

ARK-LA-TEX SAR

The Official Newsletter of Chapter #69

DISPATCH

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Volume 3, Number 2

Copyright 2025

Summer 2025

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Larry "Joe" Reynolds



Compatriots!

Summer is here and hopefully the rain is going to stop for a while, we need the rain for our crops, but it sure makes it hard on traveling to all the Conventions and Meetings that take place this time of year.

Well, I finally left the state of Louisiana and have moved back to the Great State of Texas. If any of you are in my neck of the woods, 310 Kent Drive, Pittsburg, Texas 75686, stop by and see me. I also have a new phone number if you need to call me – (903) 717-1009.

Gentlemen, while we are out and about, we also need to be on the lookout for individuals and businesses that can help us fulfil our mission, that of recognizing citizens or organizations who regularly and properly display the Flag of the United States. We also need to remember our Youth Services and our American Veterans.

Compatriot Dennis Beckham stepped down from the position of Registrar due to health reasons and at our last meeting this month we elected Chancellor Bill Sekel to also take on his position, so if anyone knows of any possible members, let Compatriot Sekel know. This also applies to anyone who is interested in submitting any Supplemental Applications. Also, please keep Compatriot Beckham in your Prayers that his health improves and he is able to join us again shortly.

Compatriot, we really need you at our meetings, so please try you best to attend our next meeting.

President
Ark-La-Tex Chapter #69

SAR MISSION STATEMENT

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our country.



**WE DESCENDANTS OF THE HEROES
OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
WHO, BY THEIR SACRIFICES,
ESTABLISHED THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
REAFFIRM OUR FAITH IN THE PRINCIPLES OF LIBERTY
AND OUR CONSTITUTIONAL REPUBLIC,
AND SOLEMNLY PLEDGE OURSELVES
TO DEFEND THEM AGAINST EVERY FOE.**



UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, September 9th, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.
American Legion Post 258
308 North Louise Street
Atlanta, Texas 7555



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Apr 15	Pat & Sue Tomberlain Jr
Apr 17	Danny Warren Addington
May 21	Danny & Carolyn Addington
May 24	Jill Howard
Jun 01	Laura Beckham
Jun 15	Rodney Glen Love
Jun 19	Larry Joe Reynolds
Jun 20	Vivian Burns
Jun 22	Jean Maxie
Jun 23	Billie Love

SAR Anniversary

April 7, 2020	Duran Cleo Duncan
May 15, 2008	Charles Edmond Pruitt II
May 13, 2022	Barrett Beckham Thomas
May 13, 2022	Mack Everett Thomas
May 13, 2022	Shawn Louis Tully
May 27, 2022	Brandon Alec Epps
May 27, 2022	Larry Joe Reynolds
May 27, 2022	Robert Eugene Woodroof
June 4, 2021	Clarence Varnell Burns



THE AMERICAN CREED

I BELIEVE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AS A GOVERNMENT
OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE,
WHOSE JUST POWERS ARE DERIVED FROM THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED;
A DEMOCRACY IN A REPUBLIC;
A SOVEREIGN NATION OF MANY SOVEREIGN NATIONS;
A PERFECT NATION, ONE AND INSEPARABLE;
ESTABLISHED UPON THOSE PRINCIPLES OF
FREEDOM, EQUALITY, JUSTICE, AND HUMANITY;
FOR WHICH AMERICAN PATRIOTS SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES AND FORTUNES.
I, THEREFORE, BELIEVE IT IS MY DUTY TO MY COUNTRY TO LOVE IT;
TO SUPPORT ITS CONSTITUTION;
TO OBEY ITS LAWS;
TO RESPECT ITS FLAG;
AND TO DEFEND IT AGAINST ALL ENEMIES.



