

# Meeting Minutes for TXSSAR Arlington Chapter #7

First Dixie Café, 2400 West Pioneer Parkway, Suite 105, Pantego, Texas 76013

**September 9, 2015**

## **I. Call to Order**

President **David Friels** called the meeting to order at approximately **9:30** a.m.

## **II. Invocation**

Chaplain **Bill Covington** led the invocation.

## **III. Pledges**

The pledge of allegiance to the U.S. flag was led by **Kevin Jorrey**. The pledge of allegiance to the Texas flag was led by **Kevin Jorrey**. The SAR pledge was led by **Kevin Jorrey**.

## **IV. Guest Introductions & Announcements**

There were **six** guests in attendance: **Steven Brown, James Gibson, Mike Hutchins, Corey Walker, Andrea Meller** (DAR/CAR), and **Linda Lee Mynar** (DAR) – daughter of SAR compatriot **Dick Lee**. Andrea Meller announced the “Patriot Paws” program -based in Rockwall, Texas- which raises funds to train service dogs for veterans. It costs approximately \$30,000 to train one service dog, and pins are being sold for \$10 to raise funds for this program.

## **V. Presentation by Linda Lee Mynar**

**Linda Lee Mynar** – daughter of SAR compatriot **Dick Lee** - gave a presentation on the **Viet Nam War**. **Dick Lee** noted that his daughter had served as a “good example for people her whole life.” Prior to her lecture, it was also noted that **David Friels** and **Kevin Jorrey** had participated in the **50<sup>th</sup> Homecoming Anniversary of the Viet Nam** at White Settlement, Texas, and that the celebration was long overdue.

Guest speaker **Linda Mynar** noted some interesting facts regarding the War in Viet Nam:

1. During the war in Viet Nam, more bombs were dropped on Viet Nam than those that were dropped on Germany and Italy during World War II.
2. Over half of those U.S. servicemen who served in Viet Nam served by choice.
3. 957 service members died on the first day in combat, and 1,143 service members died on their departure day. Approximately 1,600 service members are unaccounted.
4. U.S. involvement with Viet Nam took place under six U.S. Presidents from Dwight D. Eisenhower to Gerald Ford.
5. There were six countries allied in the effort in Viet Nam, including Australia and South Korea.
6. The Viet Nam Memorial was designed by a college student from Yale and is made with black granite imported from India. The structure took less than eight months to build, and six additional names have recently been added to this wall.
7. U.S. evacuation day from Viet Nam was April 30, 1975 and was conducted under the code name “Frequent Wind.”
8. The signal for the evacuation was an announcement on armed forces radio stating that the “temperature is 105 degrees and rising” followed by the playing of Bing Crosby’s song “White Christmas.”
9. During the war in Vietnam, DeSoto, Texas was a small town of approximately “5,000 people and one stoplight.”
10. Twenty-year old soldier Everett Maxwell of Garland, Texas participated in the Battle of Dak, one of the bloodiest conflicts of the war.

Following her presentation, guest speaker Linda Mynar said, “Thank-you to all of those who served.” It had been noted that **Ron Carter, Kevin Jorrey** and **David Friels** were Vietnam era veterans. David Friels had served one year in Thailand circa 1968 with the F-4 squadrons in that area, which bombed the truck routes in Laos and Cambodia. One of his souvenirs from the war was a 20mm shell casing. It was also noted that the flag for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the Viet Nam war had a **green** circle – representing the jungles of Vietnam, a **black** circle –representing the POWs- and a **blue** circle – representing service and valor. The **six stars** on the flag represented the six allied nations, and a **laurel wreath** represented honor.

## **VI. Special Recognition**

Compatriot **Dick Lee** was honored with the **SAR Military Service Medal** for his service in World War II. It was noted that Dick Lee had grown up in Dallas, Texas and was “on the good guy list.” He was pinned by his daughter **Linda Lee Mynar**. In his acceptance speech, Dick Lee noted that he “fell into SAR” and believed it is “an honor and a privilege to be associated with these guys,” whom he described as being “all gentlemen.” He stated that he had served as a land-based sailor who helped build a naval base on Saipan. His next mission was to go to Formosa and do the same, with the belief that it was more efficient to use a land base for the bombing of Japan. While overseas, Dick Lee received a letter from his mother predicting that the “war is going to be over soon” and that he would be “going to come home soon.” Two weeks

later, the first atomic bomb was dropped on Japan – the beginning of the end of the war. Chapter President **David Friels** thanked compatriot **Dick Lee** for his service and added that it is an “honor to have you as a member.”

