



# Pine Shavings

PineyWoods Chapter #51  
Texas Society of Sons of the American Revolution

April 2008

Volume 18, Issue 8

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**Raymond W. "Ray" Cox**, PineyWoods Chapter 51, was awarded the Patriot Medal at the Saturday night Banquet along with four other compatriots of the Texas. Others receiving this award were Wendell Edwards, Charles Baker, Peter Rawley, and Arnold Seidule.



**The Patriot Medal is the highest award a state society can pin on a member.** Ray not only has been busy playing his fife at color guard functions for more than three years; he developed Cox Software, which is an electronic SAR Application process. He did the lion's share of the work in writing the TXSSAR History Book Volume I and II. He rewrote and re-organized the TXSSAR Chapter Presidents and chaired the committee providing training for new, and old, Chapter Presidents. While doing this, he accepted the position of District 8 Vice President.

**Ray's SAR Application was approved June 1, 1995, and since that time he has served the PineyWoods Chapter in many positions including President.** Currently, he is our Sergeant at Arms and maintains our Chapter website.

**Ray is the Fourth PineyWoods Compatriot to receive this honor.** Allan Henshaw in 1995, Thomas M. Green in 1997, and Tom Lawrence received this award in 2007.

**Congratulations to Ray Cox on his award!!!!**

- PAST PRESIDENTS**  
 Ron Barker  
 Tom Green  
 Bernie Balsler  
 Don Lemon  
 Jeff Meadows  
 McLeod Smith  
 Robert McKenna  
 Bob Smith  
 Cannon Pritchard  
 James Jones  
 Ray Cox  
 Larry Stevens

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## **A Message from the President**

**This** will be my second term as President, but I am not the first to serve twice. Past President Thomas M. Green served in 1993 and 1994, and Jim Jones was President 2003 and 2004. And, it is a pleasure to accept this position again because this is going to be another busy year. I do remember how adamant General George Washington was against serving more than once. An organization gains from the experiences of more than one.



**O**ur guests at the March 20, 2008, dinner meeting were TXSSAR President Elect Harry Fife and his wife Susanne. Harry and Susanne were Kingwood residents before retiring and moving to Athens, Texas. Other guests were Bill Anderson and Don Stone from the Freedom chapter.

**H**arry conducted the swearing in ceremony of our 2008-2009 chapter officers. Ron Barker will serve as VP and Jim Mitchell will be the Chapter Secretary. Jim Mims will be the new PineyWoods *Pine Shavings* Newsletter Editor/Publisher. Bernie Balser will remain as our Chaplain. The position of Treasurer is not filled. Ron Barker will be assuming that position until we can get a volunteer. Our other officers were incumbents, Allan Henshaw, Chancellor, Kim Morton, Genealogist, Bob McKenna, Registrar, Ken Cheatum, Historian, Ray Cox Sgt. at Arms and Webmaster.

**T**he March 20, 2008 meeting was a very active one. Five members of the Color Guard were presented Bronze Color Guard Medals and Certificates by President Elect Harry Fife for more than three years of active serve in the Texas Society and National Society Color Guard; Ray Cox, Jim Jones, Jim Mitchell, Richard Shanks, and Larry Stevens. President Barker had already received the award when a member in California but was given a certificate to certify him as a Texas Color Guard member. Also the color guard members were presented the Friedrich Von Steuben NSSAR Medal which is worn on the color guard uniform. Ron was also presented his Past President's Pin by Larry Stevens and Allan Henshaw. Harry Fife presented him with his Past President Certificate.

**W**alter Thompson who joined PineyWoods last year was presented the SAR War Service Medal for his service in the United States Navy in WWII and the Korean Conflict. Our Historian Ken Cheatum, a retired fireman and who served in the U. S. Air Force and the U. S. Coast Guard, was presented the SAR Fire Safety Medal and Certificate for his service to the community during Katrina and Rita.

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**M**arch 27 through March 30, 2008, the TXSSAR 113<sup>th</sup> Congress was held in Arlington, Texas. Tom Lawrence, dual member of Paul Carrington and PineyWoods Chapters, was elected to the position of President Elect. Also elected to TXSSAR offices and committees were: Jim Jones, TXSSAR Treasurer; Raymond Cox, VP District 8; Allan Henshaw, VP District 7. Allan is a dual member with Paul Carrington. Larry Stevens will serve as Chairman of the State Meetings Committee, Vice Chair of the Council of Chapter Presidents, and a member of the Long Term Planning Committee. Ron Barker will be the Chair of the JROTC Awards Committee.

