



# Sons of the American Revolution

## East-Fork Trinity Chapter 47

### President's Message



#### 2026 Officers

President:  
Jason Gray

Vice President:  
David Routh

Secretary:  
Guy Sergeant

Treasurer:  
Gary Lovell

Registrar:  
Jeffrey Witt

Chaplin:  
Walt Thomas

Historian:  
Jason Whitbeck

Color Guard Commander:  
Randall van Heyst

DAR Liaison:  
Michael Goode

JROTC Coordinator:  
Harmon Adair

Quartermaster Medal &  
Awards Coordinator:  
David Routh

Web Master:  
Paul Ridenour

Veterans Coordinator:  
Michael Goode

Education Coordinator:  
Gary Lovell

Community Service  
Coordinator:  
David Routh

Sargent at Arms:  
Ben Derryberry

Newsletter Editor:  
David Jackson

I hope you all had a nice summer. As August ends and we welcome September, we can look forward to cooler weather and hopefully some rain.

September also marks another year of the great State Fair of Texas. As you know, we have had a table set up at the DAR House for many years, and it has proven to be very fruitful for our chapter. If you have any available time, please consider volunteering to greet visitors and share more about the SAR.

Back in July, we held an executive meeting. Among the items discussed was the \$25 new-applicant fee. After debating the issue and reviewing the costs associated with the registrar position, we decided to reinstate the \$25 fee effective August 1.

We also discussed filling our vacant vice-president position. We had two nominations: David Routh and Randall Van Heyst. A vote was taken at the last meeting, and David was nominated to serve as acting vice-president. I would like to thank both Randall and David for offering their service to the chapter.

Another item discussed was the possibility of adding a second vice-president. It was brought to my attention that other chapters have more than one vice-president. The purpose would be two-fold:



We have had two presidential resignations in recent years. A second vice-president would allow us to maintain continuity by having someone prepared to fill not only the role of president, but also the vacated vice-president position. Responsibilities could be divided between the vice-presidents, with a clear order of succession.

A second vice-president would ensure someone is available to run a meeting if both the president and one vice-president are unable to attend. I will be reaching out to some of you to discuss this further in the coming weeks.

Given that this year marks the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, we also discussed increasing our public visibility.

Some ideas included participating in area Christmas parades—Rockwall, Wylie, Terrell, and Royse City were mentioned. We did not participate in the July 4th parade this year, so it would be good to get our chapter back out in the community.

One executive committee member suggested having more social activities outside of our regular meetings. One idea was to host a Christmas social at a member's home. More details will follow.

We also decided to resume passing the bucket. This will help offset certain expenses, such as occasions when we provide an honorarium for speakers, as we did for Mr. Hurley when he drove in from Tyler.

Additionally, we discussed honoring compatriot Dennis Vierling, who passed away in November of last year.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Karalynn Van Heyst on her acceptance into the United States Military Academy at West Point. (See Page 8)

Respectfully,  
Jason Gray, President

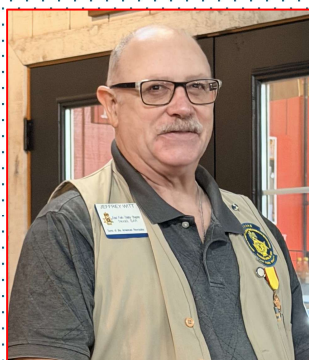




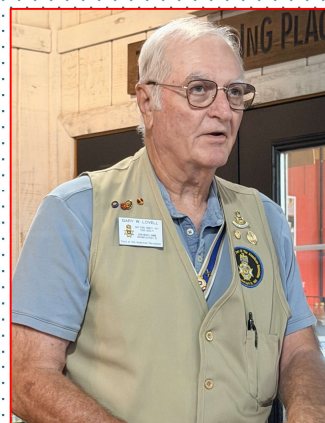
Jason Gray Opens August Meeting



Gary Lovell  
Invited us to the  
Lubbock  
Windmill Exhibit



Jeff Witt Gave the  
Registrar's Report for  
August



Gary Lovell Gave the  
August Treasurer's  
Report



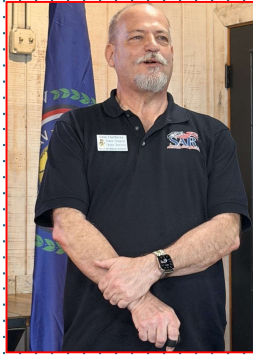
David Fautheree Updated Us  
on the National Conference



