Spanish Army on August 18, 1813. According to writings of Judge Robert H. Thonhoff, author, historian, and former Karnes County Judge, the Battle of Medina was fought between approximately 1,800 men in the Royal Spanish Army and approximately 1,400 men in the Republican Army of the North, which included about 400 Spaniards, 400 Tejanos, 200 Native

Americans, and about 400 men from the Eastern States of the newly established United States of America. Peter Sides, the only proven casualty who also fought in the American Revolution, was honored by his descendent, Southern Region Color Guard Commander, David Hamaker.

The Color Guard presented the colors at the event and participated in a musket volley. Following the event, the Color Guard proceeded to the Applewhite site a few miles away to silently remember the fallen (fire ban prevented a musket volley). Participating in the Color Guard were the State Commander, Regional Commanders, and members of multiple chapters across the state.

In the photo below -

Front row: Bill Sekel, Shiidon Hawley, and Frank Kebelman.

Back row: Ralph Reed, John Thompson, (unknown), Edwin Sellards, Robert Duckworth, Drummer Gavin Pless, David Hamaker, Blair Rudy, (Unknown), Ron Farris, and Frank Rohrbough.



## Creation of New Ellis County Chapter

SAR members interested in forming a new Texas SAR Chapter in Waxahachie, Texas, met on Saturday, June 24, 2023. This was the first organizational meeting for the new Chapter. The primary purpose of the meeting was for the attendees to Meet and Greet, forming a unified body to establish the infrastructure of the new Chapter.

Acting in Committee, the attendees discussed nominations for a Name of the new Chapter. A vote approved the name of the **Ellis County Chapter #70**. This new Chapter will report to District 6. It was also decided that the regular schedule meeting time and place is to be at 9:00 a.m. on the 4th Saturday of each month at the Waxahachie Police Department Community Room, located at 630 Farley Street, Waxahachie, Texas 75165.

A general discussion was also held to identify the time line required to satisfy the qualifying requirements for a Chapter Charter. The group targeted a charter date as the end of November 2023.

Compatriot John “Jack” Haughton is serving as the Acting Chapter President.

The next meeting occurred on July 22nd; however, the planned agenda to present the Chapter Charter and By-laws was set aside due to a lack of members attending. However, Texas SAR Inland Registrar Jerry Pinkerton was present as a guest and he addressed several issues raised by new applicants. The meeting became a New Applicant Workshop and was a very valuable discussion for the remainder of the allotted meeting time.

The remaining calendar for this year includes:

- 1) August—Election of Color Guard Officers
- 2) September—Nomination of Chapter Officers
- 3) October—Election of Chapter Officers, Submission of Chapter Charter and Bylaws to Texas SAR BOM, & Selection of Chapter Project Committees and Chairmen
- 4) November—Charter of Chapter & Installation of Chapter Officers

Texas SAR looks forward to welcoming this new Chapter into the organization!



(Continued on page 23)





## Arlington Chapter Meeting

Arlington Chapter held its regular monthly meeting for August at the Skillet N Grill restaurant on Division St in Arlington on August 12. Honored guests included Libby Deakyne, State President of the Texas Society C.A.R., Libby's sisters Evie & Emma. Mrs. Kirby Anderson, and Mrs. Rod Ashford.

Libby Deakyne spoke to the chapter about the C.A.R state project for this year. A summary of her topic is:

Our 2023-2024 state project beneficiary is the The Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty at HCU, and is dedicated to bringing the history of the American Revolution to life through a full-scale replica of Independence Hall in Houston. This year, the nearly 1,000 members of the Texas C.A.R. will work to raise \$30,000.00 to:

- ensure 1,776 Texas kids experience the Center, including taking home their very own tricorn hat and pocket Constitution;
- provide 250 classroom book sets on our founding documents for educators to share with their students;
- purchase one historically accurate teaching lectern for year-round use in the Center; and
- provide a herd of stick ponies to teach students more about Paul Revere's ride.

We know that the Founding Documents are especially important to the SAR, and we have several state project items that SAR members would enjoy as they help us promote our project.

I have included photos of Libby and myself and the flyer with the "Liberty Lives in the Lone Star State" slogan. These items are offered for sale to help the C.A.R meet



their goal of \$30,000.



