



**Pine Shavings  
PineyWoods chapter 51  
Texas Society  
Sons of the American Revolution  
May 18, 2024 Issue 5**



**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.



**Tracy A. Pounders  
President Texas Society SAR**



Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution! We are a lineage society whose members' ancestry are recognized contributors to the winning of the American Revolutionary War.

Our members honor their patriot's efforts and sacrifices to establish the United States of America by perpetuating these same values, liberties, and freedoms today through the service of actively promoting History, Patriotism, and Education.

We do this by recognizing veterans and public service members, holding scholastic contests and scholarship awards for young people, recognizing young leaders in JROTC, Eagle Scouts, and those in 4H, promoting history, recognizing outstanding history teachers, and providing speakers and color guards for many patriotic and community events and so much more!

Texas is a large, active, and diverse society with forty-eight chapters located around the state. We are always looking for new members and leaders who can assist us in celebrating what our founding ancestors did!



***AS we prepare to observe Memorial Day, and remember that Freedom is Not Free. We also pay tribute to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to our Nation.***



**Lunch Meeting Saturday, May 18, 2024  
-11 a. m. Los Cucos Mexican Café,  
Kingwood, TX  
*'ONE IF BY LAND; TWO IF BY SEA'*  
*By John Thompson on 'Paul Revere'***



All,

Due to eye surgery, I asked Larry to help write my message for this newsletter. Here are my thoughts.

May 18<sup>th</sup> will be our last meeting until August 17, 2024. We have traditionally taken June and July off because this is the time of year many members will go on vacation.



We have had an active year so far. Our veterans' activities have grown with donations. Ray and Ski greeted veterans returning from their Honor Flight to Washington DC on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Honor Flight Houston

recognizes American veterans for their achievements and sacrifices by flying veterans to see their memorial in Washington. Priority is given to terminally ill vets from all wars. In order to go, veterans from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam must fill out an application that is found on the Honor Flight Houston website. The site says the next arrival back in Houston is June 1<sup>st</sup>. See pictures of Ski and Ray joining the welcome back in this newsletter.

The May meeting will be the last time this Spring for bringing in donations to the Veterans in the VA Hospital. The articles must be new. There is a list of needed items in this newsletter in the Veterans section.

We are continuing to help our local JROTC Units with needed funds. So far, Cleveland, Splendora, and Porter, all Air Force Units who had a cut in funding have been given monetary assistance thanks to the Kim Morton Fund. Hopefully this is just a temporary measure by the Air Force as these programs are really hurting. These programs are so important to our youth that participate in helping them grow into re-

sponsible individuals.

April and May were very active during the Revolutionary War starting at the beginning at Lexington on April 19<sup>th</sup> followed by the raid on Concord when the British soldiers were sent out from Boston to seize guns and gunpowder at the town armories.

May 10, 1775, was the first American victory of the Revolution. Led by Benedict Arnold and Ethan Allen, Militia, many the Green Mountain Boys of Vermont, attacked Fort Ticonderoga, located on the western shore of Lake Champlain, at dawn surprising and capturing the British garrison.

Hope to *see* you at the meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Ben Baskin*



CONCORD BRIDGE



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## Larry Stevens—Editor

A few years ago, at least back to 2004, PineyWoods had a growing ColorGuard that participated in Chapter, State and National events, especially beginning in 2006.

Ron Barker and his wife Conni, newly relocated from California to Texas, were looking for a chapter to join. They brought their enthusiasm for Color Guard with them. It caught on fast with Ray Cox and I having our first continental uniforms made. However, things change over time and our color guard did too. For a while it was just Ray and I going to schools and public events, many of these set up by “Why Americas is Free,” and then John Schmonesse’s Revolution Education 1776.

Recently, Merv Hartwick, B Ray Mize, and Jim Pinkerton have joined us, and helping these events and with the DAR programs. They have been dressing in militia clothing. Merv just acquired a long rifle for events. I believe with Freedom Chapter Color Guard joining us on many events, this has brought new interest in having a chapter color. Continental and Militia uniforms are easy to get from many companies. There is a list of these on the Texas website. And, I have used about 3 different ones. Jas. Townsend and Son; Sampsons Historical; Smoke and Fire Colonial Reenactment (site down temp.)

Since Barbara made my continental coats and vests, I have purchased breeches, hats, shirts etc. I you have interest in this, give me a call or e-mail me.

### Houston Honor Flight

HOBBY AIRPORT APRIL 20, 2024—Fifer Ray Cox (PineyWoods) and drummer Bill, lead the combined Freedom and PineyWoods Color Guard captured in the picture by Ski Grumboski.



