



# The Continental Report

*Ellis County Chapter #70-Texas SAR*

*Sons of the American Revolution*



## Officers for 2025-2026

President - William D. Hill  
 Vice President **OPEN**  
 Secretary - John C. Haughton  
 Treasurer - Larry R. Williams  
 Registrar - William D. Hill  
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 Sergeant -At –Arms - Ronald K. Finch  
 Past-President - John C. Haughton

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Waxahachie  
 Red Oak  
 Pecan Hill  
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Editor: Philip A. Taylor  
 1822 Sabine Dr.  
 Midlothian, TX 76065  
 taylor.txsar70@gmail.com  
 Home - 972-723-1696  
 Cell - 214-808-0258

## *News of Ellis County Chapter*

**Next Meeting May 23, 2026**  
**9:30am, Card/Poker Room**  
**The Hamilton at Garden Valley**  
**880 Garden Valley Pkwy.**  
**Waxahachie, TX 75165**

## FOUNDERS DAY

On the morning of **May 23, 2023**, Texas SAR did not have a chapter in Waxahachie, Texas. By noon that day, John Haughton had met (via email) with Texas SAR President, Sam Massey, and received authorization to recruit members and form what has become the Ellis County Chapter #70 of Texas. Starting with just six active Texas SAR members the chapter was formed according to plan. The rapid development is due to diligent recruiting by Chapter members, strong support by the DAR, and impeccable genealogical research lead by President David Hill.

May 23 is recorded as Founders Day, and the achievements to-date are a high bench mark for the membership to pursue in the chapter's continued growth. We still have work to do in the development of the chapter, especially with Youth Programs.

## SCHEDULED FOR INDUCTION:

Brent Batla,

## APPLICATIONS APPROVED:

Ty Garrett Hall NSSAR #238453

## APPLICATIONS IN-PROCESS:

Joel D. Bradley, Mark L. Gundert, , Jake Hibbard, Jerry Hill, Tom Ker, Johnny Mitchell, Ian B. Perry, Mark Reyes, Floyd Ross, Robert G. Shelton.  
 David Vantrese

## PREPARING APPLICATIONS:

Eric Walker

## CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP:

The Ellis Count Chapter membership roster is available on the private side of txssar.org.

(last update Friday, March 27, 2026)



## APRIL SPEAKER:

Philip Taylor presented an abridged autobiographical account of his father, Marcus E. Taylor, a survivor of the Battle of Leyte and Kakazu Ridge, Okinawa.

## MAY SPEAKER:

**James Cooper**

**“Navy in the Revolution”**



### 250<sup>th</sup> Revolution Recognition Program Medal

Ellis County Chapter (ECC) President William David Hill was awarded the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution Recognition Program Gold medal and Certificate by Compatriot Dave Fautheree Texas SAR District 6th Vice President. The recognition program is designed to encourage and recognize those compatriots, chapters and societies that participate in local, state, national and international events which publicly educate, and recognize, honor, and celebrate the events and heroes of the period surrounding the American Revolution. Participation involves the planning and execution of these events, as well as attendance. The medal covers any event celebrating and promoting the 250th Anniversary. President Hill organized the ECC float for 4th of July parade, provided the decorated trailer and tow truck. He was responsible for the construction of two granite 250 Memorial benches to be placed at the Ells County Courthouse and City Cemetery. This will be an ongoing project throughout the county. As the local organizer of the 2025 Wreathes across America, he initiated the cleaning of approximately 450 Veterans headstones in the City Cemetery in preparation for the Wreath laying. He made several speaking engagements before the Local Lions Club, Rebecca Boyce Chapter DAR, and history classrooms. The Gold Medal only is authorized and recorded by the NSSAR 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. This was a well deserved award.

### Announced at the April meeting:

**Mark Bounds** has agreed to take the reigns as ECC President and **Harlon Bounds** has volunteered to be the Secretary. Until then, they will be mentored by David and Jack. The Vice-President position is still open for the rest of this year and next.