**E**agle Scout Joseph Fochtman, sponsored by PineyWoods, was selected as the TXSSAR Eagle Scout Scholarship winner. His parents Jerry and Donna Fochtman and his brother Jason, who was the 2005 PineyWoods and TXSSAR Eagle Scout Scholarship recipient, were able to attend the presentation.

**T**he National Congress will be in Sacramento, California, July 4 through July 10, 2008. All NSSAR members of good standing can attend. Registration information is posted on the National web site and the TXSSAR web site. Barbara and I will be attending the congress as well as several other PineyWoods members.

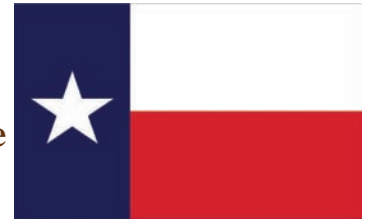
**T**he next State Meeting will be in Tyler, Texas, August 1- 3, 2008, at the Holiday Inn Select, 903-561-5800, 5701 So. Broadway, Tyler, hosted by the Capt. William Barron Chapter. This meeting, as are all state meetings, is open to all SAR members of good standing.

**O**ur Color Guard marched in the Laredo George Washington Day Parade with an estimated 500,000 lining the streets. PineyWoods joined President Rick Ramirez of the Patrick Henry Chapter and his members. We were entry 86A of nearly two hundred groups marching in the parade. I talked with a group of men who were awarded the Purple Heart who were walking in the parade. These men served WWII, Korea or Vietnam.

**W**e presented the Colors at the Paul Carrington Chapter George Washington Awards Dinner, the FBI Retirees Luncheon, and we marched in the Kingwood George Washington Day Parade. PineyWoods Color Guard members Ron Barker, Ray Cox, Jim Mitchell, and Larry Stevens manned a PineyWoods TXSSAR information booth March 22nd. And, Ron Barker, Ray Cox, and Larry Stevens joined other TXSSAR Color Guard members in the flag ceremonies at the state congress in Arlington, March 20-30, 2008.

**O**ur next meeting is April 17, 2008 at the Homewood Suites and will be a business meeting. I will have JROTC presentation Medals and Certificates with me for those presenting this award. Members who have not attended meetings for a while should attend this meeting. We need your help and support in order to keep the PineyWoods Chapter an active contributor to the TXSSAR and the NSSAR. ~ **Larry Stevens**

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**Other awards received at the Congress by the PineyWoods Chapter and its members:**

- President**  
Larry Stevens  
Wardtracker@aol.com
- Vice President**  
Ron Barker  
Ron.barker@hp.com
- Secretary**  
Jim Mitchell  
jemitch46@gmail.com
- Treasurer**  
Ron Barker  
Ron.barker@hp.com
- Chancellor**  
Allan Henshaw  
Allan\_henshaw@aigag.com
- Genealogist**  
Kim Morton  
genmorton@usa.net
- Registrar**  
Bob McKenna  
robertmc@cebridge.net
- Historian**  
Ken Cheatam  
Howee828@hotmail.com
- Chaplain**  
Bernie Balsler  
bbalsler@aol.com
- Sgt. at Arms**  
Ray Cox  
coxmr@earthlink.net
- Newsletter Editor**  
Jim Mims  
jhmims4@aol.com
- Web Master**  
Ray Cox  
coxmr@earthlink.net

- Not only has Judge Thomas Lawrence become TXSSAR President Elect but he was awarded a Meritorious Medal Cluster.
- PineyWoods won a TXSSAR Flag Presentation Award, a ribbon, for presenting flag certificates during the past year.
- The PineyWoods Yearbook took the first prize ribbon for chapters of similar size edging out the Plano Chapter for the second year in a row. District 8's Freedom was first in their division.
- And, the Eagle Scout sponsored by PineyWoods was selected the best of those submitted in 2007 by the TXSSAR Eagle Scout selection committee.

**JROTC Awards**

**Ron Barker** has a standard presentation available . Therefore, anyone can volunteer to present an award. Available to help? Contact Ron Barker.

**JROTC Award presenters for the following locations:**

- April 12 - Humble - Cox
- April 15 - Cleveland - Pritchard
- April 19 - New Caney And Special Enhanced JROTC - Barker and Stevens

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**PineyWoods Chapter 51 Meeting Schedule 2008**



- April 17** Members Only Meeting and Dinner
- May 15** Guest Speaker and Dinner Meeting
- August 21** Members Only Meeting and Dinner

**NOTE: Meetings will not be held in June or July.**

## Guest Speaker for May 15, 2008 Meeting **Tracing Your Genetic Lineage : Having Fun with DNA and Genealogy**



**T**his presentation will demonstrate how modern genetics is contributing to a better understanding of human genealogy. It will also highlight a project in which people can use their DNA to trace back the lineage of their family to ancestral roots. Dr. Shmaefsky will explain in simple terms how genetic genealogy is done and how the Genographic Project can be used to trace families.