I am absolutely amazed and astounded at what these young Patriots are doing and wholeheartedly applaud their efforts!

The Arlington chapter is pleased to welcome and induct new compatriots, Kirby Anderson and Jared, Jake, & Justin Ashford!



The story behind the Ashfords. Rod Ashford was a member of the Arlington Chapter. His son Justin and grandsons Jared & Jake live in the Austin area, where they will have their primary membership. When Rod passed, Justin decided to apply for membership and when they were approved, Justin requested that they have their induction ceremony at the same Chapter where their father and grandfather belonged. I was more than happy to accommodate them.

Veteran's Committee Chairman, Bill Goodman, also presented Rod Ashford's surviving spouse, Brenda, with a Vietnam Era surviving spouse's pin and literature.

*(Continued on page 25)*





A footnote to this story about the Ashford's is their Patriot is John Hart. Look at the Declaration of Independence, fifth column from the left, eighth signature from the top. Yep, that John Hart!

~ Dan Hamilton, Chapter President



## Certificate of Patriotism

### NSSAR Veterans Corps Programs for Military Service

Veterans have served around the globe for more than 70 years. They complemented our Armed Forces, ensuring that the Constitution and freedoms established by our founding fathers would not die. They served at home and at times in locations most of us haven't heard of. They did it in the air, on land, and at sea. They served with our active duty forces and our reserves.

Compatriots of Military Service Veterans Corps are Unique. NSSAR offers Veterans a **CERTIFICATE OF PATRIOTISM**. Veterans who elect to request a Certificate may do so by submitting to National, the appropriate paperwork.

To receive the Certificate of Patriotism from the NSSAR President-General:

- ◆ Go to the Texas SAR Private Page and Highlight "Report/Forms" and select "Veterans Recognition" near the bottom of the page. Click on it.
- ◆ • Click on The Veterans Recognition Form.

- ◆ • Download the Veterans Multi-Corps Recognition Form and save it to your computer.
- ◆ • Using the Form that is now on your computer, follow the Instructions provided on the Form
- ◆ • When the entries are completed, click the button to "Save to Your Computer".
- ◆ • To send the Form to the NSSAR Veterans Recognition Chairman, click the button "Click to Email".

Veterans Corps Include:

- (1) World War II Veterans Corps.
- (2) Korean Service Veterans Corps.
- (3) Vietnam War Veterans Corps.
- (4) Southwest Asia Veterans Corps.
- (5) Special Ops Veterans Corps, and
- (6) Military Service Veterans Corps.\*