### Texas Elementary Poster Contest 2025 – 2026



Tucker Halley's poster about the Battle of Cowpens won 1<sup>st</sup> place at the 131<sup>st</sup> Texas State Society Conference in Austin. Tucker, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader was the Ellis County Chapter entry in the Texas Elementary Poster Contest John Haughton presented Tucker a Certificate of Merit and a \$100 check at the Cornerstone Christian Academy Poster Contest Celebration in McKinney

on May 1. His poster has been entered in the National SAR Poster Contest in Louisville, Kentucky.



Harlon and Mark Bounds displayed their Liberty Bell and Declarations at the April meeting. These will be used in the July Parade and as a teaching aid.

“Being a SAR member on Independence Day is something special. Being a SAR member on the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776, is a day to celebrate big and to remember what our Patriots did for our country.” The Bounds brothers, Mark and Harlon, have created an actual-size replica of the **Liberty Bell** and have purchased two 40” x 60” canvasses with the **Declaration of Independence** printed on each canvas. Creating the Liberty Bell has been a labor of love and a lot of work, but the finished bell replica will be an awesome display

of Liberty on our float. Other items are still needed to finish decorating the float. If you would like to pitch in to purchase decorations and/or to purchase two large or one double-sided banner with the words “**Sons of the American Revolution**”, please see Mark or Harlon to let them know you would like to pitch in. If you know of anyone who has a trailer that can be borrowed for 2 or 3 days, please let them know that as well. The trailer needs to be large enough to hold the Liberty Bell, the two canvases and chairs for people who want to ride on the float. The Bounds brothers plan (with the help from David), to enter our SAR float to be judged for Best Float of the Waxahachie Parade. With your help, our Ellis County Chapter #70 Texas Society SAR Chapter can make a good showing and have an awesome float everyone can be proud of for our 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. (see March CR photos)



Ellis County Chapter members who attended the **131<sup>st</sup> State Conference** in Austin: Jack Haughton, David (and Mickie) Hill, Philip Taylor, and (dual members) State Secretary Michael Goode, Assistant Inland Registrar Jerry Pinkerton, State Chancellor Brent Harshman, and

District 6 VP Dave Fautheree.

### *News of Texas SAR*



**Tom Van Fossen** (dual chapter member) was awarded the **State Distinguished Service Award**, the Highest Individual award at the state level. It is only one given out each year by State President.



**Our new Texas SAR President 2026-2027**  
**Dustin S. Whittenburg**  
**San Antonio Chapter Chapter President**  
**2019-2020**  
**State Chancellor 2022-2023**  
**Patriot Medal 2022**  
**Attorney**

### *From the Texas SAR Color Guard Commander* Compatriots,

Over 250 years ago our ancestors, yours and mine, took a stand. Ask people today about the meaning of July 4 and most will tell you that it is the anniversary of the United States. But you and I know better. We fought a long hard war against a superpower and it wasn't until the treaty of Paris in 1783 that we were recognized as a sovereign country. Please feel free to correct them.

Many civic organizations have awakened to the fact that this July 4 is the 250th anniversary of the signing of our Declaration of Independence and have thought it would be awesome if they can have a color guard of people in period uniforms. Believe me I know, I'm getting flooded with emails and phone calls and you probably are too. So, I am imploring you, dust off your continentals and honor your patriot ancestors, get out there and participate.

I have heard from many of you, multiple functions on multiple dates. To that I say “fix bayonets,” not literally but figuratively. Please don't put bayonets on your muskets. Keep the pedal to the metal, this year is unlike any other.

Keep your eye on the color guard calendar. Put your event on it. Make sure your people are signed up for it. We have two events on the calendar coming up this

weekend and many more to follow. In my humble opinion these events are more important than a chapter meeting. I am missing two to be at an event.

<https://www.texassar.org/cg.htm>

Also, please remember if you don't have pictures to prove it, it didn't happen. So, send your pictures to Matt Hoffman for our newsletter and send them in to National. Let's show them what Texas is doing!

Keep track of your points and put in for medals. Yes, I know that's not why we do it. If your color guard is doing the work recognize them. Do you have somebody you would like to put in for color guardsmen of the year? You need to be thinking about that right now and doing the paper work!