# East-Fork Trinity Chapter 47 Sons of the American Revolution

## De Gálvez – Post Expedition

- Returned to Spain after completing his mission
- In 1783, appointed Captain-General and Governor of Cuba
- Later appointed Viceroy of New Spain with promotion to Field Marshal
- Bernardo de Gálvez died on November 30, 1786
- The city of Galveston, Texas was named in his honor
- In 2014, a joint resolution of the U.S. Congress conferred honorary citizenship
- Only granted eight times in the history of the United States



## Introduction

- Spain made significant contributions to the American Revolution
  - “neutral” until 1779 – Provided military supplies and many French supplies were transported on Spanish ships or routed through Spanish ports
  - Spain fought more battles than France
  - Spain provided more troops than France
  - Spain won more victories than France
- Allied with France, but not with American colonies
- Yorktown victory was due to French Fleet defeating British Fleet & blocking Chesapeake Bay
  - Spanish Fleet defended French Caribbean colonies, freeing French Fleet to support Washington & Rochambeau

## North America in 1763

- France lost all territories in mainland North America
- Spain lost Florida but regained Cuba, Louisiana went to Spain
- Canada, the Ohio/Illinois territory and Fort & West Florida went to Great Britain
- Approximately 11,500 Acadians were expelled between 1755 and 1764



## Spain's Objectives

- Recover Gibraltar
- Recover Minorca
- Remove Britain from Caribbean & Gulf of Mexico
  - Remove Britain from Mississippi River and Florida
- Diminish British world prestige (and alliances)
- Restore Spanish & French prestige

## Bernardo de Gálvez

- Born in 1734 in Macharavilla, Malaga, Spain, to Mateo de Gálvez (brother of Minister of War, José de Gálvez) and Maria Josefa Gallardo
- Commissioned in the French Army in 1752
- Assigned as a Captain to the First Infantry Regiment in New Spain in 1765
- In 1770, he fought against the Apache where he demonstrated superior leadership
- In 1772 he was posted to France where he studied military science and perfected his French in 1800
- In 1776 he was assigned to the Spanish Infantry Regiment which fought in Agers under General Alejandro O'Reilly
- Revered for bravery while severely wounded with elevation to Lieutenant Colonel
- In 1776 he was assigned as Colonel of the Louisiana Infantry Regiment and undertook to Governor Unzuaga, who had begun clandestine aid to the American colonies
- In mid of 1776, Spain provided 30,000 muskets with ammunition, 75,000 uniforms, 6,000 tents



## Governor de Gálvez

- 1777 – Took over as Governor with promotion to General and requested reinforcements, which began to arrive in 1778
- Expedited the flow of supplies to the American Colonies, both up the Mississippi and around Florida
- Married into one of the wealthiest and most influential families of Louisiana (wife was sister to Governor Unzuaga's wife)
- 1778 – Arranged for cattle and horses from Spanish Texas, escorted by troops from the Presidio San Antonio de Bexar, Presidio La Bahia, and El Fuerte de Santa Cruz del Cibola
- Provided arms, ammunition, and supplies to George Rogers Clark for Ohio/Illinois campaign via American agent in New Orleans, Oliver Pollock

## Painting of the Expedition

Augusto Ferrer-Dalmau Nieto (1964 – present)



## Gálvez Expedition

- Sept. 1779 – Spain declared war against Great Britain and Gálvez was ready with a “strike & run” policy
- 27 Aug 1779 – Moved north from New Orleans against British forts along Lower Mississippi
  - 520 regulars, 600 militiamen, 160 Native warriors (Choctaw, Chickasaw, Alabama tribes) and 7 Americans under Oliver Pollock
- Fort Bute at Manchac surrendered after token resistance on 7 Sep
- Fort New Richmond at Baton Rouge fell 21 Sep after 3-hour bombardment
  - Surrender terms included surrender of Natchez, commandant to accompany Gálvez to Natchez
- Fort Panmure at Natchez surrendered on 5 Oct
- Jan 1780 – Attacked Mobile, which fell 24 Mar 1780
- 1781 – Laid siege to the capital of British West Florida at Pensacola and captured it on 28 Feb