## VII. Approval of the Minutes for Previous Month’s Meeting

A motion was made to **approve the minutes** of the previous meeting by **Ron Carter**. This motion was seconded by **Dennis Walton**, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

## VIII. Officer and Committee Reports

### A. Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer **Ron Carter** presented the **Treasurer’s Report**:

The approximate balance of the chapter was reported. Chapter President David Friels stated that “As long as we’re solvent, I’m happy.”

### B. State Activities Report

District VP **Ron Carter** also presented the **State Activities Report**:

1. The Annual Dues Statement should arrive this month. Members were encouraged to send these dues back quickly. It was also noted that there have been e-mail address problems. If a problem is detected, there is an online form available to make edits.
2. The State BOM will be held on the week-end of October 8-10. There will be various committee meetings held at that time. Online registration for this meeting is possible. **Ron Carter** and **John Anderson** will be attending the BOM which will be headed by Texas SAR President **Tom Lawrence**, who is attempting to keep the Texas SAR membership well-informed.
3. **Tom Lawrence** will also be the guest speaker at the state meeting in Plano, Texas.
4. There is a share file available for Texas SAR members. Anyone interested should contact Ron Carter. John Anderson will investigate whether there is a link to this share file on the SAR chapter website.
5. There is another upcoming event of particular interest to our Arlington chapter – “the **Massing of the Colors 2015**” on Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM at the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth.

### C. Registrar’s Report

Registrar **John Anderson** presented the **Registrar’s Report**:

1. There has been no change in membership since last month. According to the Texas SAR online roster, our Arlington chapter has **33** active compatriots, including **6** junior chapter members as of September 1, 2015.
2. Current applications in progress are: **John “Jack” Davis**, husband of DAR Nancy Davis, and **Corey Walker**, father with 2 sons, 3 grandsons, and 2 nephews.

### D. Webmaster’s Report

Webmaster **John Anderson** presented the **Webmaster’s Report**:

1. Our chapter homepage is at [www.txssar.org/Arlington](http://www.txssar.org/Arlington) or [www.texassar.org/Arlington](http://www.texassar.org/Arlington)
2. Since inception in June 2011, we now have had 2,867+ total hits (accesses) to this website. Most of these are by our membership, but occasionally by candidates and other chapters.
3. Please click on your Compatriot Profile at <http://www.txssar.org/Arlington/roster.php> and contact me if it needs revision.
4. Also, contact me if you wish to be added to the “Speakers Bureau” at <http://www.txssar.org/Arlington/speakers.php>
5. Recent pictures are posted at [www.txssar.org/Arlington/photos2015.php](http://www.txssar.org/Arlington/photos2015.php)
6. Scrapbook videos are posted at [www.txssar.org/Arlington/video2014scrapbook.php](http://www.txssar.org/Arlington/video2014scrapbook.php)
7. Also, included is the link to the “TX SAR and You” by Bob Cohen.
8. John Anderson thanked everyone for providing pictures and videos for our website.
9. Once enrolled, the online **private** chapter **Dropbox** can be accessed at <https://www.dropbox.com>
10. Contact John Anderson if you need a new login or have access questions.

### E. Grave Marking Committee Report

Registrar **John Anderson** presented the **Grave Marking Committee Report**:

1. The Arlington chapter has two Texas Society SAR Past Presidents both buried in the Arlington Cemetery at 801 Mary Street. They are cousins and are: **Benton Carter Collins**, 1893-1972, TX SAR President 1942, unmarked. **Dr. Valin Ridge Woodward**, 1890-1969, TX SAR President 1938, previously marked.
2. Both descend through maternal lines to their common ancestor Patriot **William Terrell Lewis** of Surry Co, NC. He was active in the organization of troops in Hanover County, VA and the suppression of Tories in Surry County, VA.
3. The grave marking is not yet scheduled, but due to other conflicts will probably be scheduled by the North Texas SAR Color Guard to be in the **February-April 2016** timeframe.