I'm not a huzzah kind of leader. The British used to shout that during bayonet charges. But, I am a Marine, so to you that are fully engaged with the public I say "OORAH." Don't know what that means? Google it.

I look forward to seeing you at an event somewhere in our great state.

**Bill Sekel**  
Texas SAR Color Guard  
Commander  
[cg@texassar.org](mailto:cg@texassar.org)



Date: **18 October 2026**  
Time: all day event; 12:00pm show time  
Event: **NHRA Fall 2026 Nationals**  
This is a **Chapter** CG event  
Place: Texas Motorplex, 7500 W Hwy 287,  
Ennis, TX 75119  
Contact: Larry Kollie  
[aklol1915@gmail.com](mailto:aklol1915@gmail.com) or 972-903-9037


Notes: The Ellis County Color Guard, chapter #70 will be participating in the ESPN televised opening ceremony of the fall 2026 NHRA Nationals. All TX state CG are invited to participate. Please confirm your participation to me by September 30, 2026. Additional information regarding parking and admittance will be provided as it becomes available. The event actually runs from Thursday -Sunday.

[Color Guard Notification Signup](#)

## *News from National SAR*

The original Tiffany & Co. design of the Type 2 SAR insignia medal (1894–1898).

Explore a unique look at the legacy and honors of the Sons of the American Revolution through this special online exhibit, showcasing highlights from the SAR Medal Collection and many medals and ribbons from the SAR Institutional Archives.

 View the exhibit:

<https://sar.catalogaccess.com/exhibits/9>



## *God and Country*

The most quoted line of the Declaration of Independence is:

*"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."*

While many quote these lines, as we embark on the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence we should reflect about the important meaning of these words.

*"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."* Today we might say, "It is obvious that everyone is equal." What does it mean to be equal? Some promote the idea that it means we should all be equal in status, the basic idea of Communism that has never worked. Each of us have different gifts, talents, and abilities. It takes all of us to makeup society. While we are not equal in our life position, we are all equally valuable. I remember my dad telling me: "You are no better than anyone nor are you lesser than anyone." In other words, to be equal is to respect all people no matter who they are.

***“They are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights.”*** While our founding fathers did not all agree about religion, they all believed in a Creator God who sees us all as equal. It is God that gives us undeniable rights. Not rights that everyone determines for themselves, as that would lead to anarchy, but rights that are equal for the benefit of society. These rights are listed as:

***“Life”*** — Life is a gift of God and is to be respected as such.

***“Liberty”*** — Freedom is a privilege that we should not take for granted. People across the world long for the freedom that we have as a nation. We honor those who have fought and many who have died for our freedom. As a Christian, the greatest statement of freedom is from Jesus’ words: “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-32)

***“The pursuit of Happiness”*** — It is not the responsibility of government to make me happy. All the government can do is give each of us the right to pursue happiness.

As we examine these words, it can be said that our job is not done. We must continue to respect the equality of all people, and we must never stop to fight for the rights of all. While the United States is not perfect, I am proud to live in a nation in which the words within the Declaration of Independence remain our goal.

May God Bless America!  
Your Chaplain,  
Calvin Brown  
Contact info –phone and text 573-680-2625  
Email [cal.sartx70@gmail.com](mailto:cal.sartx70@gmail.com)

### *The Historian’s Watch*

The Untold Past 1952, Dwight D. Eisenhower

In 1952, Dwight D. Eisenhower stood before a crowd of World War Two veterans and suddenly could not continue speaking. His voice cracked. His eyes filled. The man who planned D Day began to cry. This was not a campaign moment meant for cameras. It was personal.

Eight years earlier, Eisenhower had carried the weight of the largest military invasion in history. On June 6, 1944, he sent more than 150,000 Allied troops onto the beaches of Normandy. He knew many would not return. The night before the invasion, he had written a letter accepting full responsibility if it failed.

The invasion succeeded, but at a devastating cost. Thousands were killed or wounded in a single day. Eisenhower never forgot that the victory came from ordinary men paying an extraordinary price.

In 1952, as he addressed veterans and recalled D Day, the memories overwhelmed him. He spoke about the young soldiers he had ordered into combat. Farm boys. Factory workers, teenagers who trusted him with their lives.

