



Pine Shavings

**Piney Woods Chapter #51
Texas Society of Sons of the American Revolution**

May 2011

Volume 21, Issue 2



A Message from the President

The month of May should be very special to each and every one of us for many reasons. The one that I would like to address here is Memorial Day. I wanted to share this short essay written by Kevin Drawdy written in 2007, slightly updated by me.

On Monday, May 30, 2011 Americans across this nation and citizens located around the world will pause throughout the day to observe Memorial Day. Since its first official observation on 5 May, 1868, when it was called Declaration Day, it has been a day of remembrance for those who sacrificed and died in our nation's service. And while it was originally dedicated to honor Civil War soldiers, we know it today as a celebration in memory of all who have fought for and defended our right to freedom.

In 1968 the observation of this day was established to be the last Monday in May. Today it remains a time of observation to honor and to respect those who fought to protect the liberties that our Founding Fathers proclaimed with certainty in the Declaration of Independence and that were thoughtfully and carefully framed in the Constitution of the United States. In his proclamation to set aside this day in 1868, General Logan instructed there to be thoughts to "...cherish tenderly the memories of our heroic dead who made their breast a barricade between our country and its foes".

To those who died securing peace and freedom; to those who served in conflict to protect our land, and sacrificed their dreams of the day to preserve the hope of our nation

keeping America the land of the free for over two centuries we owe our thanks and our honor. It is important to not only recognize their service but to respect their devotion to duty and to ensure that the purpose for which they fought will never be forgotten. From the soldiers who fought bravely during the American Revolution to the men and women of today's Armed Forces, America's fighting forces, have responded bravely to this nation's call to duty. Both on the battlefield and in their assurance of readiness, members of the nation's military remain bound to their duty. For more than 200 years, America's Armed Forces have been the surest guarantee that Freedom will continue to ring across this land – From Sea to Shining Sea!

The lives of the men and women who fought in America's battles, and who served their country in support of the military, made significant sacrifice in fighting for the freedom and liberty that we enjoy today. Too often we fail to remember those who



gave their life, or those whose life today bears the scars as a lasting memory of that sacrifice and commitment. But there are many who remember vividly as the lives affected were sons, daughters, friends, coworkers and neighbors – and that their unselfish sacrifice was made with the

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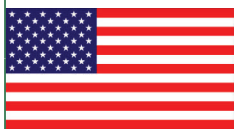
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PAST PRESIDENTS

Tom Green
Bernie Balsler
Don Lemon
Jeff Meadows
McLeod Smith
Robert McKenna
Bob Smith
Cannon Pritchard
James Jones(2)
Ray Cox (2)
Ron Barker
Larry Stevens (3)

EVENTS



National : www.sar.org

July 8-13, 2011 -

121st Annual Congress, Marriot Winston-Salem, Winston-Salem, NC

Aug 26-27, 2011 -

South Central Annual Mtg
Overland Park, Kansas

Sept 30—Oct 1, 2011 -

Fall Leadership Meeting, NSSAR HQ,
Louisville, KY



State: www.txssar.org

July 29-31, 2011 -

Summer—Board of Managers Meeting
Houston, TX

Oct 29-30, 2011 -

Fall—Board of Managers Meeting
Galveston, TX

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This Month in the Revolution

10 May 1775 – At low point in the newly emerging conflict with Britain Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys captured Fort Ticonderoga. Ticonderoga was thought impregnable and this victory boosted the morale of soldiers and civilians. It turned the conflict to a revolution with the feeling victory could be had.



Also this day the Second Continental Congress was meeting in Philadelphia. At this session they decided a Continental Army would be formed and that George Washington would be its supreme commander. They also approved the printing of money. Even with these actions the majority of the delegates were not seeking separation from Britain at this time.



May, 1776. Comte de Vergennes, France's newly installed Minister of Finance, saw support of the colonies as a great way for France to get some revenge against the detested English without another bloody war. This followed the statements of support of the American cause

by Louis XVI and long lobbying by Lafayette and others.



