



**Pine Shavings
PineyWoods chapter 51
Texas Society
Sons of the American Revolution
December 13, 2025 Issue 10**



The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR or NSSAR) is an American congressionally chartered organization, founded in 1889 and headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky.



The PineyWoods Chapter #51 was chartered on February 3, 1994, and is named for its geographic location in the state. We draw members from Houston (S) to Livingston (N) and from The Woodlands (W) to Liberty (E). PineyWoods meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month except June and July at Los Cuco's Mexican Restaurant, Kingwood Texas.



PineyWoods Members and Compatriots

As we embrace the joy of the holiday season, we are excited to gather at the beautifully decorated home of Larry and Barbara Stevens for our chapter Holiday Luncheon. Their warm hospitality and festive spirit create a perfect backdrop for us to celebrate together. This time of year, reminds us of the importance of community and connection and I look forward to sharing laughter, stories, and good cheer with all of you.

In the spirit of togetherness, let us also reflect on the resilience and bravery of those who shaped our nation. December has witnessed significant battles that were pivotal in the American Revolution. One of the most notable was the Battle of Trenton, fought on December 26, 1776. After a grueling winter, General George Washington led his troops across the icy Delaware River launching a surprise attack on Hessian forces. This victory revitalized the American cause and boosted morale at a time when hope was dwindling. Another critical engagement was the Battle of Princeton, which followed shortly after on January 3, 1777, further solidifying Washington's reputation as a formidable leader.

Amidst these historical events, holiday traditions during the American Revolution were rich and varied. Soldiers and their families often celebrated Christmas with simple yet heartfelt gatherings, sharing whatever food they could muster. Caroling and storytelling were common, as they fostered a sense of **community and hope**. Decorations were modest, often incorporating natural elements like pine boughs and holly. The spirit of giving was alive with families exchanging handmade gifts, symbolizing their love and resilience.



**Chapter Meeting- THE STEVENS HOME—1706 Chestnut Grove Lane, Kingwood
December 13, 2025 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM**

As we honor these historical moments, let us also embrace the warmth of our traditions and the spirit of generosity that defines this season. May this holiday bring joy and reflection to all members of the PineyWoods SAR Chapter and friends.

Warmest wishes for a joyous holiday season!

Abe Abdmoulaie, President
Piney Woods Chapter #51



The original painting “Washington Crossing the Delaware” by Emanuel Leutze was completed in 1851 and part of the collection at the Kunsthalle Art Museum in Bremen, Germany, and was destroyed during an air raid in WWII; however, a surviving version, one of two, is displayed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.



Merry Christmas!

PINEYWOODS CHAPTER, TEXAS SAR

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY
DECEMBER 13, 2025
AT 1706 CHESTNUT GROVE LANE
KINGWOOD, TEXAS
11:00 AM-2:00 PM
MADRIGALS AT 11:30 AM

The Christmas Party is a potluck, with the chapter furnishing the ham. The host provides drinks. Members bring their favorite salad, vegetable, or dessert. A list of Colonial Era dishes, with recipes is attached. Colonial recipes can be found on internet; such, Williamsburg and Mt. Vernon sites. It would be wonderful if members volunteered to bring a colonial dish. PLEASE RSVP indicating what you will be bringing, or your regrets.

This is a member guest event so please bring your significant other or a friend. This is a seated event so the host must have a count of attendees.

We will enjoy the beautiful music of the Kingwood High School Madrigal Choir at 11:30 AM, so please be on time so you won't miss the Christmas cheer from these Dicken's clad youth.

A map is included for your convenience. RSVP to Larry Stevens at 832-814-7132 or 832-814-7130 or e-mail to wardtracker@aol.com or stevensba@aol.com with the number attending and the dish you are bringing.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE A COUNT TO PLAN SEATING.

PLEASE RESPOND BY December 10th



FROM THE EDITOR

Getting very busy getting ready for Christmas just after Thanksgiving.

Our house is now ready for our annual Christmas Chapter Lunch with good company and great food.

Jason Watt, Kingwood High Musical Director, will be leading the Madrigal choir in to entertain us. The Madrigals have sang popular Christmas songs at our home for several years and each year there are many new faces; however, each year they are just as good as the last!

We hope you can come to lunch and enjoy the fellowship and the music.