Larry G. Stevens Editor.



## PineyWoods Chapter Officers 2023 - 2025

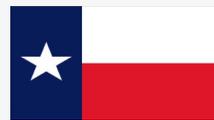
President - Ben Baskin  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Abe Abdmoulaie  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Harry Salisbury  
Secretary - Jim Pinkerton  
Treasurer - B. Ray Mize  
Historian - Roland Skelton  
Chaplain - Alan Bowman  
Chancellor - Allan Henshaw  
Parliamentarian - Mike Anderson  
Registrars - Larry Stevens, Kermit Breed, Joe Potter  
Genealogist - Kermit Breed  
Sergeant at Arms—Merv Hartwick

Chapter Non - Officers Roles  
Newsletter - Larry Stevens  
[wardtracker.aol.com](http://wardtracker.aol.com)  
Web Master - Ray Cox

## Events Calendar



NSSAR  
134th Annual Congress  
Lancaster Marriott, Penn Square  
Lancaster, PA, July 10-16, 2024



Texas SAR Summer ZOOM  
July 27, 2024  
(check Texas Webpage)

PINEYWOODS CHAPTER 51  
Los Cucos Mexican Café  
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

May 18, 2024  
August 17, 2024  
September 21 2024



Houston Honor Flight arrives home from Washington DC on April 20, 2024.

They were greeted by a combined SAR Color Guard from the PineWoods and Freedom chapters. In attendance from PineWoods was Ray Cox and Ski Gromboski, PineWoods' Veteran Committee Chairman.

*Pictured at left are the veterans in Washington .*



PineShavings



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May 2024



## LEXINGTON and CONCORD 1775

In the immediate aftermath of the battle, participants and witnesses on both sides gave depositions testifying to the events of April 19, 1775. Eager to get the colonists' version of the battle to London before Governor Gage's testimony could arrive at Parliament, the Provincial Congress rushed to print 100 copies of their own narrative and sent them by schooner to England. The American story hit the London newspapers before Gage's account arrived. It began:

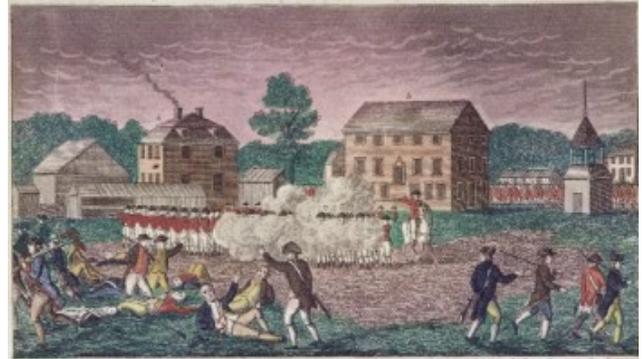
*“ON the nineteenth day of April one thousand, seven hundred and seventy five, a day to be remembered by all Americans of the present generation, and which ought and doubtless will be handed down to ages yet unborn, in which the troops of Britain, unprovoked, shed the blood of sundry of the loyal American subjects of the British King in the field of Lexington. Early in the morning of said day, a detachment of the forces under the command of General Gage, stationed at Boston, attacked a small party of the inhabitants of Lexington and some other towns adjacent.... “*

Governor Gage submitted his own “Circumstantial Account of an Attack” at Lexington and Concord, which was drawn from several different testimonies and intended to win support for the regulars' actions:

*“When they arrived at the End of the Village, they observed about 200 armed Men, drawn up on a Green, and when the Troops came within a Hundred Yards of them, they began to file off towards some Stone Walls, on their right Flank : The Light Infantry observing this, ran after them ; the Major instantly called to the Soldiers not to fire, but to surround and disarm them ; some of them who had jumped over a Wall, then fired four or five Shot at the Troops, wounded a Man of the 10th Regiment, and the Major's Horse in two Places, and at the same Time several Shots were fired from a Meeting*

*-House on the left: Upon this, without any Order or Regularity, the Light Infantry began a scattered Fire, and killed several of the Country People; but were silenced as soon as the Authority of their Officers could make them. “*

Unlike, the many other events of the American Revolution, the events that occurred on April 19, 1775 were well documented by those involved or innocently caught up in the actions. Militiamen, Regulars, housekeepers, and observers provided depositions of what



the witnessed. What follows is from an article by Historian Robert Wheeler published in an April 1971 issue of American Heritage, part of his work on a book he was writing.

