

The Plano Compatriot Gazette

The Official Newsletter of Plano Chapter #37
Texas Sons of the American Revolution

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July 2025

Issue #7



Mission Statement

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War Patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities and by educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country





President's Message

By Bob Johns, President



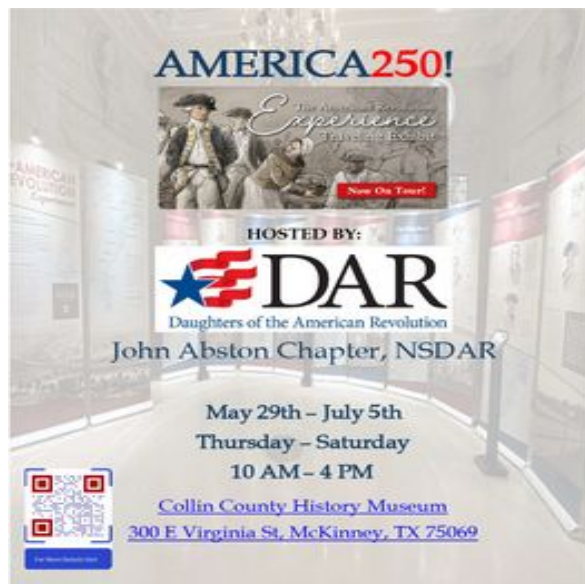
July Activities

Compatriots,

While our chapter will not meet in July, our color guard will be in numerous events, and an excellent way to celebrate the 4th for all members would be a visit to the Collin County History Museum in McKinney.

Through July 5th, Thursdays through Sundays only, the John Abston DAR chapter is hosting an American Revolution Exhibit detailing the history and events of the Revolution.

It's an excellent exhibit from NSDAR and hosted with docents from DAR and SAR chapters. Suitable for all ages, even some games for kids, it's well worth a visit and, of course, downtown McKinney is a worthwhile visit by itself.





Chapter and State News Items



Plano SAR Chapter #37 Christmas Dinner!

This December we are again having a chapter dinner at **Princi Italian Restaurant** like we did last year. Dinner will be on **Tuesday, December 9 at 6:00**. There will be no formal chapter business meeting, no flags etc.

We are in a private area of the Princi Italia Restaurant located on the NE corner of the DNT at Parker Rd. The address is *3300 Dallas Parkway, Plano 75093*.

Dinner Includes:

- Appetizers for each table
- Caesar Salad

Entrée choice of:

- Pasta Bolognese with sides
- Shrimp Alfredo with sides
- Chicken Piccata with sides
- Water and Tea



Adult beverages, coffee and dessert, not included. If desired, these will be billed separately.

RESERVATIONS - Make your reservations by sending a check to Treasurer Scott Knightly for \$40/per person, including tip. The cost is \$40 per person check payable to **"Plano SAR Chapter 37"**. Mail your check to:

Scott Knightly
3121 Satsuma Drive
Dallas TX 75229





Chapter and State News Items



The Annual Flag Retirement Ceremony Plano Fire Station #12 14 June, 2025

Members of the Plano and Dallas Chapters host the annual Flag Retirement Ceremony at Plano Fire Station #12.





Chapter and State News Items



Bonham Veterans Center 4th of July Cookout 27 June, 2025

by BJ Bjorklund, VP Veterans Affairs

On 27 June, members of the Plano SAR participated in the 4th of July cookout for the Veterans at the Bonham Veterans Center. We served fried pies in an assortment of flavors to several hundred Veterans. Some of the vets were living there on a semi permanent basis, as they might have been homeless if they weren't there. I had lunch with a Vet that had only been there a week. He was in the alcohol rehab program and was trying to get sober and reestablish his relationship with his family. Hot dogs were cooked outdoors and then brought inside and Vets went through the lines receiving hot dogs, chips, fried pies and soft drinks. The Veterans were all so appreciative of the event. I heard lots of thank yous as the Veterans really enjoyed the change of pace and seeing the support of the Plano SAR and other sponsoring organizations.

Your monthly donations were used to buy hot dogs and buns and were much appreciated. Thank you for your support to make this happen!

**Compatriots BJ Bjorklund, Bob Johns,
Joe Conger and John Greer serve our
Veterans at the Bonham Veterans
Center**





Chapter and State News Items



The Texas Compatriot - Summer Edition

Compatriots,

The Summer edition of The Texas Compatriot is now available for your reading pleasure. Chapter news, committee news, state news, and color guard news remain topics that everyone in the Texas Society wants to read about. You have two ways to view the newsletter:

- [Click here to download.](#)
- Access current and past editions on the public website <https://www.texassar.org> - [About Texas SAR > Texas Compatriot Newsletter > Summer 2025](#)

Enjoy!