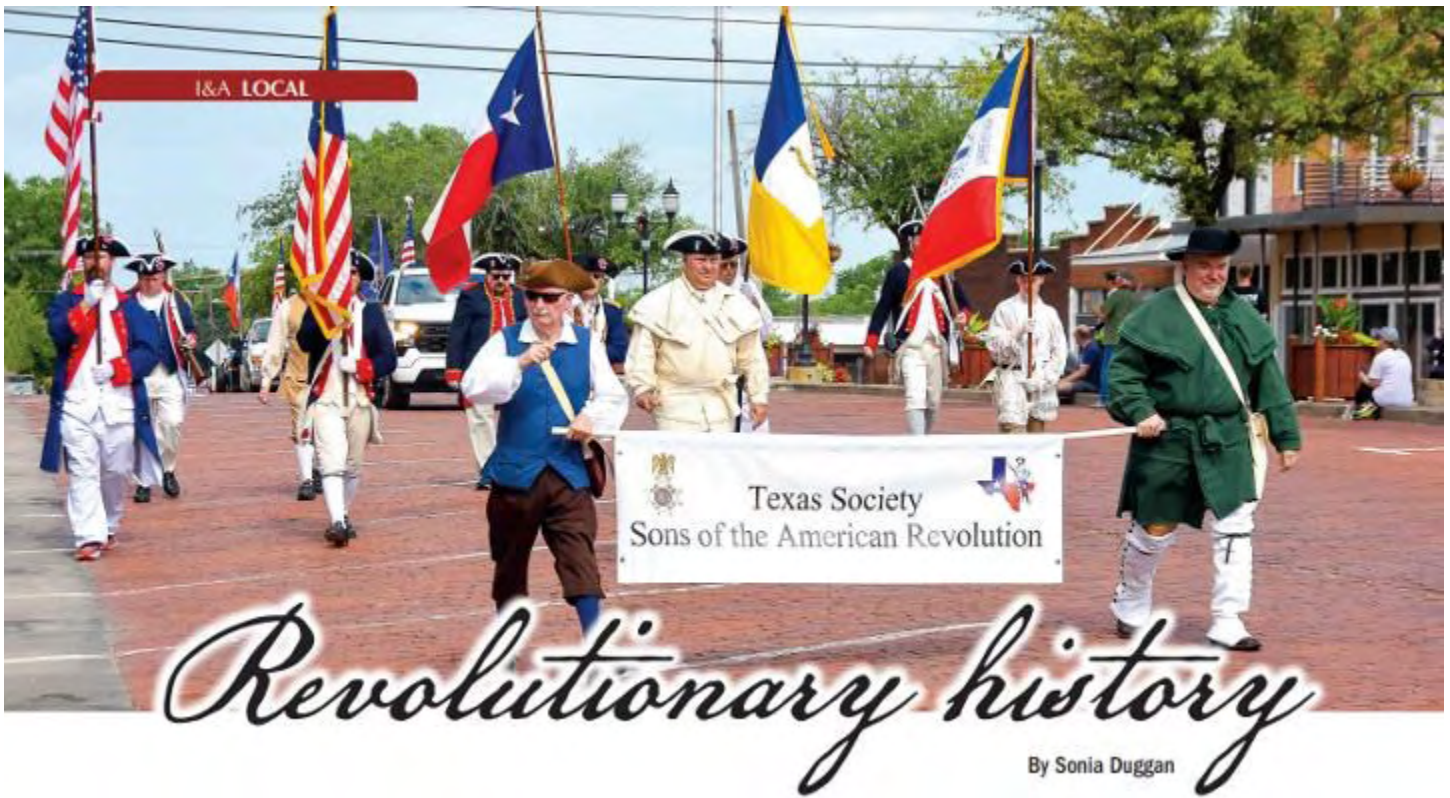


## The von Steuben Medal

The von Steuben Medal for Sustained Achievement in the NSSAR Color Guard is awarded for sustained service to the Society as a Color Guardsman at the National or District Levels. A Guardsman can receive it only once and must have already earned the Bronze and Silver NSSAR Color Guard Medals. Qualifications are 1) must serve at least five years after the date of application for Silver Colorguard medal was approved and 2) must participate in at least twenty-five National and/or District Color Guard events.

According to John Greer, Texas SAR Chairman of the Flag Certificate & Public Service Awards Committee, the following Texas Compatriots have received the von Steuben medal:

- William B. Watts, 2015, Color Guardsman of the Year
- John L. Greer, 2017, Color Guardsman of the Year
- T.L. Holden, 2020, Color Guardsman of the Year
- Tom Whitelock, 2021, Color Guardsman of the Year
- Robert Kittrell, SAR member since 1963



For 134 years, men throughout Texas, the United States, and internationally, make up one of the largest nonprofit, non-partisan societies dedicated to “promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and promoting education to future generations.”

Today, over 40,000 members belong to the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR). The fraternal and civic organization was founded in 1889 by William Osborne McDowell, a New York City financier, on the 100th anniversary of George Washington’s oath of office.

The goal of this “patriotic and hereditary society” according to sar.org is “to honor and preserve the memory of the Revolutionary War ancestors and events leading to the founding of the U.S.”

Galveston boasts the first chapter in the state, the Bernardo de Galvez chapter formed in 1896, originally organized as a Texas Society of Sons of the American Revolution.

The state has 48 chapters, and North Texas chapters span two districts, TXSSAR District 6, Dallas, Plano and East Fork Trinity, and District 10, McKinney, Denton, Sherman, and Greenville.

Founded in 1985, Plano SAR Chapter #7 has 125

“compatriots” who assemble the first Tuesday of every month at Outback Steakhouse in Plano for dinner and a business meeting.

There are 14 compatriots who serve on the executive board of managers, and appointees serve on any one of six committees: Community Activities, Veterans, Nominating, Finance, Yearbook, and Genealogy.

Plano SAR Chapter President Steven Driever said what he likes best about the SAR is its “many activities that can make its members better people and our communities better places in which to live.”