He paused. He tried to continue. He could not. The audience did not interrupt. They understood. Many of them had been there. They had seen the beaches. They had lost friends. Watching the supreme commander struggle with emotion reminded them that the burden of command did not end with victory.

Eisenhower was often remembered as calm and controlled. But in that moment, the mask slipped. What remained was a man who had carried the cost of war for years and still felt it deeply.

Leadership is often shown as strength without feeling. That day proved the opposite.

Even the man who won the war never stopped mourning those who paid for it.



### *June Flag Flying Days*

- ✓ June 6 D-Day Remembrance
- ✓ June 14 Army Founding  
June 14 Flag Day
- ✓ Half staff until Sunset
- Half staff until Noon

## *June Dates to Remember*

|               |                                    |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| June 15, 1215 | Magna Carta Signed                 |
| June 18, 1815 | Napoleon loses at Waterloo         |
| June 6, 1944  | D-Day starts at Normandy           |
| June 18, 1983 | Sally Ride, first woman in Space   |
| June 20, 1782 | U. S. Great Seal adopted           |
| June 25, 1950 | Korean War began                   |
| June 30, 1971 | 26 <sup>st</sup> Amendment enacted |

## *June Event Schedule*

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| June 6-7 | Waxahachie Gingerbread Home Tour                             |
| June 6,  | Mid-Way Airport Fly-in/Drive/Pancakes                        |
| June 18  | Bingo Night, Habitat for Humanity, Hamilton at Garden Valley |

## *Signers of the Declaration of Independence*

Delegates are listed in order of signing.

### PENNSYLVANIA

**George Clymer (1739-1813)** — George Clymer had a great deal of financial talent and signed both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. His home was vandalized by the British in 1777 during the American Revolutionary War. He served in the Pennsylvania state legislature from 1784-1788 and was a member of the United States House of Representatives from 1789-1791. He was later appointed as “collector of taxes” on alcoholic beverages (especially whiskey) in Pennsylvania from 1791-1794.



**Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)** — After the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Benjamin Franklin helped to negotiate the Treaty of Alliance with France in 1778 and the Treaty of Paris which ended the Revolutionary War in 1783. He was one of the framers of the Constitution and was known as the “Sage of the



Convention.” He was also elected President of the Pennsylvania Society for the Promoting of the Abolition of Slavery.

**Robert Morris (1734-1806)**—Robert Morris has been considered the “Financier of the Revolution,” and contributed his own money to help such causes as the support of troops at Valley Forge and the battles of Trenton and Princeton. In 1781 he suggested a plan that became the Bank of North America and was the



Superintendent of Finance under the Articles of Confederation. Morris was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, and was later offered the position of Secretary of the Treasury under the administration of George Washington. He declined the position and suggested Alexander Hamilton who became our first Secretary of the Treasury. He served as a United States Senator from Pennsylvania from 1789-1795.

**John Morton (1725-1777)**—John Morton was the first signer of the Declaration of Independence to die and was one of nine signers from Pennsylvania. He was elected to the Second Continental Congress from 1774-77, and was the chairman of the committee that reported the Articles of Confederation. He contracted an inflammatory fever and died in Ridley Park, Delaware County, Pa., in April 1777, and is buried in St. Paul’s Burial Ground in Chester, Pennsylvania.

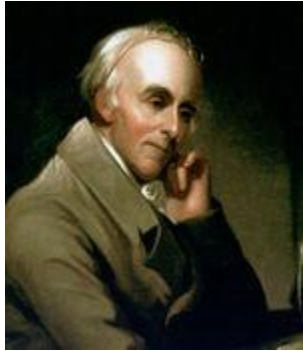


**George Ross (1730-1779)** — George Ross was elected to the Second Continental Congress from 1776-1777, was a colonel in the Continental Army in 1776; was Vice President of the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention in 1776 and



Judge of the Admiralty Court of Pennsylvania in 1779. He was not a member of Congress when it voted for independence on July 2, 1776. Because of illness, he was forced to resign his seat in Congress in 1777.

