

October, 2021



Ink & Quill

TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION, DENTON CHAPTER #23, TXSSAR INC.®



Next Meeting DATE: Saturday, October 16, 2021 TIME: NOON
Location: via ZOOM, contact Mike if you don't received the invite.

President's Message

October brings us some cooler weather along with opportunities for the members to serve the chapter. This is the time of the year when the organization starts to focus on the various youth and education awards.

This past year we had the Knight Essay winner in the chapter and hope to see this award again this fall along with other entrants. There is the Oration Contest, History teacher award, Eagle Scout, Brochure contest for middle school, Poster contest for elementary age kids and the JROTC award for outstanding cadet from a high school program.

Check out the Texas SAR webpage for details on when and how to enter these contests. Don't forget your own children or grandchildren; they are eligible to enter these programs. What we will need are some member volunteers to judge the entries when they come to the chapter. Judging is generally done in the November / December timeframe. Stay tuned!!

Zap me an email if you are interested in handling any of the youth programs. The "pay" is the same as mine as chapter president but it is interesting and rewarding to see the quality youth that enter these contests.

Remember our October chapter meeting will be via ZOOM. The State BOM meeting blocked out our 2nd weekend schedule and we couldn't come up with any place to hold an "in-person" meeting. The ZOOM meeting will be on Saturday, noon, October 16th; details to follow as we get closer. Our speaker for the meeting will be someone from the ROTC staff with the UNT ROTC program.

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President's Message, continued

I will be down on the Gulf Coast that second weekend in October for the Texas SAR Board of Managers meeting. New programs, activities of the organization will be discussed. I will give everyone an update at our October ZOOM meeting.

The SAR dues statements will be coming out in the mail probably toward the end of October. The organization sent out a DADA email reminding everyone that dues statements will come out toward the end of the month. Be alert to the mail; that SAR letter "isn't junk mail".

COVID is still an issue, especially now as we begin to enter another winter season. Stay healthy, get the shot and get the "booster" shot as well. Life is too precious to overthink vaccines.

Chapter President: Mike Connelley

Gainesville Medal of Honor Parade



Since 2001 the City of Gainesville has hosted the annual Medal of Honor parade and banquet honoring past recipients of this great military honor. Over the years, Gainesville has hosted 56 of the 74 living Medal of Honor (MOW) recipients. There is always a parade, a banquet along with a book signing event. It is typically held in the Spring and the city can have as many as eight, ten or more of the past recipients in Gainesville for this event. COVID did a number on the celebration this past year which made the 2021 event that much more special.



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Medal of Honor Parade, continued

Chapter members Mike Connelley, Bill Surlles and Jim Akers headed to downtown Gainesville to watch the parade. Each year, as it has done for several years, the Texas SAR color guard made an appearance in the parade. This year the color guard probably had about 20-25 members from around the State participate in this event.

In addition to the attending 10 past MOW awardees there was a vast collection of military vehicles, jeeps, etc. along with the unmistakable presence (and sound) of a “Huey” and other military aircraft above that participated in the event.

Put it on your “to do” list for next year. It is worth the trip to Gainesville which, for many of us in Denton County (or north Tarrant County) is just a quick trip up I-35. The parade itself began at 10AM and goes down California Street, right in front of the Courthouse. Plenty of parking but get there fairly early to be relatively close to the Courthouse. **April 20-24, 2022.**



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Two recipients honored this year:



Donald E. Ballard

Ballard enlisted in the US Navy in 1965 and served as a corpsman with the United States Marine Corps. In 1968, while under fire, he was attending a wounded Marine when an enemy grenade landed near the wounded Marine, four other Marines and himself. He covered the grenade with his body to shield the five Marines from the blast. Realizing the grenade failed to explode, he quickly threw it out of harm's way as it exploded, saving the Marines and himself. He then continued attending the Marines during the firefight. For his actions, he was awarded the Medal of Honor.



Michael Fitzmaurice

Fitzmaurice distinguished himself at "Khe Sanh". He and three fellow soldiers were occupying a bunker when a company of North Vietnamese sappers infiltrated the area. Fitzmaurice observed 3 explosive charges which had been thrown in the bunker by the enemy. Realizing the imminent danger to his comrades and with complete disregard for his personal safety, he hurled 2 of the charges out of the bunker. He then threw the 3rd explosive and himself out of the bunker.

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Medal of Honor Parade, continued

Additional pictures



Roderick Lane Tisdale of Denton, Texas | 1970 - 2021



Rodrnick "Lane" Tisdale, 51, of Denton, passed away July 26, 2021.