*“When the regulars had arrived within eighty or one hundred rods, they, hearing our drum beat, halted, charged their guns, and doubled their ranks, and marched up at quick step.”*

Early morning, April 19, 1775 at Lexington: WHAT Happened? Accounts of British Regulars and Militia give a little insight, however, eye witness testimonies from the time do vary. The following is from actual accounts of that morning in Lexington, Massachusetts.

The British version of the encounter's opening is different. In the words of Colonel Francis Smith, the expedition's top commander: “Our troops advanced toward them, without any intention of injuring them, further than to inquire the reason of their being thus assembled, and if not satisfactory, to have secured their arms; but they in confusion went off, principally to the left—only one of them fired before he went off, and three or four more jumped over a wall and fired from behind it among the soldiers; on which the troops returned it. ...

It was never to be ascertained who fired the first shot. The Americans, who were hopelessly outnumbered, shortly began dispersing. But at least some of the men

stood their ground long enough to take some British fire. One of these was Lieutenant William Tidd: “They ... fired upon us. I then retreated up the north road and was pursued about thirty rods by an officer on horseback (supposed to be Maj. Pitcairn), calling out to me, “Damn you, stop, or you are a dead man!” I found I could not escape him unless I left the road. Therefore, I sprang over a pair of bars, made a stand, and discharged my gun at him; upon which he immediately returned to the main body. ...

**Corporal John Munroe’s** departure from the field was less precipitate: “After the first fire of the regulars, I thought, and so stated to Ebenezer Munroe ... who stood next to me on the left, that they had fired nothing but powder; but, on the second firing, Munroe said they had fired something more than powder, for he had received a wound in his arm; and now, said he, to use his own words, “I’ll give them the guts of my gun.” We then both took aim at the main body of the British troops—the smoke preventing our seeing anything but the heads of some of their horses—and discharged our pieces. After the second fire from the British troops, I distinctly saw Jonas Parker struggling on the ground, with his gun in his hand, apparently attempting to load it. In this situation the British came up, run him through with the bayonet, and killed him on the spot. After I had fired the first time, I retreated about ten rods, and then loaded my gun a second time, with two balls, and, on firing at the British, the strength of the charge took off about a foot of my gun barrel. Such was the general confusion, and so much firing on the part of the British, that it was impossible for me to know the number of our men who fired immediately on receiving the second fire from the British troops; but that some of them fired, besides Ebenezer Munroe and myself, I am very confident.

The regulars kept up a fire, in all directions, as long as they could see a man of our company in arms. Isaac Muzzy, Jonathan Harrington, and my father, Robert Munroe [died] near the place where our line was formed. Samuel Hadley and John Brown were killed after they had gotten off the common. Asahel Porter, of Woburn, who had been taken a prisoner by the British on their march to Lexington, attempted to make his escape, and was shot within a few rods of the common. Caleb Harrington was shot down on attempting to leave the meetinghouse, where he and some others had gone, before the British soldiers came up, for the purpose of removing a quantity of powder that was stored there.

**Elijah Sanderson** was a witness to one of the fight’s closing incidents: “After our militia had dispersed, I saw [the British] firing at one man (Solomon Brown), who was stationed behind a wall. I saw the wall smoke with the bullets hitting it. ... [Brown] fired into a solid



column of them, and then retreated. He was in the cow yard. The wall saved him. He legged it just about the time I went away. Eight Americans were killed and about ten were wounded in the brief encounter. When it was over, the British fired a victory volley into the air and gave three cheers. Soon afterward, to the tune of fife and drum, they headed for Concord. According to Ebenezer Munroe: “After they had marched off ... we took two prisoners who were considerably in the rear of the main body. I carried their arms into Buckman’s tavern, and they were taken by some of our men who had none of their own. I believed, at the time, that some of our shots must have [taken effect].

Mary Moulton of Concord was particularly heroic. When Pitcairn’s troops set a fire that threatened to spread, Moulton implored the soldiers to extinguish the flames and saved her town from destruction. Moulton later detailed her deed in an application for a pension:

*“Your petitioner, being left to the mercy of six or seven hundred armed men, and no person near but an old man of eighty-five years, and myself seventy—one years old, and both very infirm.... cultivated so much favor as to talk a little with them. When all on a sudden they had set fire to the great gun carriages just by the house, and while they were in flames your petitioner saw smoke arise out of the Town House higher than the ridge of the house. Then your petitioner did put her life, as it were, in her hand, and ventured to beg of the officers to send some of their men to put out the fire; but they took no notice, only sneered.... your petitioner (not knowing but she might provoke them by her insufficient pleading) yet ventured to put as much strength to her arguments as an unfortunate widow could think of; ...At last, by one pail of water after another, they sent and did extinguish the fire.”*