**Benjamin Rush (1745-1813)** — Benjamin Rush was elected to the Continental Congress in 1776, appointed Surgeon General in the Middle Department of the Continental Army in 1777, instructor and physician at the University of Pennsylvania in 1778, Treasurer of the U.S. Mint



from 1779-1813, and professor of Medical Theory and Clinical Practice at the University of Pennsylvania from 1791-1813. During the Revolutionary War, Rush was part of an unsuccessful plot to relieve General George Washington of his military command. He was the most well-known doctor and medical instructor in the United States. He was a trustee of Dickinson College, helped to found the Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery and was a member of the American Philosophical Society.

**James Smith (1719-1806)** — James Smith was elected to the Continental Congress on July 20, 1776 after the votes had been taken on the resolution for independence and the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. From 1779-1782 he held a number of state offices including one term in the state legislature and a few months as a Judge of the state High Court of Appeals. He was also appointed a brigadier general in the Pennsylvania militia in 1782.



**George Taylor (1716-1781)** — George Taylor came to the colonies as an indentured servant and eventually was an Ironmaster at the Warwick Furnace and Coventry Forge. He was a member of the Continental Congress from



1775-1777. He returned to Pennsylvania and was elected to the new Supreme Executive Assembly, but served for a very short period of time because of illness and financial difficulties. His Durham Furnace manufactured ammunition for the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.

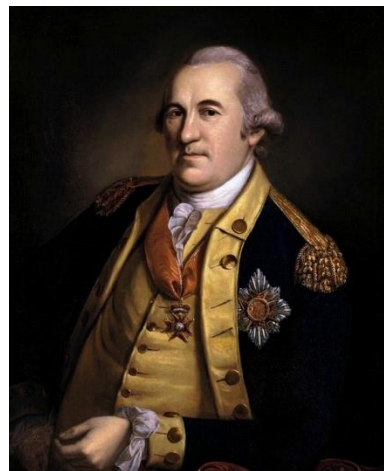
**James Wilson (1742-1798)** — James Wilson was elected to the Congress from 1775-77 and 1785-87, chosen to be one of the directors of the Bank of North America in 1781, a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1787 and appointed by President George Washington to be an Associate Justice to the US.



Supreme Court from 1789-1798. He experienced personal and financial difficulty in his later years and spent time in debtor's prison while serving on the Supreme Court.

### *This Month – 250 Years Ago*

In 1776, **Baron von Steuben** was a Prussian military officer searching for new employment after being discharged as a captain in 1763 and serving as a chamberlain. While not yet in America, he was actively trying to secure a position in European armies before eventually traveling to France in 1777 to connect with American ambassadors



Though his official service in the American Revolution did not begin until 1778, this period marked his transition from the Prussian military system to becoming a pivotal figure in the American fight for independence.

Friedrich Wilhelm Augustus von Steuben was born on September 17, 1730, in the fortress town of Magdeburg in Prussia but spent most of the first decade of his life in

Russia with his father. At age 10 he returned to Germany and attended more formal schooling. In 1747, at 17, von Steuben enlisted in the Prussian army as a lance-corporal. Von Steuben was a second lieutenant in 1756 when The Seven Years War began, and he served throughout the conflict with distinction. Von Steuben was discharged from the Prussian army at the rank of captain on April 29, 1763, shortly after the Treaties of Paris and Hubertusburg ended the war.

That same year, 1763, von Steuben met the Frenchman Louis de St. Germain in the northern German town of Hamburg. Fourteen years later, St. Germain was serving as France's Minister of War and helped pave the way for von Steuben's trip across the Atlantic to serve the American cause. In those intervening years, von Steuben served as Grand Marshall, a lofty title for administrative director of the court, of the Prince of Hollenzollern-Hechingen. The same prince bestowed the title "**baron**" to von Steuben in 1771.

In 1775, von Steuben began looking for a government appointment to support himself and pay off his many debts. He searched for positions in the British, French, and Austrian armies to no avail. In 1777, he traveled to France where he caught wind of the riches that could be earned in the American Revolution. Von Steuben had connections with the French Minister of War and through him the Baron met the American ambassadors to France, Silas Deane and Benjamin Franklin. Unfortunately, Deane and Franklin could not promise von Steuben rank or pay. He could only be a volunteer in the Continental Army, which made von Steuben furious enough to decline. Without any luck of finding another job, von Steuben decided to accept and set out to the British colonies.