Lane was born June 13, 1970, in Dallas, TX to William Dale Tisdale and Wilda Kay (White) Tisdale. Lane attended Southern Polytechnic College of Engineering in Marietta, GA, receiving a degree in Architectural Engineering. While in college, Lane was very active in his fraternity, Sigma Pi. After graduating, Lane moved to Dallas to be near his family and became involved in Fellowship Church. There he led a singles home group; in the group he met his wife, Stephanie, and many lifelong friends. Lane and Stephanie married May 4, 2002 and son, Cole, followed in December 2005. Lane spent his career working in the construction industry, most recently with Amazon in the Engineering Services Division. During his life, Lane found his greatest joy in his family, his church home, GracePointe, and his work. Roderick was a member of the Denton Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

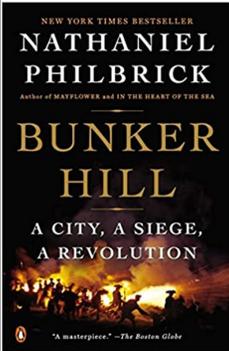
Lane is survived by his wife, Stephanie of Denton; son, Cole; mother, Wilda Tisdale of Flower Mound; brother, William Ashley Tisdale and wife, Kristi of Flower Mound; niece, Miranda Tisdale; father-in-law, Steve Day and mother-in-law, Marsha (Hughes) Day of Lake Kiowa; brother-in-law, Steven Day and sister-in-law, Alison Day of Dallas; nephews, Harrison and Walker Day; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Lane was preceded in death by his father, William Dale Tisdale; his paternal grandparents, Winifred R. Tisdale and Elvie Tisdale; and his maternal grandparents, William W. White and Susie May (Singleton) White.

Book Review

Bunker Hill A City, A Siege, A Revolution

by Nathaniel Philbrick, reviewed by Jim Akers



Bunker Hill: A City, A Siege, A Revolution (Penguin Group, 2013, hardcover \$23.03, also available in paperback, \$15.99, Kindle, \$9.99, and at many public libraries. 299 pages, plus 80 pages of Notes and Bibliography) is a history of the events leading up to the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775.

I started this book when I was researching my wife's patriot ancestor Andrew McClary. McClary was a Major and member of the New Hampshire militia, who fought and died at the Battle of Bunker Hill, and is depicted in the original painting



The Death of General Warren at the Battle of Bunker Hill by John Trumbull (1756-1843). As I later discovered, the Andrew McClary at the Battle of Bunker Hill was a different Andrew McClary from my wife's patriot ancestor (who was a Lieutenant in the North Carolina militia). McClary is the Patriot standing, in white in Trumbull's painting.

Bunker Hill begins with Philbrick setting the stage at the Old South Meeting House in Boston in 1773 for the revolution by moderating a debate about when the Revolution actually started. He uses the words of John Adams, Josiah Quincy, John Leverett, and others as they debate what should be done about the Stamp Act, but successfully links the arrival of the Puritan settlers in 1630 to the issue.

Philbrick has an easy way of stitching together events that occurred simultaneously. He builds the characters of the British Army and the Patriots by describing the competing pressures of these characters and how they almost overcame them.

Even having lived in New Hampshire and worked in Boston I did not realize the extent of the changes in the landscape of Boston since 1775. Boston was essentially an island then, having only one narrow land "neck" into the city. Today, much of the water that surrounded Boston has been filled in.

The Battle of Bunker Hill began when Patriot militia reacting to the Battle of Lexington and Concord occupied the land outside Boston, including a strip of land across Boston harbor where Charlestown was located.

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Leading up to the Battle of “Bunker Hill”, Patriot Major Prescott may have erroneously established his defenses forward of, and below Bunker Hill on a piece of land known as “Breed’s Hill”. The tactical positions of Patriot Colonel John Stark, and Captain Thomas Knowlton as well as Prescott’s are described and briefly analyzed by Philbrick, which beg the question, “Did they really intend to defend Bunker Hill from this inferior position?”

The heroics of John Stark and Andrew McClary are described in *Bunker Hill*, as are the lacking leadership qualities of General Israel Putnam, the senior officer on the scene. Putnam took on a spectator role behind Prescott, and according to Philbrick exhibited a frustrating lack of ability to make corrections and control the defenses. Nevertheless, the valor of the Patriots was attested to by a British Marine Captain, who as a veteran of Lexington and Concord as well as other British battles said that “of all the actions he had been in this was the hottest... from the enemies fire.” Patriot General (Doctor) Joseph Warren was not in a command position at Bunker Hill, but joined the fight anyway. For his trouble, he was killed by a British musket ball to the face. On hearing of Warren’s death, British General Howe could not believe that a man of Warren’s political importance would have allowed himself to be engaged in any battle. He further commended Warren by saying that Warren was worth five hundred Patriots soldiers.

The Patriots were not only hampered by having fewer men than the attacking British, but were also woefully short of gunpowder and tools to build adequate defensive positions. In the end, the British under the command of General William Howe had 1,054 killed or wounded from a total of about 2,200. The Patriots losses were about 305, including 115 killed. Major Andrew McClary was among those killed, and he was technically the highest ranking Patriot killed at the Battle of Bunker Hill. The book recounts another comment by a Patriot officer upon hearing that the Patriots had lost the battle that given the British casualties, he would take a loss like this any day.

I borrowed this book from the Plano Public Library, but it is also available in electronic format from Amazon (of course). Philbrick is definitely an author I will read again.