“Members not only can learn a lot about American history at monthly chapter meetings,” he continued, “but also can help teach American history to high-school classes, participate in essay contests for youth, judge science and history fairs at schools, honor veterans, financially contribute to veterans’ organizations, recognize outstanding community leaders, and maintain a Color Guard to participate in parades and present, retrieve, and retire flags at various ceremonies.”

Members join SAR chapters for a variety of reasons, but Compatriot Bob Johns said it was the SAR Color Guard

*(Continued on page 27)*



he observed at the funeral of his wife's friend, that caught his eye.

"I thought that was about the coolest thing I've ever seen," Johns said, adding that his wife, Judy Gilreath Johns, is a longtime member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the sister organization of SAR formed in 1890.

Johns said his wife told him, "I didn't know you're interested in it. I can get you in. I have all of the records."

The records were the genealogical proof required for him to join the organization. Men must be lineal descendants of a Revolutionary War patriot or someone who aided in the revolution providing food, money, and supplies.

If you can prove the lineage on the application form, with documents backing it up, said Johns, then that information is forwarded to the chapter you want to join.

"Every chapter has a registered genealogist who investigates your paperwork," he added. "If that gets approved, it goes to the state registrar in Austin. If that's approved, it goes to our national offices in Louisville, Kentucky, and if national approves it, you're in."

In Johns' case, he said because his wife's genealogy is "so deep and wide," he had no problem getting in.

He now serves on the chapter's executive board as Color Guard Commander and Vice President of Veterans Affairs.

Johns refers to the Color Guard as the "public face" of SAR, adding "we get a lot of attention and that helps us educate."

The Plano Chapter's Color Guard is available to appear at schools, churches, concerts, parades, and other patriotic events.

"It's great and the uniforms are kind fun to wear," he said, referring to the replica Revolutionary War Continental Army uniforms



they don for events.

"There was no one uniform worn at that time, Johns said, "but if you can determine, with factual reference, what the relative you are connected to wore, that could be your very first choice."

Johns said most men wear what became the Continental Army official uniform George Washington liked—the red and blue coat and the tricorn hat.

In 2022, the Plano SAR Color Guard Unit participated in 51 events including parades, educational classes in high schools, flag programs at retirement homes, and much more.

The cities of Plano, Irving and Dallas invite the Plano SAR to their naturalization ceremonies, and Johns said they'll show up in uniform, carrying the flags.

When the Color Guard is asked to educate students, Johns said, "We'll go in our uniforms and carry eight, or 10 flags, and we talk about the American Revolution and the history of it. We talk about patriots and veterans, and we use those flags as demonstrations and a reason to have a conversation."

In parades like the recent Audie Murphy Day Parade in Farmersville, Johns said, SAR Color Guards from Plano, McKinney, Dallas, Garland, Athens and Fort Worth, rode or walked carrying flags.

"We always carry the Betsy Ross flag, which was the first official national flag of the United States," he said, along with SAR, U.S. National flag, state of Texas flag, among others, because there were numerous flags flown during the Revolution.

"And we have them all," he said. "We've got 30-40 flags."

Aside from the Color Guard, the chapter has a Speakers Bureau. Compatriots Dan Reed, Howard Taylor, and Mike Radcliff, speak on a variety of topics including Firearms of the Revolutionary War, Barbecue during the Revolutionary War and Valley Forge during the Revolutionary War.

Compatriot Alan Roach serves as vice president of youth activities and handles Eagle Scout support and recognition, school contests they sponsor, Junior ROTC units in high schools and much more.

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In addition to serving as vice president of Veterans Affairs, Johns also serves on the committee responsible for organizing, hosting and supporting veterans' activities including donating food and clothing to the Bonham VA Health Center and the Texas State Veterans Home.

"We spend a lot of time and a fair amount of money supporting veterans and their activities," he said.

There is a chapter officer in charge of medals and awards, said Johns, and because SAR is a commemorative partner with the Department of Defense, the chapters are authorized to distribute eagle lapel pins to Vietnam veterans, often at American Legion ceremonies to thank them for their service.

The SAR also honors those who lost their lives and fortunes to found and protect the U.S. by cleaning and maintaining graves and marking the graves of American Revolution patriots.