AMERICAN HERITAGE— RICHARD WHEELER  
APRIL 1971

*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 Cuco's Mexican Cafe***

***May 18, 2024***

***11:00 AM—1:00 PM***

**INVOCATION**

**PLEDGES; USA & Texas Flag and SAR Pledge**

**Introductions**

**Program—John K Thompson**

**LUNCH**

**Officer Reports**

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Chaplain

Historian

Genealogist

Registrars

Webmaster

Old and New Business

**BENEDICTION**

**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.”

# PineyWoods Chapter 51

## Texas Society of the Sons of the American

### April 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes

**President, Ben Baskin** called the meeting to order at 11:39 a.m. He led members and guests in the pledges to the U.S. and Texas flags. He also led members and guests in the SAR pledge. Chaplain Alan Bowman led the invocation.

**Members Present: (15)** Michael Anderson, Kermit Breed, Alan Bowman, Ski Grumboski, Merv Hartman, Ray Cox, Larry Stevens, B. Ray Mize, Ben Baskin, Larry Blackburn, John Beard, Joe Potter, Bill King, Don Stallings, Jim Pinkerton.

**Guests Present: (5).** Samantha Ballard, Carolyn Bowman, Susan Grumboski, Barbara Stevens, Sharon Mize

**Program:** There was no program for the April meeting. A review of the recent 2024 SAR state convention was given. Piney Woods was a District 8 repeat winner for the Flag Presentation Award, The Galveston Award, having the highest dollar total increase of donation to the Col. Joe M. Hill Patriot Fund for 2023, A Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of its assistance in the 2023 reporting year for the USS Stark Award enabling Texas SAR to earn the National Sons of the American Revolution State Society Streamer. Larry Stevens was recognized for past service with the NSSAR Minute Man Award, the highest service award that can be given. Only James T. 'Jim' Jones Jr. and Tom Lawrence of the PineyWoods chapter have received this award. Kermit Breed was also recognized for the Texas State Patriot Metal which is the highest state society service award.

**Secretary's Report:** The March meeting minutes appeared in the past month's newsletter.

**Treasure's Report:** The current C.D. was redeemed at the end of March. A motion was made and seconded for the purchase of a 6 month C.D. for \$30,000.

**Old and New Business:** Larry Blackburn was given a medal and certificate for his veteran work. Larry has been instrumental in the restoration of a veteran's cemetery (Mc Knight) in Nacogdoches Co. Texas. Civil War, World War 1 and 2 vets are buried there. Kermit Breed is working on this year's chapter scrapbook. He had managed to get the cemetery listed on Ancestry and Find a grave. Ski Grumboski gave a veteran's report. He spoke about the Honor Flight at Hobby Airport. John Beard has collected \$50,700 worth of coupons for active duty personnel in East Asia. Larry Stevens stated that we have 111 regular members for 2023-24. Our chapter is still looking for someone to take over the JROTC program. JROTC medals have been mailed out to the various schools in our service area. Larry Stevens is working with Porter H.S. Larry Blackburn is working with the Tomball Schools.

**Closing:** President Baskin led members and guests in the SAR closing. Alan Bowman gave the closing prayer. The adjournment was at 12:55 p.m.

Jim Pinkerton-Secretary



SAR Minuteman Metal Light Blue  
Patriot Metal Dark Blue

PineShavings



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May 2024

**CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP**  
**PineyWoods Chapter**  
Membership: a/o Jan 2024  
**TOTAL 111**

Current Regular Members— 96—  
Reinstated 3 Dual— 4 Junior —8

**Official Newsletter PineyWoods**  
**Chapter #51 Texas Society, SAR**  
**Kingwood, TX 77325**  
[www.txssar.org/PineyWoods](http://www.txssar.org/PineyWoods)  
**April 18, 2024**



**MEMORIAL DAY EVENT**  
**Lawrence Ski Grumboski**  
**Information - During Meeting**  
**Saturday, April 18th**



**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.*



### Veterans Activities

Engaging in voluntary initiatives not only contribute to Supporting veterans but also plays a pivotal role in shaping the impact of the chapters Stark Report. Your participation in these activities could pave the way toward earning recognition, potentially leading to the prestigious "Service to Veterans Medal".