Best regards,

Matthew Hoffman
Editor, The Texas Compatriot
compatriot@texassar.org





Chapter and State News Items



The Texas SAR 250 Monument

Texas SAR Compatriots,

I want to update you on the status of the Texas SAR 250 Monument that will honor those Patriots who died or are buried in Texas!

The monument design is fully completed and construction will begin this August. We expect delivery and installation of the monument this September. The exact position for the monument has now been set by Texas SAR and the Texas State Cemetery.

A Dedication Ceremony is being planned for the weekend of April 17, 2026 in coordination with the Texas SAR State Convention in Austin.

We are now raising funds for the program, which will include:

- o Official Unveiling and Dedication
- o Participation of the Texas SAR Color Guard
- o Attendance by dignitaries, including elected officials and both State and National SAR officers
- o Recognition of substantial donors
- o Recognition of descendants being honored on the monument
- o Music from local choir

The Dedication Ceremony will take place the morning of April 18th at the Texas State Cemetery in advance of the Youth Awards Luncheon, and we hope that we will have a large turnout for both!

We are in need of some additional funding for the Dedication Ceremony and appreciate the generosity of our chapters and compatriots. I want to thank those chapters and compatriots who have already contributed to this effort!

To donate funds, either individually or for a chapter, please contact Monument Committee Chairman Richard Zdunkewicz.

Richard Lee Zdunkewicz
Staff Secretary, Texas SAR

staffsec@texassar.org

713.302.0237



America 250 and Patriotic Travel Events



The 2025 Activities Celebrating President James Monroe's 267th Birthday

Westmoreland County Ceremony
The Birthplace and Visitor's Center
4460 James Monroe Highway Colonial Beach VA 22443
5 October 2025 2:00pm

Starting at **2:00 p.m. at the Birthplace**, the 267th anniversary ceremonies are expected to include local and state elected officials. Come to see both the **Birthplace House** and the exhibits at the **Visitor Center**. The ceremony will be in front of the Birthplace House again, rather than in front of the Visitor Center. See www.monroefoundation.org for the Birthplace location at 4460 James Monroe Highway (State Rt. 205) just outside of Colonial Beach.

Please remember that President Monroe was the only President besides George Washington to have actively served in the regular army during the Revolutionary War, participating in six major battles (as well as wintering at Valley Forge, crossing the Delaware with George Washington, being seriously wounded at Trenton and cited for conspicuous bravery) and subsequently served simultaneously as Secretary of War and Secretary of State (during the War of 1812, when he helped coordinate American defenses against the British). He was also an active participant in our first American lineage society, the Society of the Cincinnati.

When James Monroe and other patriots seized the Virginia Governor's Palace on June 24, 1775, and distributed its armory of muskets, pistols, and swords to the Williamsburg militia, that act began the Revolutionary War in Virginia. Let's celebrate that 250th anniversary by honoring James Monroe in proper fashion!

We hope that you will be able to participate with us in this commemorations to emphasize the role of this great Virginian and Founding Father in establishing our country, and its system of government and values.





America 250 and Patriotic Travel Events



The SAR Congress in Uncasville CT

July 2025

Compatriots,

If you plan to attend or are thinking about attending the SAR Congress in Uncasville, CT in July 2025, please send an email to me with your name and National Number so I can notify NSSAR that you qualify to be a Delegate for Texas SAR.

Please respond to sec@texassar.org if you want to be listed as a potential Delegate. ***NSSAR will issue Voting Credentials again this year...you will not receive them from the State Secretary as in the past.***

I have attached a pdf file from National with the most recent information about the 2025 Congress. I look forward to seeing you in Uncasville, CT.

Kevin Kanter
Secretary, Texas SAR
(210) 213-2455

[2025 Spring Congress
Information](#)





Contribution Opportunities



Bonham VA Summer Needs List

Dear Compatriots,

The Plano Chapter of SAR continues to support our veterans at the Bonham Veterans Center. Your generous contributions are greatly appreciated by our veterans. Attached is a list of current needs. Please inform [BJ Bjorklund](#), chapter VP for Veteran Activities, if you feel called to help with items on this list. Thank you!

Bonham VA Needs Listing

We appreciate your interest in wanting to serve Veterans and below is an updated needs listing for Summer 2025. All items must be new and in original packaging.