**David Fautheree Gave an Excellent Program on Spain's Contribution to the American Revolution**



# Bonham Needs Listing Summer 2025



We appreciate your interest in wanting to serve Veterans and an updated needs listing. All items must be new and in original packaging.

below is

## **Gift Cards:**

- Exxon or Shell gas cards (Social Work to assist Veterans to/from appointments)
- Whataburger Gift Cards
- Braum's Gift Cards

## **Clothing & Comfort Items:**

- Diabetic gripper socks – Special request as regular gripper socks are too restrictive on legs of the diabetic or patients with larger legs.
- Athletic Shorts (Men – various sizes)
- Womens summer tops (various sizes)
- Crop pants or long pants summer weight (Women – elastic waist, various sizes)
- T-shirts or short sleeve pullover
- Body Wash (no bar soap or hotel/motel toiletries)
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Electric Razors (for Veterans on blood thinners)
- Razors (disposable double to triple blade)
- Shaving Cream

**Refreshments:** Individually wrapped snack items to include ingredients are welcome, but no homemade food items. Items such as the following:

- Breakfast pastries/muffins for coffee cart
- Peanut Butter/Cheese Crackers
- Chips, Cookies (Variety Pack, Individual Bags)
- Bottled Water
- Small Bottles Gatorade
- Ground Coffee (regular only)
- Juices (small boxed)
- Liquid Creamer (individual packs/cups only)
- Coffee supplies (8oz cups, sugar/Splenda packets)

## **Miscellaneous:**

- Plastic Models (Cars, Airplanes, Ships, Etc.)
- Dominoes (Big)
- Journals, notebooks
- Adult coloring books, with colors or colored pencils



- Markers
- Postage Stamps
- Pens, stationary
- 1,000, 1,500 and 2,000 piece Jigsaw Puzzles
- Cross word puzzles/word search (large print)
- Sudoku books (large print)
- New books, new magazines

**Seeking Sponsorship for the following items/activities:**

- Monthly Birthday Socials
- Popcorn & Movie
- Bingo & Prizes
- Cooking Group – monthly or quarterly
- Bowling for Domiciliary Residents
- Bonham State Park Pass
- Sporting & Music Events

**Monetary and In-Kind Donations by mail, please send to:**

Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center  
 Center for Development and Civic Engagement (135)  
 Atten: Brenda Magness, CDCE Specialist  
 1201 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Bonham, Texas 75418

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make check or money order **payable to Bonham VA Medical Center.**

**You can also donate to the Bonham VA Medical Center using E-Donate online:**

Donating is just a click away with an online donation option that provides community members the account of their choice. [E-Donate](#) provides a quick, safe way for you to pledge your support to Veterans online. [E-Donate](#) also allows you to make a donation in memory of a loved one. Select VA North Texas Health Care System and choose a designated medical center and program, along with amount that you'd like to donate. There are no extra fees to use the secure website, so every penny of your donation goes to help Veterans.

All donations must be coordinated with Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) for acceptance and delivery drop off. Should you have questions regarding donations please call 903-583-6282 or email [brenda.magness@va.gov](mailto:brenda.magness@va.gov). Items may be mailed to address block as noted above.







Captors Monument in Tarrytown NY

**The next meeting will be Thursday, September 10th at Soulman's Barbeque at 691 East Interstate 30 in Rockwall. Dinner is at 5:30ish and the meeting will start promptly at 7:00.**

**Scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup> is James Christopher Raso (bio attached.)**

***David Jackson, Editor***



**While on a visit to the Medal of Honor Museum on August 8, I had the privilege of meeting Medal of Honor recipient Paris Davis. He indicated that he had not received the Vietnam Service lapel pin, so I presented him with my pin. I was approached by two different Navy veterans and presented a challenge coin. Must have been my Navy cap. I recommend that all Sons of the American Revolution members plan a visit to the museum.**  
**Walt Thomas**



**Jeffrey Witt, Walter Thomas and David Jackson at the Medal of Honor Museum**



**Challenge Coin Given to Walt during MOH Visit**



★★★ R.M.S. CRUISES PRESENTS ★★★

# THE TREASON CRUISE

★★★ THE SUNSET DAYS OF ★★★

## BENEDICT ARNOLD

— A LIVE HISTORY LECTURE CRUISE ON THE HUDSON RIVER —

**JOIN HISTORIAN CHAR WEIGEL**

as she brings to life the dramatic final days of Benedict Arnold as an American officer. Sail the waters where history unfolded and hear the story that changed the course of the American Revolution.