BATTLES FOUGHT APR - JUN

Apr-Aug, 1782	Battle of the Black River
Apr 6, 1776	Battle of Block Island

Apr 8, 1782	Battle of Delaware Bay
Apr 9-12, 1782	Battle of the Saintes
Apr 12, 1782	Battle of Providien
Apr 13, 1777	Battle of Bound Brook
Apr 14, 1780	Battle of Monck's Corner
Apr 14-18, 1783	Recapture of the Bahamas
Apr 15, 1781	Battle of Porto Praya
Apr 15-23, 1781	Siege of Fort Watson
Apr 17, 1780	Second Battle of Martinique
Apr 19, 1775	Battles of Lexington and Concord
Apr 19, 1775 - Mar 17, 1776	Siege of Boston
Apr 19, 1782	Battle of the Mona Passage
Apr 20, 1775	Gunpowder Incident*
Apr 20-21, 1782	Action of 20-21 April 1782
Apr 23, 1775	New York Armory Raid*
Apr 24, 1778	North Channel Naval Duel
Apr 25, 1781	Battle of Blandford
Apr 25, 1781	Battle of Hobkirk's Hill
Apr 27, 1777	Battle of Ridgefield
Apr 29, 1781	Battle of Fort Royal
May 1, 1778	Battle of Crooked Billet
May 1, 1781	Action of 1 May 1781
May 6, 1780	Battle of Lenud's Ferry
May 6, 1782	Capture of the Bahamas
May 8-12, 1781	Battle of Fort Motte
May 10, 1775	Capture of Fort Ticonderoga
May 10-24, 1779	Chesapeake raid
May 14, 1781	Battle of Pine's Bridge
May 17, 1777	Battle of Thomas Creek
May 1779	Battle of Chillicothe
May 18-27, 1776	Battle of The Cedars
May 20, 1778	Battle of Barren Hill
May 22-Jun 18, 1781	Siege of Ninety-Six
May 22-Jun 6, 1781	Siege of Augusta
May 24, 1777	Meigs Raid
May 24-Jun 2, 1781	Invasion of Tobago
May 25, 1780	Battle of St. Louis
May 25-30, 1778	Mount Hope Bay raids
May 25-Aug 4, 1780	Bird's invasion of Kentucky
May 25-Jun 12, 1782	Crawford expedition
May 27-28, 1775	Battle of Chelsea Creek
May 28-29, 1782	Naval battle off Halifax
May 29, 1780	Battle of Waxhaws
May 30, 1778	Battle of Cobleskill
May 30, 1781	Action of 30 May 1781
Jun 7, 1780	Battle of Connecticut Farms
Jun 8, 1776	Battle of Trois-Rivières
Jun 10-12, 1780	Battle of Mobley's Meeting House
Jun 11-12, 1775	Battle of Machias
Jun 16-18, 1779	Capture of Saint Vincent

Jun 17, 1775 Battle of Bunker Hill
 Jun 20, 1779 Battle of Stono Ferry
 Jun 20, 1780 Battle of Ramsour's Mill
 Jun 23, 1780 Battle of Springfield
 Jun 24, 1779 – Feb 7, 1783 . Great Siege of Gibraltar
 Jun 26, 1777 Battle of Short Hills
 Jun 26, 1781 Battle of Spencer's Ordinary
 Jun 28, 1776 Battle of Sullivan's Island
 Jun 28, 1778 Battle of Monmouth
 Jun 29, 1776 Battle of Turtle Gut Inlet
 Jun 30, 1778 Battle of Alligator Bridge
 Jun 30, 1782 Raid on Chester

1780 South Carolina

By May 1st Charleston had been under siege for over two weeks. The hopes for salvation rested on Patriot units outside the city opening one of the land routes. On May 6th a company of Virginia Dragoons crossed the Santee River at Lenud's Ferry. After taking some British prisoners they were about to return across the Ferry when Tarleton's legion intercepted them. 41 Patriots were killed or wounded to Tarleton's two.



Charleston surrendered six days later, on May 12, 1780. The British captured in excess of 3,000 Patriots while loosing 250 killed and wounded. As word of the defeat spread, American units at Camden and Ninety-Six surrendered without a fight. Soon there was only one organized Patriot unit within the colony, the 3rd Virginia, commanded by Col. Abraham Buford.

On May 29th British Colonel Banastre Tarleton catches up with the 3rd Virginia at the Waxhaws. As his cavalry charge breaks the Continental line, Tareltion's horse is killed and he is pinned under it.

Thus when a flag of surrender is raised his men don't recognize it and continue the killing. This brings about the term "Tarleton's Quarter," which in the eyes of the Patriots is no quarter at all. The Continentals lose 113 killed and 203 captured, the great majority of these prisoners being wounded. British losses total 19 men and 31 horses killed or wounded. Though a military defeat, the Waxhaws becomes a propaganda victory for the Continentals as they exploit the "massacre" that ensued.