**D**r. Brian Shmaefsky is currently a professor of biology at Lone Star College - Kingwood, north of Houston, TX and coordinates the college's service learning program. His research emphasis is in environmental physiology. Dr. Shmaefsky previously worked as an industrial biochemist at Sigma Chemical Company and was a professor at Northwestern Oklahoma State University and Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. He has done many presentations on scientific public education in addition to his professional work. He also serves on international organizations and governing boards on science policy and science education. Dr. Shmaefsky is also very active volunteering on environmental awareness and policy committees in Texas. Plus, Dr. Shmaefsky has many publications on scientific discoveries and on science education in professional journals and trade magazines. His writing includes several books on biotechnology and human diseases.



<b>Happy Birthday</b>			
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>MAY</b>		<b>JUNE</b>
<b>Robert M<sup>c</sup>Kenna                      Walter Thompson                      Patrick Whipple</b>	<b>Ron Barker                      Byron Basham                      John Ives, Jr.                      Ken Korthauer,                      MD</b>	<b>Rex M<sup>c</sup>Lain, III                      Jeffrey Meadows                      Davis O'Neal                      Cannon Pritchard</b>	<b>James Allen                      Scott Banewski                      Rev. Douglas Harper,                      Jr.                      Jack Lightfoot                      Walter M<sup>c</sup>Cain, Jr.                      Woody Reece, Jr., MD</b>

## Community Activities



**Ron Barker, PineyWoods member and TXSSAR JROTC Chairman with the state JROTC Enhanced Medal winner and her parents (Christopher and Blanca Gordon); (background—on left) Don Stone and Larry Stevens.**



**George West, TXSSAR President, presents Joseph Fochtman the Texas Eagle Scout Scholarship Award. PineyWoods President Larry Stevens represents our chapter who nominated Joseph for the award. In the background, John Knox, TXSSAR Eagle Scout Awards Chairman, Harry Fife and Bill Mars.**

## State Meeting



**Dianne Jones, Mickey Lawrence and Sylvia Mars at the table for the general officers' wives at the Saturday banquet.**



**TXSSAR President Elect Tom and Mickey Lawrence.**



**PineyWoods members Larry Stevens and Tom Lawrence.**

**PineyWoods is well represented in the leadership of TXSSAR with three state officers, Tom Lawrence, President Elect, Jim Jones, State Treasurer and Ray Cox, Vice President for District VIII.**

## Fallen Patriots



**In Memoriam**

**Bill Foster**

**December 24, 1925 – March 14, 2008**

**Bill Foster**, 82, born December 24, 1925, to Samuel and Mildred Foster in Beaumont, TX, died March 14, 2008, in Kingwood, TX.

**Mr. Foster** was a 1943 graduate of Waco High School, after graduation he served in the Navy as a Chief Petty Officer during World War II. After the war, he attended Southern Methodist University and graduated in 1949. During his life he worked as a tax specialist with British American Oil, Gulf Oil and Chevron Oil until his retirement in 1986. He was active in the Humble Area Genealogical Society, a member in the Sons of the American Revolution and a member of Kingwood Christian Church, Disciple of Christ.

**Mr. Foster** is survived by his loving wife of 57 years Dixie Ann Foster; children, Lurie McAdow and husband Lewis, William Foster III and wife Jana; beloved grandchildren, William Foster IV, Katherine Lynne Foster, and Lewis McAdow IV. Memorial Services will be 10:30 A.M., Monday, March 24, 2008 at Kingwood Christian Church, 3910 West Lake Houston Pkwy., Kingwood, TX 77339.

**In lieu of flowers**, memorial contributions may be made to the Kingwood Christian Church Scholarship Fund.

**SOURCE:** Making Everlasting Memorials (MeM), <http://www.mem.com/Story.aspx?ID=2346390>, accessed 4/1/2008



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- April 19 - Tomball - Barker**
- April 24 - Livingston - Pritchard**
- April 26 - Klein Oaks - Ron Barker**
- April 26 - Klein Collins - Stevens**
- May 2 - Klein - (Ron Barker)**
- May 6 - Spendor - Stevens**
- May 9 - La Porte - Morton**
- May 15 - Aldine - Jones**
- May 17 - Klein Forrest - Barker**
- May 22 - Crosby High School - Stevens**



**O**ur largest expenditure is the cost of our newsletter. We want to eliminate mailing newsletters. We need your email addresses. Please send your e-mail address to Ron Barker at [ron.barker@hp.com](mailto:ron.barker@hp.com) and/or Jim Mims at [jhmims4@aol.com](mailto:jhmims4@aol.com) and/or Larry Stevens at [wardtracker@aol.com](mailto:wardtracker@aol.com).