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>**

**BOARDING 3:00 PM**

**CRUISE 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM**

★ SOUTH TO HOOK MOUNTAIN ★

CASH BAR AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

BAR BITES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

**TICKETS \$50 PER PERSON**

**\$15 FROM EVERY TICKET WILL BE DONATED TO THE PEEKSKILL MUSEUM**

THE PEEKSKILL MUSEUM Preserving Peekskill's Past

Revolutionary Westchester 250 1776 - 2026

★ HISTORY. RIVER. STORY. All in One Unforgettable Cruise. ★

**DR. RALPH H POTEET HIGH SCHOOL  
PRESENTS THE CLASS OF 2026**

**KARALYNN VAN HEYST**  
**UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT  
WEST POINT**

THIS PIRATE IS FUTURE READY!  
COLLEGE BOUND

THIS PIRATE IS FUTURE READY!  
MILITARY BOUND





## Christopher James Raso

3411 Glenhaven Drive Sachse, Texas 75048 | 623-256-0909 | craso2001@gmail.com

### Summary

Christopher J. Raso has been a middle school social studies teacher for nearly thirty years. He holds a Master of Secondary Education degree from Northern Arizona University and a Bachelor of Secondary Education degree from Arizona State University. Mr. Raso has a current Arizona and Texas standard secondary certification in the areas of history and middle level social studies.

This educator has repeatedly been recognized for his teaching and community outreach projects. These American legacy programs incorporate cross-generational learning opportunities that foster historical literacy and patriotism for students of all ages. Christopher J. Raso retired from the classroom in 2023 and now serves as a museum guide and education consultant. He remains a strong advocate for children, encouraging public service and a balanced perspective of history.

### Recognition

Arizona Sons of the American Revolution - SAR Good Citizenship Bronze Medal (2023)  
Daughters of the American Revolution - Outstanding Teacher of American History (2020)  
NSSAR - Dr. Tom and Betty Lawrence National American History Teacher Award (2019)  
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10695 - Flag Presentation and Appreciation Award (2019)  
Arizona Sons of the American Revolution - American History Teacher Award (2019)  
Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History - Arizona History Teacher of the Year (2018)  
Arizona Department of Education - Arizona History Teacher of the Year Award (2018)  
Arizona Sons of the American Revolution - American History Teacher Award (2018)  
United States Air Force - American Flag Presentation and Appreciation Award (2018)  
Arizona Sons of the American Revolution - American History Teacher Award (2017)  
Arizona Office of the Governor - Educator Appreciation Award (2014)  
United States Veterans Initiative of Phoenix - Appreciation Award (2014)  
Veterans of Foreign Wars District Three - Teacher of the Year (2014)  
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10695 - Teacher of the Year (2013)  
Surprise Veterans Commemorative Committee - Appreciation Award (2013)  
Dysart Unified School District - Dysart Hero Award for Excellence (2012)  
Arizona Historical Advisory Commission - Centennial Legacy Project (2012)  
Parent Teacher Association of Marley Park - Educator of the Year (2012)  
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10695 - Teacher of the Year (2011)  
Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary - Appreciation Award (2010)  
Arizona Rotary Club and Dysart District - Teacher of the Year (2007)  
Arizona Educators Westside Impact - Teacher of the Year (2007)





America 250 includes events and exhibits across the country. We are fortunate to have a nearby exhibit at Historic Brown House in Wylie, Texas. The exhibit will close on September 26<sup>th</sup> so you still have time to see it. Admission is free. It is located at 301 North Ballard Ave in downtown Wylie. The hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 am to 6 pm.

**HISTORIC BROWN HOUSE**  
CITY of WYLIE • WELCOME CENTER

Presents:  
The American Experiment  
A Celebration of America 250

January 13 - September 26, 2026  
Free Admission  
Groups Welcome by Appointment

**TOURS • GIFT SHOP • MUSEUM**  
**WELCOME CENTER**  
Tuesday - Saturday 11 am - 6 pm  
301 North Ballard Avenue Wylie, TX 75098  
[www.WylieTexas.gov/BrownHouse](http://www.WylieTexas.gov/BrownHouse)

**HISTORIC BROWN HOUSE**  
CITY of WYLIE • WELCOME CENTER

Your journey into the heart of America's past awaits—come take a guided tour and discover how far we've come toward building a nation, society, and world where our freedoms are protected.