MEMBER RECEIVES FIVE YEAR SERVICE AWARD

On March 25th, 2025, Ark-La-Tex Chapter #69 President Larry "Joe" Reynolds traveled to Sulphur Springs, Texas, where he visited with Chapter member Cletis Murreald Millsap, at his home, in order to present him with his SAR five-Year Certificate.

Compatriot Millsap is a former member of the Captain William Barron Chapter #25 Tyler, Texas and a former County Judge for Hopkins County, Texas.



[photo : L-R ; Sherry E. Millsap (CM's sister; Gail Garmon (Aunt) DAR Member & Officer (The Greenville chapter of the Daughters of the

American Revolution (DAR) is known as the "Brig. General Edward Bulkley Chapter," and they are part of District III (North Texas/Dallas) of the Texas DAR.



MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: 03/11/2025

Members Present

President Joe Reynolds
Secretary Rodney G. Love
Treasurer Danny Addington
Chancellor Bill Sekel
Chaplain Bob Vernon.

Visitors Present

Carolyn Addington
Louella Vernon

Call to Order: Chancellor Bill Sekel called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm. due to President Larry Joe Reynolds laryngitis. We do not have a quorum at this meeting.

Invocation: Bob Vernon offered our invocation.

Pledges and SAR Mission Statement: The United States of America, State of Texas, SAR Pledge was led by Chancellor Bill Sekel. The Mission Statement was read.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were emailed to all members. A motion to accept the minutes by acclamation was made by Joe Reynolds and seconded by Bob Vernon. Approval was unanimous.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Danny Addington presented the treasurer's report. A motion to approve treasurer's report by acclamation was made by Bob Vernon and seconded by Rodney G. Love. Approval was unanimous.

Registrar's Report: None

Chancellor Report: Clarence found us recipients for Law Enforcement Award, David Stewart and Life Saving Award William Denison. These awards will be presented on May 15 at the Cass County Criminal Justice Center during Law Enforcement Day Affairs.

Wounded Warrior Certificate and coin will be presented to Cory Berry.

Certificates cost only \$3 each. Military Service Medals are \$35 each. At the next meeting we will entertain a motion to present MSM to Chapter members that are eligible.

We need to continue to seek out non-member veterans and present them with Veteran Certificates.

Bill will be attending the annual conference in Richardson on 9/9/25. Any member is eligible to attend.

Bill is going to seek out some membership pins for members.

New member sworn in: none

Program: Chancellor Bill Sekel presented the program "Who Made the Famous Ride Announcing the British are Coming"?

Presentations: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Discussion of purchasing medals for members. It was concluded that a quorum was not present and thus this item needed to be acted upon at a later date.

Upcoming Events and Announcements: The 250th Anniversary of Lexington and Concord on the 18th, 19th and 20th. Application fee is ½ for new members until April. The next meeting will be June 10th.

Adjournment: Chancellor Bill Sekel entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Joe Reynolds and seconded Rodney G. Love. The motion carried.

Closing Admonition: Chancellor Bill Sekel led members in the SAR Closing Admonition.

Benediction by: Bob Vernon

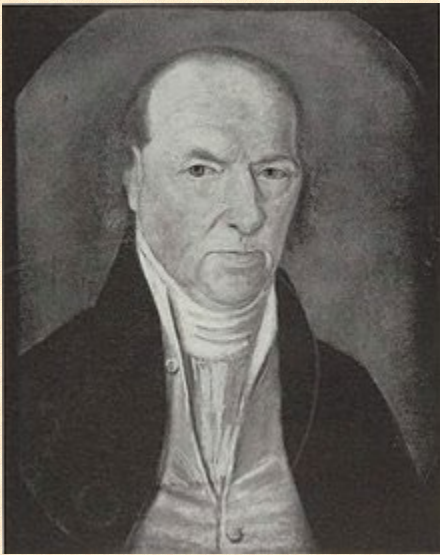
Meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM

Minutes submitted for approval by Secretary Rodney G. Love



OUR FOUNDING FATHERS

Gunning Bedford Jr.



John Blair Jr. (April 17, 1732 – August 31, 1800) was an American Founding Father, who signed the United States Constitution as a delegate from Virginia and was appointed an Associate Justice on the first U.S. Supreme Court by George Washington.

