



*Sons of The American
Revolution
Texas Society, McKinney
Chapter*

June 19, 2025

Meeting held at Spring Creek BBQ McKinney and via Zoom® teleconference

Attendees

There were (30 total) 28 SAR members and guests in attendance at Spring Creek Barbeque. Attendees included: Tom Milson and wife Carol, Blas Uribe, Paul Andreason, Mark McCraw, Bill Taylor and wife Carol, Mark Harrison and wife Linda, Gary Bonannon, Jim Akers and wife Sandee, Russ Colburn and wife Jill, New inductee Casey Booth and his wife, John Gree, Peter McLellan, Richard Bonaparte and wife Lynn, Cary Barnett, Tom Van Fossen, Ted Wilson, Nathan White and wide Wanda, John Ray, and guest speaker Bill Covington.

There were 2 participants in attendance by Zoom® for this meeting. Attendees included: Donn Babbs and Scott Kingsley

Guests include: Guest speaker included above, and a young High School student James Edmund Houston-Heraux who is a perspective McKinney Chapter SAR applicant





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Call to Order

- Paul Andreason, President/Chaplain, called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Invocation

- Paul Andreason, President/Chaplain, gave the invocation.

Pledges

- Paul Andreason, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.
- Mark McCraw, led the Pledge to the Texas Flag.
- Blas Uribe, led the Pledge of the SAR.
- Richard Bonaparte, led the Mission Statement of the SAR. "The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, educating and inspiring future generations, about the founding principles of our Country."

Self-Introductions of Members and Guests

Led by Paul Andreason

Old Business and Announcements

- Future Meetings and Events
 - June 21, 2025 T.L. Holden Memorial Service, Portales, NM
 - June 21, 2025 – Audie Murphy Parade Farmersville TX
 - May 28, 2025 – July 11, 2025 – 250th Traveling Exhibit, Collin County History Museum in Downtown McKinney
 - Next Meeting – July 17, 2025 7 PM (In person and by Zoom).
 - SAR National Convention in July 12-18, 2025
 - July 26, 2025 – Bill Watts Celebration of Life in Rockwall. 2PM in Chapel Rest Haven Funeral Home 2500 TX-66, Rockwall, TX 75087



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- John Greer recognizes Nathan White was inducted into the SAR 30 years ago

In Memory of William Byron “BILL” Watts



William Byron Watts, Jr. June 14, 1949 - June 05, 2025 In Loving Memory of William Byron “Bill” Watts, Jr. June 14, 1949 – June 5, 2025 With deeply heavy hearts, we announce the passing of William Byron Watts, Jr., affectionately known to family, friends, and fellow patriots as “Bill.” He departed this world peacefully on June 5, 2025, just nine days shy of his 76th birthday, leaving behind a legacy of integrity, service, scholarship, and love. Bill's life was a testament to leadership, tireless dedication, and a



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Texas Society, McKinney
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genuine heart that deeply impacted everyone privileged to know him. Bill was born on June 14, 1949, in Columbia, South Carolina, to William and Letha Watts, and was the eldest of five children. His early years were full of adventure, mischief, and learning, especially during cherished summers spent on his grandparents' farm in Pageland, South Carolina. Those childhood days - filled with laughter, livestock, and the closeness of family - were some of his fondest memories. Bill and his siblings shared a special bond that remained strong throughout his life. Alongside brothers Chuck and Donny, sister Cindy, and younger brother Marty, Bill's upbringing was rich in both love and character-building experiences as the family moved across South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia. A lifelong learner, Bill pursued education with determination and depth. He studied across several institutions, including Georgetown College, The University of Texas at El Paso, Amberton University, and Texas Woman's University, ultimately earning his Bachelor of Arts and two Master of Business Administration degrees. Bill's early professional career was rooted in the roofing and construction industry, where he excelled as a Sales Management Trainer, Territory Manager, and General Manager, traveling extensively across North and South America. Known for his deep industry knowledge and ability to mentor others, he built a reputation as a trusted leader and problem-solver. Yet Bill's heart was always drawn to making a meaningful impact- and that calling led him to a second career in education. He returned to college to earn his Elementary Teaching Certificate and spent over 15 years in the classroom, igniting curiosity and confidence in countless students. His retirement from teaching in 2014 marked the end of one chapter of service and the beginning of another. In retirement, Bill devoted himself to a cause that resonated deeply with his sense of history and patriotism: the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). His involvement with the SAR was more than a hobby - it became a deeply meaningful mission, allowing him to honor his ten proven Patriot Ancestors, educate the public, and foster civic pride. Bill's list of SAR accomplishments is as remarkable as it is extensive. He:

- Served on five National Committees – Held leadership roles including Texas State Color Guard Commander, Patriot Grave Marking Co-Chair, Council of Chapter Presidents Chairman, Chapter President, Vice President, and Secretary – Worked diligently as a Compatriot and Patriot History Data Entry Specialist – Attended six National Congresses, five District Conferences, six State Annual Meetings, and numerous Board of Managers meetings – Was an active member of six SAR chapters across Texas and South Carolina