"It's a big ceremony," he said of the grave markings that occurred at Bonham and Lancaster.

"We put a plaque on their tombstone, acknowledging them as veterans," he said. "That's one of the main three main goals of SAR—to honor our patriots."

Additionally, the chapter participates, in conjunction with the John Abston DAR, in the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney each December to honor those who served our country.

Three years from now, on July 4, 2026, the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and the establishment of

the United States will be officially celebrated. National, state, and local SAR chapters are counting down the days and planning activities to celebrate and commemorate the historic event.

"We recognize the contribution our Patriot ancestors made to the principles expressed in the Declaration of Independence," the Sons of the American Revolution proclaimed at a past national Independence Day celebration. "As you celebrate America's founding you may inspire others to share in the SAR mission."

*In & Around | Liberty | July 2023*

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## Alexander Hodge Youth Awards

In recognition of outstanding leadership qualities, military bearing, and excellence, thus exemplifying the high ideals and principles which motivated and sustained our patriot ancestors, the Alexander Hodge SAR Chapter #49 awarded scholarships to students in three of the School Districts in its' area.

The Chapter distributed \$1,600.00 in JROTC Scholarships donations raised by District 7 Vice President Richard Zdunkewicz. The scholarships for college were awarded to two Lamar Consolidated JROTC cadets and two Fort Bend JROTC cadets.

The Chapter also distributed 17 Bronze SAR JROTC Medals and Certificates to 17 JROTC cadets from Fort Bend ISD (FBISD), Lamar Consolidated ISD (LCISD), and Stafford ISD. The medals and certificates were presented at their JROTC year-end banquets. We will have a new school added this coming school year—Crawford High School.

None of this would be possible if not for the efforts of our District 7 Vice President Richard Zdunkewicz. He raised the \$1,600.00 in donations for the JROTC Program for 2023 and has announced a goal of collecting \$10,000.00 for JROTC scholarships for next year, 2024. Chapter #49 will have \$2,000.00 of that scholarship monies to be awarded in 2024.



*(Continued on page 29)*



For a JROTC candidate to qualify for these scholarships, they must 1) have a 3.0 average on a 4.0 scale, 2) planning on attending College, and 3) be recommended by their JROTC leader.

The first award of the year was presented at the 2023 SAR Annual Convention’s Youth Award Luncheon to Cadet Captain Elyse H. Garcia, a Junior at Cypress Ridge High School. She has the highest GPA in the AFJROTC. Cadet Captain Garcia represented the Alexander Hodge Chapter in the SAR JROTC Enhanced Program where she placed 3rd and received a certificate from both the State Society and from the Alexander Hodge Chapter along with a check for \$100.00.

Scholarships were awarded to Cadet Myla Martinez of Willowridge High School, Cadet Mya Brigance of Elkins High School, Cadet Brianna J. Shamer of George Ranch High School, and Cadet Bladimir A. Saralay of Lamar Consolidated High School. Cadets Martinez and Brigance are in FBISD. Cadets Shamer and Saralay are in LCISD.

Alexander Hodge Chapter awarded 17 cadets with the JROTC Bronze Medal and SAR Certificates. The awards were presented at each JROTC School Banquet. These 17 recognized cadets and their schools are listed below:

School District	Unit	Cadet
Austin HS FBISD	Navy	Liam Fletcher
Bush HS FBISD	Navy	Sallay Conteh
Clements HS FBISD	Navy	Brandon Wong
Dulles HS FBISD	Air Force	Naomi Okereke
Elkins HS FBISD	Air Force	Himendra Palisetty
Hightower HS FBISD	Army	Cincere Roberts
Kempner HS FBISD	Air Force	Briggith Tobias
Lamar Consolidated HS LCISD	Air Force	Nathalee Coria
Marshall HS FBISD	Air Force	Dedrick Miles
Ridge Point HS FBISD	Marine Corps	Christopher Schaupp
Stafford HS SISD	Army	Elijah Bressler
Terry HS LCISD	Air Force	Marisol Torres-Zavala
Travis HS FBISD	Marine Corps	Marlin Reeder
Willowridge HS FBISD	Marine Corps	Myron Avery
Fulshear HS LCISD	Air Force	Adam Jirbi
George Ranch HS LCISD	Air Force	Emmanuel Cruz
Randle HS LCISD	Air Force	Alyssa Chapa



## McKinney Independence Day Parade

July 4, 2023

SAR Float participants were left to right: Bob Milwee, Tom Milson, John L. Greer, Ray Hargis, Steve Hole, and T.L. Holden.