20 May 1777 - The Treaty of Dewitt's Corner ended the Cherokee War of 1776-1777, which took place at the beginning of the American Revolution. The Cherokees joined with northern tribes, the Shawnee, Delaware, and Mohawk, to raid frontier settlements in North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia in an effort to push settlers from their lands and support the British. The Cherokee towns were destroyed and their warriors sold into slavery. This caused the Cherokees to seek peace. Negotiations resulted in the loss of much Cherokee land and the Cherokee withdrawing from the conflict.

5th May 1778 - Colonel Ethan Allen was swapped in a prisoner of war exchange. He was given a hero's welcome and a promotion to Brigadier General of Vermont Militia. He was unable to function militarily because brutal treatment in British prisons had destroyed his health.

**Piney Woods Chapter 51
Meeting Schedule 2011**

May 19 Dinner Meeting (Members & Guests)
Aug 18 Members Meeting

MEETING LOCATION

**Jimmy G's,
307 N. Sam Houston Parkway
Houston TX 77060
6:30 PM
See ya'll there May 19th!**

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assurance that life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness required the ultimate service to their nation.

In a very moving letter, Abraham Lincoln expressed the respect and consolation of a nation and his own compassion to Mrs. Bixby, who lost five sons in combat during the Civil War. Mr. Lincoln's letter expressed the compassion that he felt with the honor due the fallen soldiers:

Dear Madam: I have been shown in the files....that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom. A. Lincoln

In the Revolutionary War more than 25,000 lost their life in this initial pursuit of freedom that they believed in but could not have fully comprehended at that time. In the Civil War almost 600,000 gave their lives as the very foundation of this nation was challenged from within its own boundaries; WWII claimed the lives of more than 400,000; and scores of others gave their life in wars in Korea and in Vietnam. And America continues to realize the never ending sense of duty that our Armed forces have as they serve our nation throughout the world. In each instance, without regard to

politics or the popular opinion of the moment, soldiers have picked up their arms to begin the awesome task of fighting for our freedom and to push back the threat to those freedoms when made by others throughout the world.

In 1776, America's Founding Fathers declared the intent for this new nation to be independent and free – "WE hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with ...rights... (of) Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness..." And, to this day whether out of commitment to this Declaration or to their duty to defend these rights from encroachment, our Armed Forces fight to preserve this nation for all that call it home.



Early in the War for Independence, Captain Nathan Hale was captured by the British and executed as a spy. His dying words "***I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country***" echo the sentiment that seems to exemplify the resolve of America's soldiers who go

forward into battle to protect and to defend the rights and freedoms that each of us enjoy today. Nathan Hale held strongly to a vision of America as free and strong – and thankfully so do the men and women who continue to serve in American's Armed Forces.

During the War of 1812 the Stars and Stripes flew high as a symbol of freedom and provided inspiration as Francis Scott Key inscribed the words to the Star

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Happy Birthday				
May		June		July
Ronald J. Barker Byron C. Basham John G. Ives, Jr Ken M. Korthanuer	Rex E. McLain, III Jeffery M. Meadows David J. O'Neal Cannon H. Pritchard	James E. Allen Scott W. Banewski Kevin J. Brown Gregory J. Goulas	Miles D. Harper, Jr. Jack C. Lightfoot Walter McCaine, Jr. Woody J. Reese, Jr.	John O. Albright Jonathan H. Marshall Robert W. Marshall Kim A. Morton Ross G. Partlow

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Spangled Banner. And, while we remember so vividly the first verse, it is the third verse that I believe honors the soldiers who fought so bravely for that flag and who stand ready to defend it today should the nation call for their service.