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Bill received over 26 medals recognizing his commitment and leadership, including all three levels of National and State Color Guard Medals. He was named Texas State Color Guardsman of the Year, became a George Washington Fellow, and in 2025, received the prestigious Patriot Medal, the highest honor awarded by the State Society. His dedication didn't stop at administrative excellence - Bill was also a passionate historical educator. As a member of the State Speakers Bureau, he captivated audiences across Texas with his engaging portrayals of Benjamin Franklin, bringing Revolutionary War history to life for students, community groups, and civic organizations. He believed that understanding our past gave us a clearer path towards a better future. Bill was preceded in death by his beloved parents, his brother Chuck, and the love of his life, Laura. Their love was rare -steadfast, supportive, and enduring. Her loss was deeply felt, and Bill often spoke of her with reverence and affection. It was his wish to be laid to rest beside her, which will be fulfilled on July 26th, 2025. He is survived by his siblings: brother Donny Watts, sister Cindy Watts, and brother Marty Watts. He also leaves behind a wide circle of extended family members, fellow educators, dear friends, and SAR members across the country who were touched by his friendship, mentorship, and service. A memorial service honoring Bill's life will be held at 2:00 PM on Saturday, July 26, 2025, at Reflections Chapel at Rest Haven Funeral Home, located at 2500 State Highway 66 East, Rockwall, TX 75087. Following the chapel service, Bill's inurnment will take place in the Memories Urn Garden at Rest Haven Memorial Park, where he will be laid to rest alongside his beloved Laura. In accordance with Bill's wishes, in lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to one of two charitable funds established to continue the work Bill held closest to his heart: The Tom and Montye Whitelock Color Guard Fund Inc or The Bill and Laura Watts Youth Awards Fund Inc. Contribution scan be mailed to: Tim Chapman – Treasurer Dallas Chapter SAR 4837 Cedar Springs Road, Apt 301 Dallas, Texas 75219-1282 Please make checks payable to the fund of your choice, as indicated above. For those who wish to send flowers for the service, arrangements may be placed through The Flower Box by Rest Haven at(972) 772-3269. Independent florists are kindly asked to deliver by 1:00 PM on Saturday, July 26, 2025, directly to Rest Haven Funeral Home in Rockwall, to ensure they are properly displayed for the service. Bill Watts was a man who lived with purpose, spoke with intention, and gave of himself freely. Whether in the boardroom, the classroom, or in colonial costume at a school assembly, he led with humility, humor, and heart. His life was one of service - to



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country, to students, to history, and to those he loved most. His legacy will continue to inspire generations to come. Bill will be forever missed by all those who had the privilege of knowing him. Arrangements have been entrusted to Rest Haven Funeral Home – Rockwall, TX.

New Member Induction Ceremony

- Paul Andreason, McKinney Chapter SAR President, administered the induction oath and presented Casey Booth with the SAR Membership Certificate and the SAR Rosette was pinned by his wife.





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Program

- Program – This month our program is: "The Battle of Bunker Hill" by repeat speaker Bill Covington

Tom Milson, VP Programs, introduced the Guest Speaker. The program was a 28 minute presentation, followed by a short question and answer session. Tom Milson thanked Bill Covington and presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation.



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Awards

- None



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New Business

- Minutes from the last meeting have been published on the website. John Ray made a motion to accept the meeting minutes, motion seconded by Mark McCraw, no discussion, motion approved by voice vote.

- Treasurer's Report: submitted by Peter Ford, Treasurer, read by Paul Andreason in Peter's absence . "Treasurer's Report for June 19, 2025. The Chapter's funds at the May meeting were \$9311.85

The expenses for the month were:

- \$46.67 for new check order
- \$111.25 for SAR medals and awards
- \$77.94 for Christmas cards
- \$88.61 for award frames
- \$100 for blank certificates
- \$73.23 for award dinners at Spring Creek BBQ
- \$27.05 Ancestry.com subscription for the Registrar

The income for the month consisted of:

- \$500.00 donation

The Chapter's available funds are now: \$9287.10. This does not include Project 2026 money (\$1860.00.)

Other Announcements

- Tom Milson – provided details for the 250th Traveling Exhibit, Collin County History Museum in Downtown McKinney. Tom discussed the Traveling Exhibit that is being sponsored by the John Abston Chapter DAR May 28, 2025 – July 5, 2025, in honor of the SAR 250th Anniversary. A revolutionary War Exhibit that is being shown Tuesday through Saturday 10- 4 and the DAR would like the McKinney SAR to help with the event by staffing shifts in support of the exhibit. A sign up tool will be implemented. If you can volunteer please contact Tmilson@tx.rr.com

- Tom Van Fossen – Bill Watts funeral service, July 26, 2025 – Bill Watts Celebration of Life in Rockwall. 2PM in Chapel Rest Haven Funeral Home 2500 TX-66, Rockwall, TX 75087 xxxx
Contributions to the SAR Color Guard and SAR Youth Education Program



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- Comments from Texas Society officers, main takeaways include:

- - None

Benediction: Paul Andreason, Chaplain/President, gave the benediction

Recessional: Lead by Paul Andreason, President/Chaplain

Adjournment: Paul Andreason, President/Chaplain adjourned the meeting at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Blas Uribe, Secretary

Connect:

Website; TXSSAR.ORG/McKinney/

Youtube Channel : McKinney SAR