# 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.

## **Raymond Roy Tharp**

**February 23, 2023**

SAR #172537

Member Since September 16, 2008

Heart of Texas Chapter #26

## **Charles Ray Fleece**

**February 26, 2023**

SAR #168591

Member Since February 12, 2007

Brazos Valley Chapter #45

## **Gary Worth Cash**

**April 10, 2023**

SAR #153160

Member Since January 20, 2000

Paul Revere Chapter #19

## **Thomas Harold Houston**

**May 22, 2023**

SAR #158792

Member Since July 29, 2002

Paul Carrington Chapter #5

## **Lawrence Bradley Camp**

**May 30, 2023**

SAR #170338

Member Since November 1, 2007

Dallas Chapter #2

## **James Walter Carter**

**June 7, 2023**

SAR #130072

Member Since August 25, 2011

McKinney Chapter #63

## **Burton George Watkins**

**June 17, 2023**

SAR #130072

Member Since October 19, 1987

Arlington Chapter #7

## **J. Robert Ransone**

**June 21, 2023**

SAR #199452

Member Since July 29, 2016

Dallas Chapter #2

## **Leonard Jackson Williams**

**June 23, 2023**

SAR #213291

Member Since October 4, 2019

Bernardo de Galvez Chapter #1

## **Lee Antonio Ingle**

**June 28, 2023**

SAR #227340

Member Since June 28, 2023

Robert Rankin Chapter #62

## **Marshall Bookman Peters**

**July 2, 2023**

SAR #183009

Member Since March 23, 2012

Independence Chapter #40

## **Joe Francis Turner**

**July 2, 2023**

SAR #216202

Member Since July 17, 2020

Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter #6

## **Michael Shannon Nichols**

**July 8, 2023**

SAR #168045

Member Since October 30, 2006

Alexander Hamilton Chapter #66

*(Continued on page 31)*



**Charles Stuart Smith**  
**July 22, 2023**  
SAR #132355  
Member Since January 30, 1989  
Hill Country Chapter #31

**Charlie Pete Briggs III**  
**August 4, 2023**  
SAR #127950  
Member Since (unknown)  
Independence Chapter #40

**Jackie Dale King**  
**August 13, 2023**  
SAR #215910  
Member Since June 26, 2020  
Patrick Henry Chapter #6

**Heasley St. John Rook**  
**August 16, 2023**  
SAR #150533  
Member Since July 23, 1998  
Freedom Chapter #38

**Keye E. Perry**  
**August 23, 2023**  
SAR #225826  
Member Since March 31, 2023  
Alexander Hamilton Chapter #66



Thank you for the great article about my husband Harry Fife. He was a great guy and really enjoyed being a member of the SAR. I appreciated the participation of the SAR at his memorial service. Harry and I actually shared a common ancestor! Meshack Turner's first wife was from Harry's side and second wife belonged to my side of the family.

~ Suzanne Fife  
Widow of Texas SAR President Harry Fife



## **Arlington/Fort Worth July 4th Parade**

Members of the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter joined with members of the Arlington Chapter to march in Arlington's July 4th Parade. The Arlington Independence Day Parade is one of the largest 4th of July parades in the United States, the largest in Texas, and one of the longest running annual events in Arlington.

Maj. K.M. Van Zandt members who participated were James Alderman, Kevin Shellman, Vann Cunningham, Bobby Gresham, and dual member John Anderson.

The Arlington Chapter borrowed the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter trailer again this year. They also repeated



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# **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.

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## **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**  
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Vice President, District 9 **Kevin L. Kanter** (Acting)  
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Vice President, District 11 **Thomas E. Milson**  
Trustee **David J. Temple**  
Alternate Trustee **Thomas I. Jackson**  
Chairman, Council of Chapter Presidents **Thomas E. Milson**  
Editor, *The Texas Compatriot*, **Ronald J. Turner**  
Web Administrator **Raymond W. Cox**

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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.

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## 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.

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## 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](mailto:rjturner0815@gmail.com).

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