*O thus be it ever, when free men shall stand;
Between their loved homes and war's desolation;
Blessed vict'ry and peace, may the heaven rescued land;
Praise the power that hath made and preserved as a nation;
Then conquer we must when our cause is just;
And this be our motto, In God is our Trust.....*

Our flag is truly a symbol of the freedoms that we fight so diligently to protect. From Key's vision of bombs bursting through the morning air to the courageous memory of Marines raising the flag at Iwo Jima. The American Flag is a symbol of freedom that we celebrate and hold sacred.



Let it also remind each of us of the sacrifice made by men and women throughout our nation so that this flag could stand tall. And, let us not forget that we will ever see it wave as a nation of free people because of the lives that we honor each Memorial Day.

In his speech at Gettysburg, Abraham Lincoln's words focused on the loss of life during the Civil War and the higher cause for which the lives were given, but they ring true as a reminder for today... "that

from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion...that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people....should not perish from this earth. " Lincoln's charge was to ensure that the cause to which each soldier gave their life would not be lost, and that this Union, which he himself had given an oath to preserve, protect and defend, would grow ever stronger.

During the Civil War, Walt Whitman observed soldiers on both sides as they fought for their beliefs and suffered the pain, tragedy and death of war. Whitman's observations regarding the real mechanics and loss in War express truth that many of us can not truly realize today as none except the soldier can really know the pain and agony that our fighting forces experience during battle. "Future years will never know the seething hell and the black infernal background of...the ...War. The real war will never get in the books."

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Theodore Roosevelt conveyed the thoughts of the world in his words to the nation during a time of concern and uncertainty about the future: "...with confidence in our armed forces, with the unbridled determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph – so help us God." And with the uncertainty of battle ahead, and with doubts of whether they would live to see tomorrow, America's military remained committed to their duty and to the battle that had to be fought to achieve the desired victory.

Our land has been truly blessed and honored with Veterans who have given their lives to ensure that we have the freedom to enjoy the blessings given to us by God and assured in Liberty by the vision of our Founding Fathers. Lee Greenwood sings a particularly sentimental song with the assurance that...*he would gladly stand up and defend [America] today. God Bless the USA!* And today, as we should each day, we say God Bless those who have given of their lives to make America strong and to those who remain prepared to fight for our country today.

"No arsenal, no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women." Ronald Reagan

The men and women who serve, and who have served, in the Armed Forces are no less committed to protecting our nation than were the men who signed The Declaration of Independence. Their final words declare that "... ***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.***" Our Armed Forces continue to maintain that same standard of commitment and honor that was declared more two centuries ago.

On this Memorial Day – pause to reflect on just what has been given, and sacrificed so freely, so that Freedom could ring across this great land.

Don't forget: TXSSAR Board of Managers Meeting in North Houston late July 30-31. The location will be announced soon. Check the TXSSAR website for details. Our next meeting will be another members meeting on August 18, 2011.

Have a safe and happy summer vacation.

John Beard

JROTC: The SAR strongly supports Army, Navy, Marine, and Air Force JROTC as exemplary programs of their core ideals. The SAR JROTC Bronze Medal recognizes the “citizen soldier” exemplified by the “minute-men militia” of the American Revolutionary War. JROTC is an excellent vehicle for building leadership and confidence in our young people.

The Piney Woods Chapter of the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution appreciates the opportunity to recognize meritorious members of the JROTC. The chapter is awarding medals in 24 high schools this year. This is a record for our chapter. Larry Blackburn our program coordinator is commended for the diligence in keeping this program on track. The program relies on a host of compatriots who give of their time to attend the ceremonies and present the medals.

The JROTC recipients of this award will be allowed to wear this medal on their uniform. To satisfy the criteria for this award, the recipient must:

1. Be in good standing militarily and scholastically at the time of selection and presentation of the award;
2. Show a high degree of merit with respect to leadership qualities, military bearing, and excellence in performance of duties;
3. Have a high potential for greater leadership responsibilities; and
4. Receive the recommendation of their Senior Instructor.