Were you involved in any of the following:  
Attend a veteran's funeral, Visit a Veteran in a nursing home, hospital, or at the veteran's home, Place a flag or decorate a Veteran's grave' Donate to a veteran charity, Make a monetary contribution, Donate coupons for servicemen or servicewomen serving

If you were, contact Ski at [sus4ever@gamil.com](mailto:sus4ever@gamil.com) for more information.



## VETERAN DONATIONS

**Starting at the February meeting** there will be a box where members may drop off clothing donations for Veterans in need. This box will also be at the March, April, and May chapter meetings. After the May meeting these items will be presented to the DeBakey VA medical Center and the Richard A. Anderson Veterans Home.

There will be a sheet on the donation box where you may write down the items you're donating and their cost **less** the tax. If you add your name, then you'll be given credit in the 2024 Stark report. If you leave that field blank, then the chapter will be given the credit.

Here is the list of items needed. **Only new items, no used clothing**

### Current inpatient needs:

- Unisex pants (medium – 4XL)
- Men & Women underwear-SM-4XL
- Women Sports Bras- SM-3XL
- Fleece Jackets SM-4XL
- Solid T-shirts for men and women (medium – 4XL)
- Large-size toiletries for CLC (Community Learning Center) and 6th-floor Veterans
- Small fleece throw blankets
- Footwear (slides & closed-toe shoes) 7-13
- Sweat pants (medium – 4XL)
- Gym shorts (medium – 4XL)
- Crossword puzzle books, word search, Sudoku, dominos
- Blankets, caps, and other items that have a Branch of Service logo or name (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard)
- \$25 VISA gift cards (used to buy snacks and magazines within the hospital)

### Current outpatient needs include:

- \$25 grocery store gift cards for "food insecure" Veterans (HEB, Walmart, Target, Kroger)
- Gas cards for VA Outpatient Clinics: Conroe, Lufkin, Humble, Tomball, Sugarland, Galveston, Beaumont, Richmond, Katy, Lake Jackson, and Texas City.

# PINEYWOODS MEETING 20 APRIL 2024



PW President Ben Baskin and PW Veteran Affairs Coordinator Ski Grumboski with past PW President Larry Blackburn. Larry received the Service to Veterans certificate and medal for his work marking veteran graves McKnight Cemetery in Cushing, Texas



Larry Blackburn John Beard



Larry Stevens Ray Cox

# TXSSAR Annual Meeting—San Antonio — 2024



TXSSAR President Sam Massey presents Kermit Breed with two oak clusters for his Lafayette medal. Each cluster represents 40 hours for his work on the Patriot Rec-



State Chairman Kermit Breed presents Gabrielle Hiller the 2024 History Teacher of the Year Award Below, Past President TXSSAR Jim Jones with Past President General and First Lady Tom and Mickey Joe Lawrence.



Above: South Central Vice President General Bobby Hulse presented Ray Cox with a Certificate of Appreciate .

VPG Hulse was expressing his gratitude for Compatriot Cox's work supporting the South Central District Website during his term.



# Kermit Breed—Class of 2024 Patriot Medal



The PineyWoods Chapter was honored to have one its own receive the Patriot Medal this year. Kermit Breed has worked faithfully at the chapter and state level to support SAR. He is currently TXSSAR History Teacher Award Chair. He has work diligently on the National Patriot Records project spending hundreds of hours imputing the data on our patriot lineages so it can be searched. At the chapter level he has served as President. He has prepared the chapter Yearbook, and incredible log of the chapter activities. He is such a valuable member of PineyWoods and SAR.



**Background:** The Patriot Medal is the highest award presented to a Compatriot by a State Society and recognizes long, faithful, outstanding, and distinguished service at the state and/or chapter level. The Patriot Medal is awarded only by a State Society and may be presented only to an individual.

**Description:** The medal has a silver finish and bears the portrait of Compatriot General of the Army Douglas MacArthur on the obverse within the inscription, “The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.” The reverse is inscribed “Awarded to for Patriotic Service by the Society SAR, 20\_\_ . The medal is suspended from a chest ribbon of royal blue color.

Compatriot MacArthur selected the design for the medal just prior to his death. He received the first medal, presented posthumously at his tomb in Norfolk, Virginia, on October 19, 1964, where it is on permanent display.



**SAR Texas State President Sam Massey presenting Jim Jones State Henry Knox Achievement Medal**



**Jim receiving a Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding service as Perpetual Fund Chairman**



**SAR Texas State President Sam Massey presenting Ray Cox with Silver Roger Sherman Award**



**Ray receiving a State Henry Knox Achievement Medal in recognition of strong and reliable Texas SAR leadership.**