4. John Anderson attended the Arlington Genealogical Society meeting and welcomed their attendees with the pending schedule. At least two attendees had interest, as they are related to the Collins family and stated they would try to attend.
5. Suggested invitees are the Collins & Woodward families, Arlington Historical Association, Arlington Genealogical Society, local city government, local DAR chapters and BSA scouts, N. TX SAR Color Guard, and local area SAR chapters.

## **F. Historian's Report**

Historian **Kevin Jorrey** presented the **Historian's Report**:

As noted previously, the chapter continues to work on the grave markings of the two past state society SAR presidents who are buried in Arlington, Texas: **Benton Carter Collins**, 1893-1972, TX SAR President 1942, and **Dr. Valin Ridge Woodward**, 1890-1969, TX SAR President 1938.

## **G. Eagle Scouts & Awards Report**

Secretary **Roger Wehr** presented the **Eagle Scouts and Awards Report**:

Roger Wehr noted that **Ron Carter** made two Eagle Scout awards presentations on behalf of the Arlington SAR chapter. It was also noted that the local Troop 68 will have at least four more Eagle Scout presentations in the months ahead. The Arlington Genealogical Society has an interest in coordinating awards presentations to Eagle Scouts with our chapter. Efforts will be made in the months ahead to invite the Boy Scouts of Troop 68 to at least one chapter meeting.

## **H. Heart of Texas Event Report**

Sergeant-at-arms **Bill Covington** presented the **Heart of Texas Event Report**:

Bill Covington noted that he will be setting up a booth for the SAR at the Heart of Texas Event. It is possible that John Anderson and Kevin Jorrey may also be available to attend. It was noted that the Heart of Texas SAR chapter has seen a shift in its membership from Waco to the Temple area. Furthermore, the Waco SAR members may be a bit reluctant to make the fifty mile trip to attend the chapter meeting.

## **IX. Unfinished Business**

### **A. SAR Chapter Dues**

According to Ron Carter, it is not necessary to raise the chapter dues at this time. It was noted, however, that the national dues will be increasing by \$5 from \$52 to \$57. David Friels was also in favor of leaving the chapter dues at the present level. John Anderson noted that the Texas SAR is discouraging chapters from raising dues; even so, the Fort Worth chapter has raised its dues by \$3.50.

### **B. Kroger's Support of Non-Profit Organizations**

**Richard Coffey** presented additional information on the use of the Kroger customer loyalty program for raising funds for non-profit organizations. It was also suggested that the chapter might consider the loyalty program offered by Tom Thumb.

## **X. New Business**

### **A. October Meeting Plans**

**John Anderson** and **Ron Carter** will be away at the annual Texas SAR B.O.M. on October 10<sup>th</sup>. In order to maintain continuity, the chapter meeting, also scheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup> will continue as scheduled. If anyone is interested in making a guest presentation for the chapter meeting, please contact chapter President **David Friels**.

## **XI. Meeting Adjournment, SAR Closing Admonition & Benediction**

At approximately 10:26 a.m. a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. President **David Friels** concluded the meeting with the SAR closing admonition, and Chaplain **Bill Covington** gave the benediction.

## **XII. Attendance Summary & Next Meeting Information**

**Attendance for the August meeting** included **six** guests and **nine** chapter members: John Anderson, Ron Carter, Richard Coffey, Bill Covington, David Friels, Kevin Jorrey, Dick Lee, Dennis Walton, & Roger Wehr.

Our **next chapter meeting** is scheduled for **October 10, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.** at the **First Dixie Café** located at **2400 West Pioneer Parkway, Suite 105, Pantego, Texas 76013.**

Roger Wehr

TXSSAR Arlington Chapter Secretary

[www.txssar.org/Arlington](http://www.txssar.org/Arlington)

[wehr@uta.edu](mailto:wehr@uta.edu)