**T**he newsletter is now on the website. We are looking forward to year of growth and opportunities for others to be more active in PineyWoods.

## EVENTS



### State

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

- TXSSAR Board of Managers Meeting - Holiday Inn Select, Tyler, TX - August 1-3, 2008**
- TXSSAR Board of Managers Meeting - Temple-Killeen, TX - October 24-26, 2008**



### National

[www.sar.org/](http://www.sar.org/)

- 2008 National Congress - Hyatt Regency Hotel - Sacramento, CA - July 5-9, 2008**
- Fall 2008 Leadership (Trustees) Meeting - September 25-27, 1008 - Details to be announced**



### The Revolution

- April 19, 1775 - Lexington, MA “The Shot Heard ‘Round the World” and Concord, MA**
- April 2 - May 12, 1780 - Siege of Charleston, SC (also known as 2nd Battle of Charleston)**
- April 14, 1780 - Monck’s Corner, SC**



## Color Guard Activities



The Color Guard posted the colors for the Paul Carrington Chapters Annual George Washington Dinner, February 29, 2008. From left: Tom Houston; Tom Green; Larry Stevens; Ray Cox.

PineyWoods Compatriots Ron Barker, Ray Cox, Jim Mitchell and Chapter President Larry Stevens set up Larry's tent top and PineyWoods Activities Poster Boards, Ron's tables and bunting, Ray's SAR pamphlets, and Jim Mitchell's good humor and wit as we related the SAR message to many park attendees at Kingwood's Easter Picnic-on-the-Park March 22, 2008 at Town Center. Many parents were interested in our youth programs and our NSSAR History Teacher contest. Some related their family stories wanting to learn how to find their ancestors. We were joined by Marty Cox and Barbara Stevens.



We had patriotic pin wheels and poppers for the children giving out some where between two and three hundred toys.

Ron assisted the organizing committee which allowed us a free space. The Park Committee has invited us back next time. What a great day!



PineyWoods own Ray Cox, left, plays the fife during the entrance of the Color Guard.

The color guard presented the flags, right, for the March 20, 2008 PineyWoods Chapter 51 meeting.



## **Patriot Thomas C. Holmes**

### **Memorial Marker Ceremony**

**The PineyWoods Chapter #51, along with members of the TXSSAR Color Guard, will be assisting the Daniel Witcher DAR Chapter and the Alexander Love DAR Chapter in the placement of memorial markers commemorating the service of Patriot Thomas C. Holmes.**



**The DAR bronze memorial marker and the SAR marker will be placed in the Holmes family plot in the Trout Creek Cemetery in Trout, TX. The actual location of the grave of Thomas C. Holmes is in the "Blackshear Fields" in the southeastern part of the Farrsville community off of Highway 63, approximately 40-45 miles north of the Trout Creek cemetery. The Farrsville location is inaccessible without serious off-road capability and therefore is not conducive to any type of public ceremony.**

**The service of Patriot Thomas C. Holmes is described in FPG (NSSAR) Clovis Brakebill's book "*American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas*" as follows:**

**"Thomas C. Holmes was born in Wayne County, North Carolina in 1759 and married Elizabeth Jourdon in 1794. He served as an express rider for Capt. Benjamin Harrison's 1st South Carolina Regiment, under General Francis Marion, The Swamp Fox, and carried a message from General Marion to General George Washington. He applied for his pension in 1854 while living in Newton County, Texas where he had been living since 1835, and he died there in 1861. There is a brass US Government marker on his grave, but no SAR or DAR marker."**

**Note: Although the Brakebill book and the brass marker at the actual grave site (see picture above) list the date of death as 1861, this cannot be verified from any source. Thomas C. Holmes' will was probated in 1856, further disputing the date.**