School	Service	SAR Rep
Aldine	Air Force	Jim Jones
Aldine-Eisenhower	Army	Larry Blackburn
C.E. King	Air Force	Larry Blackburn
Cleveland	Air Force	Cannon Pritchard
Crosby	Army	Ray Cox
Hargrave	Army	Larry Blackburn
Humble	Army	Ray Cox
Kingwood	Navy	Larry Blackburn
Kingwood Park	Army	John Beard
Klein	Air Force	John Beard
Klein Collins	Air Force	Ben Stallings
Klein Forest	Air Force	Larry Blackburn
Klein Oak	Air Force	Gregory Goulas
Lamar	Army	Larry Blackburn
LaPorte	Army	Kim Morton
Livingston	Army	Cannon Pritchard
New Caney	Army	Larry Stevens
Onalaska	Army	Cannon Pritchard
Ramstein (GER)	Air Force	Larry Stevens
Splendora	Air Force	Larry Stevens
Spring	Navy	Ben Stalling
Summer Creek	Army	Greg Goulas
Tomball	Navy	John Beard
Westfield	Army	Larry Stevens



John Beard awarding medal to Cadet Sgt Rebecca Rodriguez of Klein High School.



Larry Stevens awarding medal to Cadet Kerry Hughes at Westfield, also pictured instructor Sgt. Fields

New Members of PineyWoods

One may question whether Bob McKenna actually has time to sleep. He is always on the trail of new members. As reported last edition there are four pending applications for membership which have been submitted by Bob or Larry Stevens. The average review time for applications remains just over four months

Pictured here are two of our newest members. Below center Greg Goulas who was sworn in in February and then again sworn in as our new 1st Vice President in March. Way to hit the ground running Greg!

The photo above is the swearing in of William Beard, of Florida. William is the son of John and Mary Claire Beard. He visited Kingwood during the Easter holidays and was sworn in as our newest member at the April members meeting.

Newest member Todd Irion will be sworn in at the May 2011 meeting.



Pictured at left our very own Ray Cox receiving the Silver Service Award and Medal. Ray has served TXSSAR in so many ways during his years as a member it is hard to count all his accomplishments. He has been the PineyWoods chapter president two terms, the sgt-at-arms, vice president, secretary and webmaster extraordinaire. He has served as the District 8 Vice President for three terms and is the TXSSAR Webmaster. Note the TXSSAR website won first place in the national competition this year. His District VP job involved traveling to meeting of each chapter all over the wide district. He chairs the

TXSSAR IT committee and has served on the NSSAR IT committee with distinction. In his most prominent roll he has served as the Color Guard fifer at local, state and national events. Ray has provided the “color” of color guard to events such as the George Washington Parade in Laredo and the NSSAR Memorial Ceremonies. Well deserved Ray!



Battle of the Waxhaws—The Buford Massacre

May of 1780 saw the fall of Charleston, SC on the 12th. Forces under Cornwallis captured the city driving SC Governor Rutledge north to Hillsboro, NC. Col. Abraham Buford of the VA Continentals with a force of 350 footmen and artillery had been sent to assist the Patriot forces. However, he learned on the 12th that Charleston had fallen before he ever reached there. He was then ordered to escort Governor Rutledge safely to Hillsboro.

Cornwallis, who was anxious to capture Rutledge, sent Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton to overtake Buford and capture Rutledge. It is clear from all accounts that Buford knew Tarleton was coming and the approximate size of his mounted force. He continued to fall back with his troops, but at some point Rutledge's party left. Some surmise Buford stayed behind to form a protection for Rutledge's retreat. On May 29th, Buford was aware of Tarleton's presence just 20 miles

away. He was also aware that the mounted troops would have no trouble overtaking his small army of foot soldiers and supplies. When Tarleton sent a white flag requesting their surrender Buford refused, and continued his march. It is estimated that Tarleton with a force of 60 dragoons and about the same number of mounted infantry attacked.