A Virginia lawyer since 1757, Blair represented the College of William and Mary in the House of Burgesses (while his father served on the Governor's Council) and served in various colonial offices after giving up his local law practice. In the prelude to the American Revolutionary War, Blair had served as a commissioner of admiralty to enforce regulations promulgated by the Virginia Revolutionary Conventions, then on the committee that prepared the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Virginia Constitution of 1776. He served for over a year on the Council of State before being appointed as one of the judges of the General Court, the new Commonwealth's first appellate court. He also served on the High Court of Chancery, which was a predecessor of the Virginia Court of Appeals (now the Virginia Supreme Court). Blair was one of the best-trained jurists of his day. A widely respected legal scholar, he avoided the tumult of state politics, preferring to work behind the scenes. He was devoted to the idea of a permanent union of the newly

independent states and was a loyal supporter of fellow Virginians James Madison and at the Constitutional Convention. While serving on the Supreme Court, he influenced the interpretation of the Constitution in a number of important decisions. Contemporaries praised Blair for his ability to penetrate to the heart of legal questions, as well as his gentleness and benevolence.

Early life and education

John Blair was born in Williamsburg, Colony of Virginia, in 1732, to Mary (Monro) (1726–1768) and her merchant and politician husband, John Blair. They had a large family, with ten or twelve children by various accounts, and John was the fourth child, and the eldest surviving son. His father served for decades in both houses of the colony's legislature—as a member of the House of Burgesses before decades on the Virginia Governor's Council and (on four occasions) as acting royal governor. His emigrant paternal grandfather, Dr. Archibald Blair, had also served as a burgess, and his brother (this man's great-uncle), Rev. James Blair, had founded and become the first president of the College of William & Mary, and at his death bequeathed much of his estate to this man's father. His maternal grandfather was Rev. John Monro of St. John's Parish, King William County.

As had his father, Blair attended William & Mary, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in 1754. In 1755, he went to London to study law at the Middle Temple.

Career

Returning home to practice law, Blair was admitted to the Virginia bar in 1757 and quickly thrust into public life. He began his public career shortly after the close of the French and Indian War with his election to the seat reserved for the College of William and Mary in the House of Burgesses (1766–1799). He went on to become clerk of the Governor's Council, the upper house of the colonial legislature (1770–1780).

Blair originally joined the moderate wing of the Patriot cause. He opposed Patrick Henry's extremist resolutions in protest of the Stamp Act, but the dissolution of the House of Burgesses by Parliament profoundly altered his views. In response to a series of taxes on the colonies passed by Parliament, Blair joined George Washington and others in 1770 and again in 1774 to draft nonimportation agreements which pledged their supporters to cease importing British goods until the taxes were repealed. In 1775, he reacted to the British Parliament's passage of the Intolerable Acts by joining those calling for a Continental Congress and pledging support for the people of Boston who were suffering economic hardship because of Parliament's actions.

When the American Revolution began, Blair became deeply involved in the government of his state. He served as a member of the convention that drew up Virginia's constitution (1776) and held a number of important committee positions, including a seat on the Committee of 28 that framed the Virginia Declaration of Rights and plan of government. He served on the Privy Council, Governor Patrick Henry's major advisory group (1776–1778). The legislature elected him to a judgeship in the general court in 1778 and soon to the post of chief justice. He was also elected to Virginia's high court of chancery (1780). The judicial appointments automatically made Blair a member of Virginia's first court of appeals. On the Virginia Court of Appeals, Blair participated in *The Commonwealth of Virginia v. Caton et al.* (1782), which set the precedent that courts can deem legislative acts unconstitutional. The decision was a precursor to the United States Supreme Court in decision *Marbury v. Madison*.

In 1786, the legislature, recognizing Blair's prestige as a jurist, appointed him Thomas Jefferson's successor on a committee revising the laws of Virginia. The following year, he was appointed as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention.



Jean Balfour Blair (1736–1792)

On September 24, 1789, President George Washington nominated Blair for one of the five associate justice positions on the newly established U.S. Supreme Court. He was confirmed by the United States Senate two days later. Blair served on the Supreme Court from February 2, 1790, until October 25, 1795. The court's caseload during Blair's tenure was light, with only 13 cases decided over six years. However, Blair participated in the court's landmark case of *Chisholm v. Georgia*, which



is considered the first United States Supreme Court case of significance and impact.