**Details of the ceremony are as follows:**

**Date: Saturday, 26 April 2008**

**Time: 1:00pm**

**Place: Trout Creek Cemetery, Call (Trout), Texas**

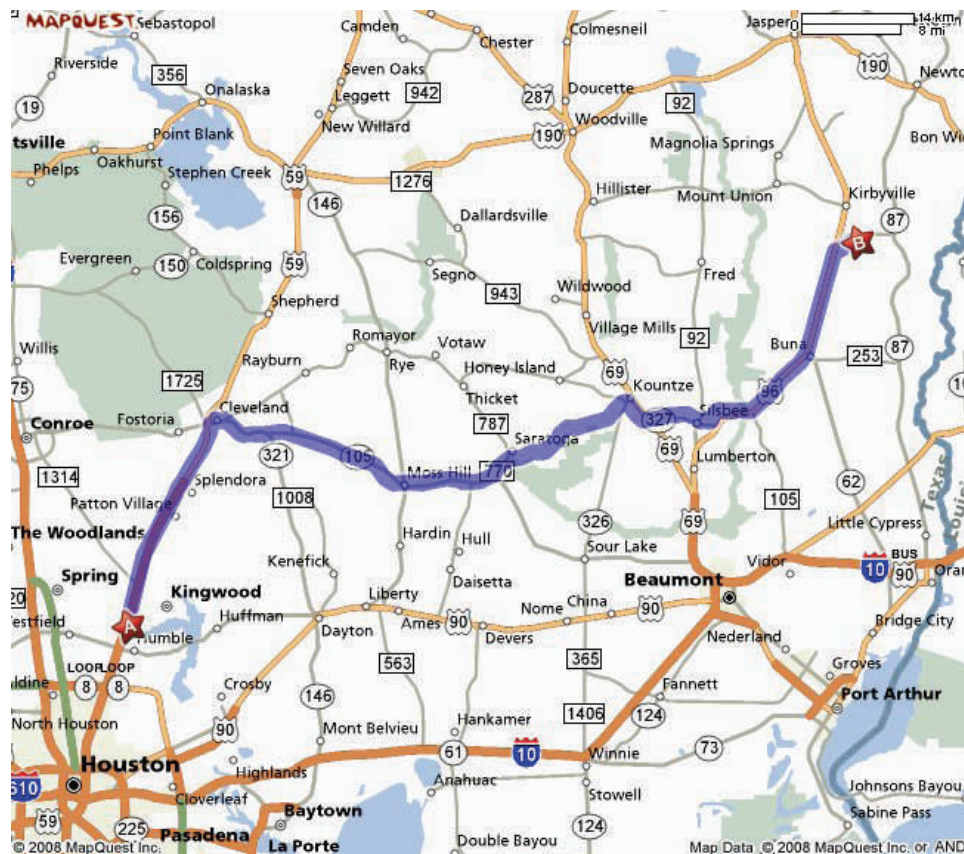
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**General Driving Directions:**

**From US 96 turn East on FM 1004 at Call Junction. Travel 6.5 miles east to the junction of FM 1004 and Hwy 87. The Trout Creek Cemetery will be on your right (south side of FM 1004) just prior to the junction.**

**All members are encouraged to attend! Please make plans to join us.**



**H**aven't been to a meeting lately? Come see what you've been missing: learning about the Revolution and your ancestor's way of life; camaraderie; good dinner and more! Help make our Chapter better than it already is by being an active participant.

**“LIBERTY BELL”**

**T**he “Liberty Bell” belonging to David Hall was involved in an accident which damaged the working replica and injured Mr. Hall. Anyone interested in contributing to its restoration may contact Captain Bob Northcraft, Color Guard Commander, SAR Chapter Dallas at 319 Creekside Dr., Keller, TX 76248, or 817-300-3618. For more information visit [www.proclaimliberty.us](http://www.proclaimliberty.us). All donation are greatly appreciated.

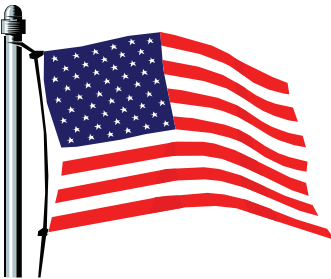
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of the  
**PineyWoods Chapter, #51**  
**Texas Society,**  
Sons of the American Revolution



We're on the Web  
[www.coxsoftware.com/pineywoods](http://www.coxsoftware.com/pineywoods)



PineyWoods Chapter #51  
Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution  
P.O. Box 6524  
Kingwood, TX 77325  
TO THE POSTMASTER  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**RSVP FOR THE APRIL 17, 2008 DINNER MEETING**  
**At Homewood Suites, Kingwood Park Dr. Kingwood TX 6:30 PM**

Please respond with the number of people attending and their names by Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. You can send an RSVP email to Kim Morton at [Genmorton@usa.net](mailto:Genmorton@usa.net) or Larry Stevens at [wardtracker@aol.com](mailto:wardtracker@aol.com) OR you can call Larry Stevens at 281-361-2061. Please RSVP to one person only. Payment of \$15.00 per attendee will be collected at the meeting.