Last year I wrote about MUMMING, Mummers did not speak or sing, they just MUMMED, drank and ate, converted, practical joked, made merry, communicating with each other by, YES, Mumming!

Despite Puritan efforts, many colonists in New England did celebrate Christmas, importing English customs such as drinking, feasting, mumming and wasailing. Mumming, or “masking,” involved people dressing up in costume and going from house to house, putting on plays and otherwise performing.

Was-



sailers also traveled between homes, drinking and singing, while passing around bowls full of spiced ale or mulled wine. LARRY STEVENS



Larry G. Stevens
Editor

PineyWoods Chapter Officers

2025 - 2027

President - Abe Abdmoulaie
1st Vice President - Jim Pinkerton
2nd Vice President - Louis Skip Hawley
Secretary - William Bill King
Treasurer - B. Ray Mize
Historian - Kermit Breed
Chaplain - Alan Bowman
Chancellor - Jim Pinkerton
Parliamentarian - Mike Anderson
Registrars - Larry Stevens, Kermit Breed, Joe Potter
Genealogist - Kermit Breed
Sargant at Arms—Merv Hartwick

Chapter Non - Officers Roles

Newsletter - Larry Stevens
wardtracker.aol.com

Events Calendar



NSSAR

National Trustees and Leadership
Galt Hotel, Louisville KY
March 5-7, 2026



TXSSAR

Austin Southpark Hotel
April 15-19th 2026

PINEYWOODS CHAPTER 51

1706 Chestnut Grove Lane, Kingwood,
Texas

December 13, 2025
(Christmas Party-Stevens Home)
January 17, 2026 Los Cucos

**CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP
PineyWoods Chapter
Membership:**

TOTAL 100

Current Regular Members 74

New 1 Trans In 1 Trans out 1

Dual 4

Youth 10 Reinstated 11

Not Paid—14 Regular Members and 3 Dual

As of September 4, 2025

**Official Newsletter
PineyWoods Chapter #51**

Texas Society SAR

P. O. Box 6524

Kingwood, TX 77325

www.txssar.org/PineyWoods

December 13, 2025 Issue 10

EFFECTIVE JULY 2024

New Member Application Fee
for PineyWoods Chapter 51

NSSAR \$200.00

TXSSAR 47.50

PineyWoods 17.00

TOTAL \$264.50

**Check the FEE Schedule
For Junior and Family
Membership Costs**

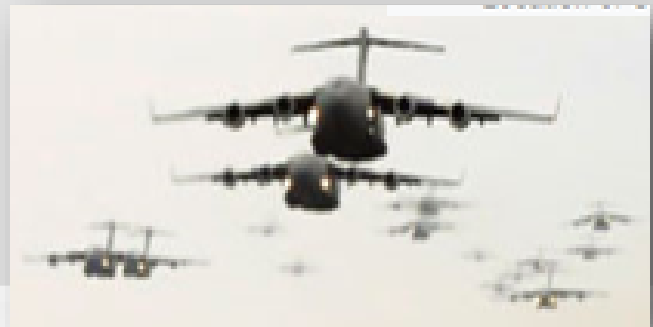
Supplemental PineyWoods

NSSAR \$150.00

TXSSAR 32.00

PineyWoods 6.00

TOTAL \$188.00



VETERANS AND ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS

CHAPTER COUPON PROJECT

Coupons for Overseas Military Families program. All that is required is for you to CLIP the manufacturer's coupons out that appear in the newspapers, and mail them to:

**John Beard
3738 Palmetto Creek Dr
Kingwood, Texas 77339**

Please cut the coupons from the pages and bring to the PineyWoods Lunch meetings. The coupons are very helpful to the service members and families and about 90% are used of purchase items in the exchanges.

Pledge to the United State of America

I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.



Texas Pledge

Honor the Texas flag, I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.



PineyWoods Chapter 51 TXSSAR

Lunch Meeting

Los Cucos Mexican Cafe

Kingwood Texas

December 13, 2025

11:00 AM—1:30 PM

**11:30 MADRIGALS
Kingwood High School**

12 NOON

President Abe Abdmoulaie

Christmas Prayer by Jim Pinkerton

PLEDGES; USA & Texas Flag and SAR Pledge

President (Abdmoulaie)

Christmas Lunch

Benediction

Chaplain (Pinkerton)

SAR PLEDGE

"We descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifices, established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe."