Explore the events that led to the writing of the Declaration of Independence and the fervent call for liberty that forged a nation.

**CITY OF WYLIE**  
Parks and Recreation  
[www.WylieTexas.gov/BrownHouse](http://www.WylieTexas.gov/BrownHouse)  
972-516-6340 or [Recreation@WylieTexas.gov](mailto:Recreation@WylieTexas.gov)

The poster is a vertical rectangular graphic. The left side features a dark background with three mannequins in 18th-century attire. The right side shows a photograph of the Historic Brown House, a large brick building with a prominent tower. A map of Texas with a red dot in Wylie is also visible. The bottom of the poster contains contact information and logos for the City of Wylie and Wylie Parks and Recreation.





**Jeff Witt**

## **Registrar's Report for September 2026**

1. Prospective Regular Member Seth Dowdle was referred to EFT by his father (Member) Jeff Dowdle. Application Mailed to State 20 Apr 2026. Received at National 27 Jul 2026. ACN # 125400. First Line Sponsor: David Powell.

2. Prospective Regular Member Chase Dowdle was referred to EFT by his father

(Member) Jeff Dowdle. Application Mailed to State 20 Apr 2026. Received at National 27 Jul 2026. ACN # 125401. First Line Sponsor: David Powell.

3. Prospective Regular Member: Brandon Kobel was referred to EFT by the State

Communications Secretary. First line Sponsor Jeff Witt. Application in work.

4. Prospective Regular Member: Curt Coltharp was referred to EFT by the State Communications Secretary. Research Currently in Progress.

5. Regular Member Paul Ridenour has submitted a Supplemental Application for review on a Patriot on his mother's line of Ancestors named John Hurst. Mailed to State on 12 June 2026. Received at National 29 June 2026.

6. Prospective Regular Member: Charles Werner. Referred to EFT by the State Communications Secretary. Research Currently in Progress



7. Prospective Regular Member: Lee Brett. Referred to EFT by Barbara Thomas. Application Mailed to State 01 July 2026. Received at National 27 Jul 2026. ACN # 125393.
8. Prospective Regular Member: Michael St. Clair. Referred to EFT by Barbara Thomas. Application Mailed to State 01 July 2026. Received at National 27 Jul 2026. ACN # 125391.
9. Prospective Regular Member: King Moss. Referred to EFT by Barbara Thomas. Application Mailed to State 01 July 2026. Received at National 27 Jul 2026. ACN # 125390.
10. Prospective Regular Member: Dan Turner. Referred to EFT by Barbara Thomas. Application Mailed to State 01 July 2026. Received at National 27 Jul 2026. ACN # 125392.
11. Prospective Regular Member: Garron Wall. Referred to EFT by Barbara Thomas. Application mailed to State 24 July 2026. Received at National 03 August 2026. ACN# 125897.
12. Prospective Regular Member: Elliot Davis. Referred to EFT by Barbara Thomas. Application mailed to State 30 July 2026. Received at National 11 August 2026. ACN# 126148.
13. Prospective Regular Member: Michael Orr. Referred to EFT by Cynthia Goode. Application mailed to State 23 July 2026. Received at National 03 August 2026. ACN# 125898.
14. Prospective Regular Member: Christopher Orr. Referred to EFT by Cynthia Goode. Application mailed to State 23 July 2026. Received at National 03 August 2026. ACN# 125899
15. Prospective Junior Member: Liam Derryberry. First Line Sponsor Ben Derryberry. Referred to EFT by Elizabeth Witt. Application Mailed to State 20 July 2026. Received at National 03 August 2026. ACN# 125886.



16 Prospective Junior Member: Logan Derryberry. First Line Sponsor Ben Derryberry. Referred to EFT by Elizabeth Witt. Application Mailed to State 20 July 2026. Received at National 03 August 2026. ACN# 125887.

17. Prospective Regular Member: Robert Cooley. First Line Sponsor Jeffrey Witt. Referred to EFT by Elizabeth Witt. Application mailed to State 28 July 2026. Received at National 04 August 2026. ACN# 126039.