Freemasonry

Blair was a very active Freemason, and a Past Master of Williamsburg Lodge, involved in the formation of the first Grand Lodge of Virginia. The convention which was called to form the Grand Lodge was petitioned for by Williamsburg Lodge, and following their first meeting in 1777, Blair was elected the very

first Grand Master of Freemasons in Virginia on October 13, 1778, in Williamsburg.

Personal life

He married his cousin, Jean Balfour Blair.

Death and legacy

Blair died in



Williamsburg on August 31, 1800. He was buried at the Bruton Parish Churchyard in Williamsburg.

Blair Street in Madison, Wisconsin is named in his honor.



FLAG DAY

June 14, 1777: During the American Revolution, the Continental Congress adopts a resolution stating that “the flag of the United States be thirteen alternate stripes red and white” and that “the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation.” The national flag, which became known as the “Stars and Stripes,” was based on the “Grand Union” flag, a banner carried by the Continental Army in 1776 that also consisted of 13 red and white stripes. According to legend, Philadelphia seamstress Betsy Ross designed the new canton for the Stars and Stripes, which consisted of a circle of 13 stars and a blue background, at the request of General George Washington. Historians have been unable to conclusively prove or disprove this legend.

5 Facts For Flag Day - June 14th

#1 - The US' 50-star flag was designed by 17 year old Bob Heft for history class in 1958. His grade was a B-.

#2 - There's an official “Flag Code” for displaying and handling the American flag. It's technically federal law!

#3 - The proper way to dispose of an American flag? Burn it.

#4 - Always raise your flag briskly, but lower it slowly. And never let it touch the ground.

#5 - Of the 6 American flags planted on the moon by the Apollo astronauts, 5 are still standing today.



UNSUNG HEROES

Henry Knox



H. Knox

Henry Knox, a young man from Boston, is often credited as a major part of the patriot's first victory, forcing Britain out of Boston. Knox transported cannons from Fort Ticonderoga, managing to move the artillery over 300 miles during the winter until they pointed at the British in Dorchester Heights, forcing them out of the city.

Washington chose Knox over many more experienced veterans as his chief artillery officer, allowing Knox to manage the logistics for Washington's famous crossing of the Delaware River along with running the siege at Yorktown which forced the British to surrender. Knox played an absolutely crucial role in the Revolutionary War and yet is one of the most overlooked Revolutionary War heroes.



MEMBER RECEIVES AWARD



Chapter President Larry "Joe" Reynolds receives the District Henry Knox Achievement Medal w/Star from Southern District President and NSSAR Vice President General Dr. C. David Billings in recognition of outstanding contributions and performance, as the 2027 Southern District's 137th NSSAR Congress Webmaster.



REVOLUTIONARY WAR HISTORY

On June 13, 1777, a 19-year-old French aristocrat, Marie-Joseph Paul Roch Yves Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette, arrives in South Carolina with the intent to serve as General George Washington's second-in-command.

Silas Deane, during his service as the Continental Congress envoy to France, had, on December 7, 1776, struck an agreement with Johann de Kalb and Lafayette to offer their military expertise to the American cause. However, Deane was replaced with Benjamin Franklin and Arthur Lee, who were unenthused by the proposal. Meanwhile, King Louis XVI feared angering Britain and prohibited Lafayette's departure. The British ambassador to the French court at Versailles demanded the seizure of Lafayette's ship, which resulted in Lafayette's arrest. He managed to escape, set sail and eluded two British ships dispatched to recapture him.

Following his safe arrival in South Carolina, Lafayette traveled to Philadelphia. Although Lafayette's youth made Congress reluctant to promote him over more experienced colonial officers, the young Frenchman's willingness to volunteer his services without pay won their respect and Lafayette a commission as major-general on July 31, 1777.

Lafayette served at Brandywine in 1777, as well as Barren Hill, Monmouth and Rhode Island in 1778. Following the formal treaty of alliance with Lafayette's native France in February 1778 and Britain's subsequent declaration of war, Lafayette asked to return to Paris and consult the king as to his future service. Washington was willing to spare Lafayette, who departed in January 1779. By March, Franklin reported from Paris that Lafayette had become an excellent advocate for the American cause at the French court.