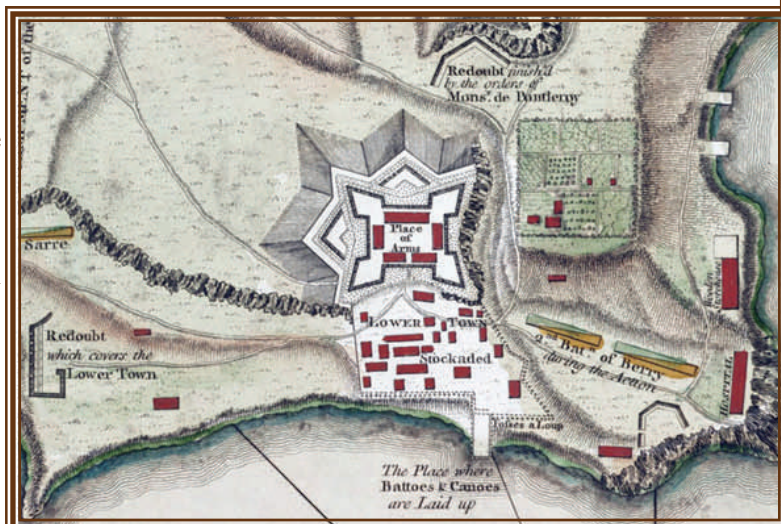
Buford chose to march and turn, ordering his men not to fire until the enemy was within 10 yards. This tactic was ill advised as Tarleton's horsemen overran the patriot forces. The British forces were merciless. Some historians attribute that to the fact that they believed Tarleton had been killed when his horse was shot and he fell to the ground. Whatever the purpose, they hewed and hacked their way through the Virginians who had thrown down their arms. They left 113 butchered, another 150 so badly wounded on the field that they could not be moved and captured 53. Some of the dead were reported to have up to 20 stab wounds. Tarleton reported lost 5 men and had 12 wounded. Andrew Jackson, just 13 years old, with his mother Elizabeth Jackson helped attend the wounded at the old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church.

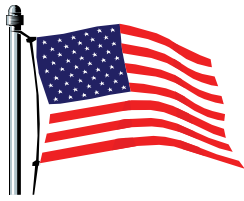
The actions of Banastre Tareleton and his men on this day, and during this campaign, helped forge the resolve of the Over Mountain men and the undecided Carolinians to join the revolution to defeat the British in the South.

Fort Ticonderoga

Fort Carillon was built by the French between 1754 and 1757 during the French and Indian War on the south end of Lake Champlain in upstate New York. The site was important because it controlled the river portage between Lakes Champlain and George. These were significant trade routes. The Iroquois named it **Ticonderoga** [tekontaro ken] meaning "it is at the junction of two waterways." The strength of the fort was demonstrated in 1758 at the Battle of Carillon when 4,000 French soldiers held off a force of 16,000 British.

In May of 1775 Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys with Benedict Arnold's troops lead a surprise attack which captured the fort. This victory helped solidify the military reputation of both Green and Arnold. Cannons from Ticonderoga were sent to Boston and helped repel the British from the city of Boston. The fort was held until 1777 when Burgoyne recaptured it.





Official Newsletter
Piney Woods Chapter #51
Texas Society,
Sons of the American Revolution
P. O. Box 6524, Kingwood, TX 77325



We're on the Web

www.txssar.org/PineyWoods

**RSVP FOR THE May 19, 2011 MEMBERS & GUEST MEETING
At Jimmy G's, 307 N. Sam Houston Parkway, Houston TX 6:30 PM**

Please respond with the number of people attending and their names by Monday, April 18th. You can send an RSVP email to John Beard at johnbeard@suddenlink.net or call John at 281-358-2970 OR Kim Morton at Genmorton@usa.net. Please RSVP to one person only. Payment of \$25.00 per attendee will be collected at the meeting.