Von Steuben met with Congress, which arranged for von Steuben to be paid based upon the outcome of the war and his contributions. With a letter of introduction tucked in his pocket and a Russian wolfhound strolling alongside, von Steuben headed toward the Continental Army winter encampment at Valley Forge. He reported to General George Washington at his headquarters in Valley Forge and arrived there in February, 1778. On May 5, 1778, the Continental Congress approved Baron Steuben's commission, as Inspector General, with the rank of Major General

Due to the intricacies and intrigues between George Washington and the Continental Congress's appointed Board of War, von Steuben was appointed as the temporary Inspector General. His mission was to observe the American soldiers, equipment, skills, and living conditions. Von Steuben was extremely discouraged by the state of the Continental Army, yet the men that would soon fall under his tutelage were impressed. One stated that "he seemed to me to be the personification of Mars," the Roman God of War.

Von Steuben's first job was to create a standard method of drills for the entire army. He wrote the drills in French since he could not speak English and had his military secretary translate the drills into English. Copies of the drills were given to each company and officer. Von Steuben established a "model company" of 100 men from each brigade in addition to the 50 Virginians that came from Washington's Life Guard company to demonstrate new drills for the rest of the army. He worked with the troops directly and delivered the drills in a quick and simple manner. The American soldiers appreciated von Steuben's willingness to personally work with them. They also appreciated his use of colorful words in several different languages, including relying on an aide to curse at the soldiers in English when warranted.

In a common tongue, he would say, "My dear Duponceau, come and swear for me in English, these fellows won't do what I bid them." However, von Steuben quickly caught on to the swear word vernacular of the English language and his booming voice with these new additions soon echoed around the training field. In approximately two months, a complete transformation in the army took place, with the army tackling the basic drills, from firearm control to line and marching formations. Von Steuben's ability to condense and present the military doctrines in a digestible fashion for the men under his charge was a big reason the concepts sunk in so quickly.

In the winter of 1778-1779, the Baron wrote, "Regulation for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States". This "Blue Book" of military regulations would be approved by Congress in March 1779 and used by the United States Army until 1814. In

April 1779, von Steuben returned to the Continental Army and served throughout the remainder of the war as General Nathanael Greene's instructor and supply officer.

After a successful invasion from Portsmouth, Virginia up the James River in April 1781, the British army, under the command of Major General William Phillips, landed at City Point (now Hopewell) on 24th of that month. The Virginia militia, commanded by Brigadier General Peter Muhlenberg, which had been containing the British force at Portsmouth, had paralleled the British movement by marching along the south side of the river toward Petersburg. On the day of the British landing at City Point, the American militia entered Petersburg, coming under the overall command of **Major General Ferderick Wilhelm von Steuben**. Von Steuben was certain that Phillips was planning to march overland to attack Petersburg and the following morning set the American lines to receive the British onslaught. Having no misconceptions about stopping the British, von Steuben's plan was to put up the heaviest resistance he could and then retreat northward into Chesterfield County, saving his army to fight another day.

The Virginia militia put up a strong resistance and, after three hours fighting and repulsing several British assaults, von Steuben ordered a general retreat across the Pocahontas Bridge, on to the Heights (now Colonial Heights), and into Chesterfield County.

Notably, the Virginia militia put up a heroic fight at Petersburg. Outnumbered by the British army of 2,500 to the militia strength of barely over 1,000 men, the Virginians denied the King's soldiers the opportunity of capturing the city without fighting for it. Most history books list the action at Petersburg as a minor battle or skirmish. However, the stand of the Americans against such an overwhelming force was a full-scale battle by any Revolutionary War standards. The battle actually bought a full day's time for Lafayette to entrench his army on the heights of Richmond, and ultimately prevented a second "sacking" of Richmond – as was seen in the previous January, when British Brigadier Benedict Arnold assaulted and burned much of that city.

He led one of the three American divisions during the Siege of Yorktown (1781) as a division commander in the Continental Army.