SAR CLOSING

"Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of rights, an Independent Supreme Court, and a nation of free men."



John Orndorff, a Vietnam USMC Combat Veteran is presented a Special Certificate of Appreciation, not only as our guest speaker a But also talking about his experiences in 1968 at Khe Sanh .

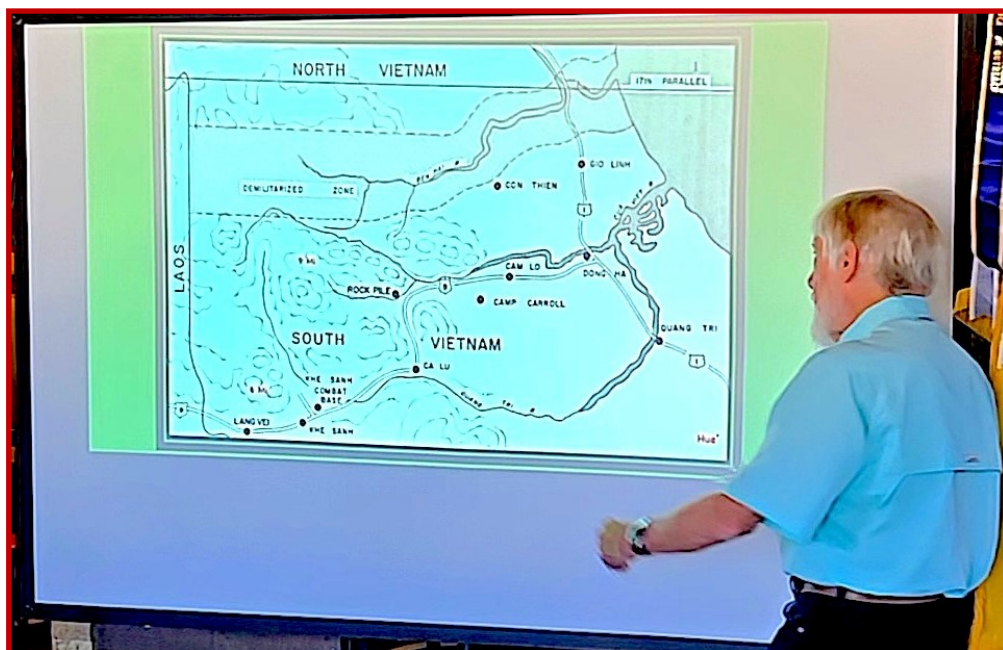


President Abe Abdmoulaie presented Orndorff with the US Vietnam Veterans Pin which only presented to members of all branches of the US Armed Services who were deployed to the Vietnam War area.

He was presented with two Vietnam Era Pins for family of those who served in Vietnam, his daughter and son.



Trevor and Elayn Points (DAR) and Family (CAR). Trevor transferred his membership to PineyWoods this past summer.



Khe Sanh—John Orndorff using a slide to show the location of the 1968 siege that trapped US Marines, a unit of the USAF, and South Vietnam soldiers for two and one half months.



Trevor Points, Bernie Kent, Guest, Mark and Sharon Fishlock

BELOW-Cannon Pritchard, Don Albe , Joe Potter, Bill King, Ray Cox, Larry Blackburn, Stevens, Ben Baskin

Larry



Piney Woods Chapter #51 Business Notes

November 15, 2025 Meeting Notes

Los Cuco's Restaurant, Kingwood, Texas

Meeting began at 11:32 AM with the opening prayer, Pledge Allegiance, Texas Pledge, and SAR pledge by chapter president Abe Abdmoulaie.

Members present included: (17) Joe Potter, Bill King, Jeff LaRoche, Merv Hartwick, Connor Pritchard, Ray Cox, Jim Pinkerton, Abe Abdmoulaie, Lewis (Skip) Hawley, Larry Stevens, Ben Baskin, Bernie Kent, Ski Grumboski, Kermit Breed, Larry Blackburn, Harry Salisbury, Trevor Points.

Guests included: (10) John Orndoff, Jeannie Hartwick, Susan Grumboski, Mark Fishlock, Sharon Fishlock, Kim Points (CAR), Kaia Points (CAR), Elayn Points (DAR), Don Albe , One Guest not named.