Following his six-month respite in France, Lafayette returned to aid the American war effort in Virginia, where he participated in the successful siege of Yorktown in 1781, before returning to France and the further service of his own country.



MYTHS ABOUT COLONIAL AMERICA WE ALL BELIEVED

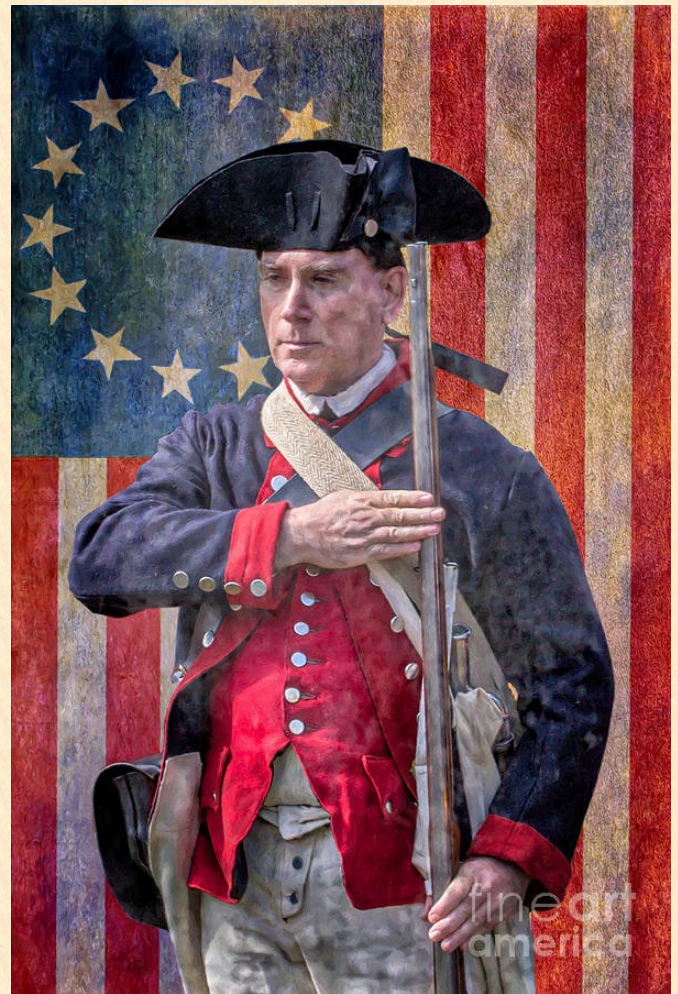
The Colonists Used Guerilla Warfare Tactics During The Revolutionary War



©MPI/Getty Images

Although there were a few instances in which guerrilla warfare tactics were used, the Continental Army usually fought as the British Army did. This meant facing each other on the battlefield, taking turns firing at each other as they slowly inched forward.

However, the few instances in which this form of battle didn't take place tend to be more interesting, and are frequently re-told when discussing the American Revolution. They have also been brought to life in films such as *The Patriot*.



CHAPTER LEADERSHIP**Ark-La-Tex Chapter #69****Texas Society****Sons of the American Revolution****Atlanta, Texas****President**

Larry "Joe" Reynolds
903-717-1009

Joe.Reynolds@arklatexsar.org

Vice President

Larry Paul Chandler
318-294-9087

elpeecee@hotmail.com

Secretary

Rodney Glen Love
903-733-0932

snakemon@aol.com

Treasurer

Danny Warren Addington
903-796-5998

draddington@att.net

Registrar

William Edward Sekel, Jr.
830-992-5619

firstsgtusmcret@yahoo.com

Chancellor

William Edward Sekel, Jr.
830-992-5619

firstsgtusmcret@yahoo.com

Chaplain

Robert D. Vernon, Jr.
903-277-4786

bobv@microlith.com

Assistant Chaplain

Shawn L. Tully
903-563-1097

marie6925@outlook.com

Web Master

Larry Joe Reynolds
903-717-1009

Joe.Reynolds@arklatexsar.org

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Larry "Joe" Reynolds

310 Kent Drive

Pittsburg, TX 75686-2131

903-717-1009

Joe.Reynolds@larryjoereynolds.com