Following the end of the Revolutionary War, New York gifted a large piece of land in the Mohawk Valley to Baron von Steuben in recognition of his service to the United States. Steuben wintered in New York City and summered in his modest two-room log cabin. On November 28, 1794, Steuben died in the cabin after suffering a stroke. He is SAR Patriot #P-311055

Source:

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/biographies/baron-von-steuben>

### *News from the DAR*

**John Haughton** and **David Hill** were awarded the Hannah White Arnett Bronze Medal, one of DAR's newest recognitions. It is awarded to a member in good standing of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) "for unselfish devotion, tireless efforts, and assistance to the DAR; and who has dedicated his time, energy, talents, and/or resources to the organization in support and furtherance of the DAR mission of historic preservation, education and patriotism." Awarded by the DAR/SAR/S.R. Relations Committee



Texas Daughters assembled March 26, 2024, at the Veterans War Memorial of Texas in McAllen to unveil a bronze statue of Gen. Bernardo de Gálvez. The sculpture was commissioned by the National Society to

commemorate Spain's contribution to our nation's fight for independence from Great Britain and funded by the President General's Project for major initiatives in conjunction with America 250! Celebrations. The sculpture is the first likeness of Gálvez in Texas and the work of local artist and sculptor Douglas Clark. Gálvez led Spanish efforts to aid the Americans during the Revolution—not only smuggling supplies to the Americans but also leading a military campaign against the British that included capturing Pensacola, West Florida, by land and by sea.

### *Daughters of the American Revolution*

For more information please contact **Barbara Coan**, Registrar, Rebecca Boyce Chapter, NSDAR at [barbaraanncoan@hotmail.com](mailto:barbaraanncoan@hotmail.com).

## *LAST WORDS*

By Norma Sue Schmelling (1944 – 2025)

If I were to ask you, as I used to ask my college students, to quote one line from the Declaration of Independence, could you do it? My guess is, and I'll be generous, only 25% of those asked could. You might be able to come up with a few catch phrases such as "*all men are created equal*" or "*life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.*" Those words are contained in the first sentence of the second paragraph, which is why they are the best known.

But if you read through the Declaration, which few do, the words that have the most significance for me are the Declaration's last sentence: "*And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.*" Read those last 14 words again. Now think about what means enough to you that you would pledge your LIFE, your FORTUNE, and your SACRED HONOR? You would die for it. You would give up all your worldly possessions for it, and you would commit your honor, in other words your reputation, trustworthiness, dependability.

Exclude your family and religion from this consideration. What belief or philosophical concept would you do that

for? Imagine your workplace, or your classroom, or a group of which you are a member. Would you as part of that group pledge those three things to support a cause the group believed in? Would you trust the other members of the group to pledge that to you? Would everyone keep their word? What if half of the group denied they ever took such a pledge?

Perhaps this gives you some idea of the solemnity of that statement. As Benjamin Franklin remarked before signing the Declaration, "*Gentlemen. We must all hang together or most assuredly we will hang separately.*" Franklin was known for his wit and though the remark may have garnered chuckles from the signers, they knew it was true. In the eyes of King George III and England, the 56 signers were traitors to their country and that was punishable by death.

Who were these men willing to make such a pledge? The youngest was Edward Rutledge who was 26. Ben Franklin was the oldest at 70. The others fell between those ages with most being middle-aged. Most of them were financially secure. Twenty-four were lawyers, eleven were merchants, and nine were owners of plantations. A majority owned slaves. Probably the best known of the signers are Benjamin Franklin and two future presidents, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.

Abraham Lincoln said: ". . . I have often pondered over the dangers which were incurred by the men who . . . framed and adopted the Declaration of Independence. I have pondered over the toils that were endured by the officers and soldiers of the army who achieved that Independence. I have often inquired of myself what great principle or idea it was that kept this Confederacy so long together. It was not the mere matter of the separation of the Colonies from the motherland; but that sentiment in the Declaration of Independence which gave liberty, not alone to the people of this country, but, I hope, to the world, for all future time. It was that which gave promise that in due time the weight would be lifted from the shoulders of all men."

As you celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country, take one minute to be grateful that you had the good fortune to be born in the U.S.A.