Abe asked all to introduce themselves and to include whether they are veterans and to include the military branch in which each serve. Abe then asked which veteran organization was first veteran organization established. Several chapter members correctly identified the Society of Cincinnati, organized on April 30, 1889, was the first.

Officer reports are as follows:

2nd VP Skip Hawley noted that two checks were presented to Cleveland High School JROTC and Splendora High School JROTC Cadets and instructors. And on Veterans Day, November, Hawley and Stevens, met with the Splendora staff and the Splendora ISD Education Foundation and presented our check supporting their History Fair again this year.

November 7th, at the Bear Branch Elementary Patriot's Day, Ray Cox and Larry Stevens made historical presentations to 150 Bear Branch 5th grade students, and on November 14th, at Willow Creek Elementary, Patriots' Day, Ray Cox, Skip Hawley, and Larry Stevens made historical presentations to about 125 5th grade students.

On December 4th at Greentree Elementary, they will have their Patriots' Day. Cox, Hawley, and Stevens of PineyWoods will present programs.

Secretary King noted that the previous month's meeting minutes are included in the chapter newsletter.

B Ray Mize, who was traveling, had sent a copy of the chapter's financial statement to Abe to be included in the November meeting minutes.



Registrar Kermit Breed reported that he would work with Don Albe on an SAR application. Larry Stevens reported that he was sent the name of a potential member by Texas Communication Secretary Ray Cox. a Mr.

Garcia, and he has sent Mr. Garcia a note to contact him.

Larry reminded everyone to please send SAR dues for 2026 to TXSAR!

Veteran coordinator Ski Grumboski reminded everyone to consider buying a veteran wreath. Cutoff date is November 30th. Any member activities supporting veterans should be documented on the Stark Report. Send these to Ski Grumboski.

Larry Stevens will host the Annual Chapter Christmas party scheduled for December 13th at his home. Please arrive by 11:00 AM. The chapter will provide the main dish. Members will be asked to provide desserts, fruit trays, veggie, etc. The Kingwood Madrigal Choir will arrive at 11:30 am to entertain us with Christmas tunes.

The PBS revolutionary War series created by Ken Burns will first air on November 16th.

After lunch, Abe introduced our November speaker John Ormdorff. John's presentation was on his personal experiences during the Vietnam Nam Khe Sanh battle that started on January 1968. Don enlisted in the USMC in 1967, attended boot camp, and was assigned to the USMC 3rd division.

The Khe Sanh battle lasted 45 days which started prior to the Tet offensive. The battle was the most intense battle in Vietnam Nam. An artillery barrage started the engagement and lasted continuously for 2 days along with mortar, and small arms fire. The Khe Sanh encampment was completely surrounded by 15000 NVA troops. The American camp was only six thousand strong. On February 28th, the NVA launched 1500 artillery blasts.

The encampment was resupplied by American C-130 aircraft that were harassed by enemy fire while unloading. Additionally, Chinook and Huey helicopter provided supplies and evacuated injured Marines under constant enemy fire.

USAF F-4 phantoms and B-52's made bombing drops on enemy positions to provide air support. Marine Sky Raiders provided close air support with napalm drops on enemy positions. Marine snipers kept NVA soldiers under fire.

Chaplains were continuously providing spiritual relief to the troops while the NVA fired on them.

Trenches were constantly under artillery attack. Marines deepened their trenches for cover; some were dug eight feet deep.

The firing ended with NVA troops evacuating in mid-March 1968. The USMC troops were withdrawn starting on April 1st, and all were out of Khe Sanh by April 15th.

In reports released years later General Westmoreland considered using tactical nuclear weapons, but orders were never given for this.

Abe presented a certificate for John's sometimes very personal reflections on his days at Khe Sanh in 1968.

After John finished his USMC service and entered San Francisco University Law School in 1978. After successfully finishing law school he started a career in the Houston Oil and Gas industry. Along with a lot of other veterans before him, he kept his war time experiences locked away for many years.

Abe adjourned the meeting at 1:00 PM. Jim Pinkerton ended the meeting with a closing prayer. Abe followed with the SAR closing.

Faithfully submitted by Bill King