Gift Cards:

- Exxon or Shell gas cards (Social Work to assist Veterans to/from appointments)
- Whataburger Gift Cards
- Braum's Gift Cards

Clothing & Comfort Items:

- Diabetic gripper socks – *Special request as regular gripper socks are too restrictive on legs of the diabetic or patients with larger legs.*
- Athletic Shorts (Men – various sizes)
- Women's summer tops (various sizes)
- Crop pants or long pants summer weight (Women – elastic waist, various sizes)
- T-shirts or short sleeve pullover
- Body Wash (no bar soap or hotel/motel toiletries)
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Electric Razors (for Veterans on blood thinners)
- Razors (disposable double to triple blade)
- Shaving Cream

(Cont'd)





Contribution Opportunities



Bonham VA Summer Needs List (Cont'd)

Refreshments: Individually wrapped snack items to include ingredients are welcome, but no homemade food items. Items such as the following:

- Breakfast pastries/muffins for coffee cart
- Peanut Butter/Cheese Crackers
- Chips, Cookies (Variety Pack, Individual Bags)
- Bottled Water
- Small Bottles Gatorade
- Ground Coffee (regular only)
- Juices (small boxed)
- Liquid Creamer (individual packs/cups only)
- Coffee supplies (8 oz cups, sugar/Splenda packets)

Miscellaneous:

- Headphones - Over the head with plug for phone/TV (no earbuds, no wireless)
- Plastic Models (Cars, Airplanes, Ships, Etc.)
- Dominoes (Big)
- Journals, notebooks
- Adult coloring books, with colors or colored pencils
- Markers
- Postage Stamps
- Pens, stationary
- 1,000, 1,500 and 2,000 piece Jigsaw Puzzles
- Crossword puzzles/word search (large print)
- Sudoku books (large print)
- **New** books, **new** magazines

(Cont'd)



Contribution Opportunities



Bonham VA Summer Needs List (Cont'd)

Seeking Sponsorship for the following items/activities:

- Monthly Birthday Socials
- Popcorn & Movie
- Bingo & Prizes
- Cooking Group – monthly or quarterly
- Bowling for Domiciliary Residents
- Bonham State Park Pass
- Sporting & Music Events

Monetary and In-Kind Donations by mail, please send to:

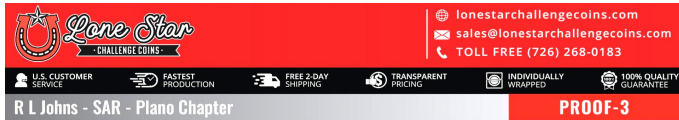
**Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center
Center for Development and Civic Engagement (135)
Atten: Brenda Magness, CDCE Specialist
1201 E.9th Street
Bonham, Texas 75418**

- If you would like to make a monetary donation please make check or money order payable to *Bonham VA Medical Center*.
- You can also donate to the Bonham VA Medical Center using E-Donate online: Donating is just a click away with an online donation option that provides community members the account of their choice. E-Donate provides a quick, safe way for you to pledge your support to Veterans online. E-Donate also allows you to make a donation in memory of a loved one. Select *VA North Texas Health Care System* and choose a designated medical center and program, along with amount that you'd like to donate. Every penny of your donation goes to help Veterans.
- All donations must be coordinated with Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) for acceptance and delivery drop off. Should you have questions regarding donations please call **903-583-6282** or email brenda.magness@va.gov. Items may be mailed to the mailing address listed above.





Contribution Opportunities



SIDE A

SIDE B



*PLEASE REVIEW ALL DETAILS OF THE PROOF TO ENSURE ACCURACY OF SPELLING, GRAPHICS AND PRODUCT SPECS BEFORE APPROVING AS CHANGES CANNOT BE MADE ONCE PRODUCTION BEGINS

**A Special Item to Mark the
40th Anniversary of the
Plano Chapter of the SAR**

The Plano Chapter #37 of the SAR observes its 40th Anniversary next year in 2025. To celebrate the event, the Chapter Board has commissioned a Commemorative Celebration coin which is intended to both recognize our anniversary and to enhance our budget funds as a fundraiser.

The coin is a full color 2" antique brass coin. The front shows a rendering of the famous Minute Man sculpture by Daniel Chester French, presently standing in Concord in recognition of the Battle of Lexington-Concord. The reverse celebrates our chapter and gives our founding date.

This impressive coin is available to all chapter members for a \$20 donation to the chapter. Donations will enable our chapter to fund even more of the activities and awards we engage in to support veterans, youth awards, public service awards and more.

Please consider making your donation this calendar year. Personally, I plan to get five of the coins to use for recruiting awareness and for recognition.

Make your donation check payable to **Plano SAR Chapter #37** and send it to **Treasurer Scott Knightly at 3121 Satsuma Drive, Dallas TX, 75229**. You will receive one of the coins in return.

Let's make this a successful recognition program and fundraising opportunity.





Contribution Opportunities



The SAR Education Center and Museum Liberty Tree Campaign

A Message from SAR President General John Dodd

Greetings Compatriots,

It is with great pleasure that I inform you of a momentous development in our ongoing efforts to honor and preserve the legacy of our Patriot Ancestors. The Commonwealth of Kentucky's 2024 budget includes an allocation by the Kentucky General Assembly of \$5 million in the upcoming fiscal year to support the construction of the SAR Education Center and Museum in Louisville!