All donations will be collected at the Chapter monthly meetings and delivered to the Dallas VA Hospital. The list refers to the needs of Bonham, but needs are the same with the Dallas VA Hospital. Copy this list and take it with you when you go shopping. Remember the Vets.

This will be a recurring activity and contributions are applied to our 2026 SMART Report, category 3K.

## Wants and Needs Listing

### Comfort Items (Travel Size and Regular)

- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush (Single pack)
- Denture Cream
- Denture Cleaner
- Shower Gel/Wash (no bars)
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Lotion
- Powder
- Medicated Powder
- Shaving Cream
- Razors
- Manicure sets
- Hairbrushes
- Combs
- Hair Clips/Pony tail Holders
- Feminine Products
- Shower Shoes
- Lip Balm
- Hair Gel/Mousse

*\* If making a donation for comfort items, please remember all comfort items donated need to be new items.*

### Other items needed for patients

- Phone Cards
- Envelopes #10
- Small writing tablets and Pen/Pencils
- Gas/Gift Cards for patients
- Reading Glasses (Variety of Strengths)
- Canteen Books
- Puzzle Books
- DART/TRE Passes
- Mailing Stamps
- Lap Robes
- Wheelchair bags
- Stoma Covers
- Bags/Luggage (new)
- Books

- Magazines (no magazines over a year old will be accepted)

### Clothing (Gently worn items or new)

**NOTICE:**

**The VA has stopped accepting donations of used clothing**

### Equipment Needs

- TV's
- DVD Players
- DVD's
- Wii/ Wii Games
- Refrigerators (Small and Full Size)
- Coffee Pots (12 cup and larger)
- Laptops
- Microwaves
- Fax Machines

### Fund for Coffee Cart and Supplies

- Coffee
- Coffee Filters
- Sugar
- Artificial Sweetener (Equal/Splenda/Sweet and Low)

[FILLABLE ONLINE FORM LINK](#)

## Sons of the American Revolution Compatriots Military Service Record Form

|  |                 |                      |
|--|-----------------|----------------------|
| SAR Compatriot Name:   |                 | SAR National Number: |
| SAR Society and Chapter Information:                         |                 |                      |
| Mailing Address:   |                 |                      |
| City:  | State:          | ZIP Code:            |
| Telephone:   | E-Mail Address: |                      |
| Date of Birth:   | Date of Death:  |                      |
| Occupation:  |                 |                      |
| Relationship to SAR Compatriot (Self, Wife, Sibling, Other): |                 |                      |

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Service Number:  | Dates of Service: |
| Wars/Conflicts:<br>World War I   World War II   Korea   Vietnam   Desert Storm   Iraqi Freedom<br>Other: <input type="text"/>                            |                   |
| Branch of Military:<br>Army   Navy   Marine Corps   Coast Guard   Air Force   Merchant Marine   Reserves<br>National Guard   Other: <input type="text"/> |                   |
| Branch of Service (i.e. Infantry):   |                   |
| Unit(s):   |                   |
| Location of Unit(s):   |                   |
| Highest Rank (Active Duty):<br>Enlisted: <input type="text"/> Warrant Officer: <input type="text"/> Officer: <input type="text"/>                        |                   |
| Highest Rank (Reserve Duty):<br>Enlisted: <input type="text"/> Warrant Officer: <input type="text"/> Officer: <input type="text"/>                       |                   |
| Status:<br>Active   Retired   Discharged   Reserved   Other: <input type="text"/>  |                   |
| Military Awards (Please Begin with Highest):   |                   |

Enclosed is a copy of my separation papers (DD-214 or equivalent):   Yes   No   Other Document:

|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|

Signature of Compatriot:

Signature of Submitter:

Information on obtaining a DD214 or equivalent is available on-line at <http://www.archives.gov/>

Please send to: Archives of Honor; SAR National Headquarters; 809 West Main Street; Louisville, Kentucky 40202-2619

Revised 08/31/2016



Texas SAR 131<sup>st</sup> State Convention Color Guard



Dedicated to the 69 Patriots buried in Texas



New SAR member Governor Greg Abbott  
Natl #237680 TXS #16756