This monumental decision brings us closer to completion of your state-of-the-art facility that will enlighten and inspire citizens for decades. This important funding will keep construction on track, aiming for an opening date in 2026, coinciding with the 250th anniversary of our great Nation.

As we approach this historic 250th Anniversary, the importance of fostering a deep appreciation of our heritage and the principles upon which our country was founded cannot be overstated. The SAR Education Center and Museum will honor the sacrifices and ideals of our patriot ancestors, inspiring and educating present and future citizens to uphold their values of liberty and self-government.

Even if you have supported the project in the past, as our dream becomes reality, I encourage you to consider an additional contribution. The Liberty Tree Campaign is the easiest way to give. A small, recurring, monthly credit card contribution is the simplest way to make a difference. For those who are able, naming opportunities begin at \$100,000.00. Please contact Phil Bloyd for details. Thank you again for your support and for your important work on behalf of the SAR.

Yours in patriotism,

John L. Dodd
President General, 2023-2024

[Click here to make a Contribution](#)





In Memoriam

Compatriot William Byron “Bill” Watts, Jr.

14 June, 1949 - 5 June, 2025



It is with deep sadness that we report the passing of our friend and Compatriot Bill Watts on June 5, 2025. Bill passed peacefully at his home in Rockwall. As a man of strong faith, he had told many that he was ready to go home and be with his beloved Laura. A more devoted and active member of the SAR one could not find. His passing leaves a hole in our hearts and in the SAR.

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 celebration of Bill's remarkable life is scheduled for Saturday, 26 July at 2:00pm at the Rest Haven Funeral Home, 2500 State Highway 66 East, Rockwall TX. 75087.



Compatriot Anniversaries for July

Happy Anniversary, Compatriots!

Duane Carter	2015
John S Doenges	2020
Kevin Ennis	2020
Christopher M Evans	2015
Peter M Evans	2015
Nick Gilliam	1998
Bryan J Humphries	2015
David J Humphries	2015
Bob Johns	2018
John D Radcliff	1998
Charles P Wilt	2015
Jim Smetzer	2024
Jason A Carrier	2022
James J Huffman	2022



Compatriot News



Patriot Stories

**Contributed by Michael Goode
Regarding his Patriot Ancestor
Charles Christopher Hutchings**

**Charles Christopher Hutchings (Hutchins)
Born 1752 Death 1825**

Captain Hutchings was a Revolutionary War Soldier in the Continental Army. Captain Charles Hutchings also served with Pittsylvania County Militia, Virginia Militia during the American Revolution.

He was the son of Christopher Charles and Elizabeth Parks Hutchings, of Dry Fork, Virginia and served as a Revolutionary war soldier and Indian scout. He was present at the surrender of the British at Yorktown, VA.

He married the daughter of his former Commander, Captain Thomas Dillard, Jr, Elizabeth Dillard, in 1784 in Pittsylvania County, Virginia. They had one child during their marriage.

Captain Charles Christopher Hutchings was born in 1752 in Rixeyville, Virginia. He died in 1825 in White County, Tennessee, at the age of 71, and was buried there.



This Month's Revolutionary Stories



Contributed by Bob Johns, President

JOHN PAUL JONES, FATHER OF THE U S NAVY

John Paul Jones was born John Paul in July, 1792 in Scotland, the son of a gardener. This month, July 2025 will be his 233rd birthday. John Paul Jones was a true American Hero, a powerful force in our battle for independence.

Among his accomplishments:

- 1st American to raise an American flag on a U S Warship, the USS Arnold.
- 1st American to capture a British warship. He captured 46 British ships during the revolutionary war.
- 1st person to attack Great Britain on their own turf in over 100 years.
- Commander of the first U S warship with U S Marines aboard who made their first amphibious landing from his ship.

He was the son of a gardener. His father was head gardener of a huge upper class estate and John Paul grew up around culture and wealth, although he had none of that. He grew up realizing his ambition could best be accomplished by becoming a British naval war ship commander. At 17, he joined the British Merchant Marines, rose through the ranks and commanded a Merchant Marine vessel. He then enlisted in the British navy and again rose through the ranks. After killing a mutinous sailor, he fled to Virginia to avoid prosecution, adding Jones to his name.



After his illustrious career during the Revolutionary War, he retired to Paris after the American congress temporarily saw no need for a navy and disbanded his command.

He died of illness in 1792, was buried in Paris and forgotten for over 100 years.

Interest in him rose again at the 100th anniversary of the country and his body was exhumed and returned to America accompanied by six naval vessels. The captain's remains were finally re-interred in a bronze and marble sarcophagus, designed by Sylvain Salières, at the U S Naval Academy.



This Month's Revolutionary Stories



Contributed by Joe Conger

Victory at Sea 1776 – 1789

French and British battle in the Indian Ocean

The worldwide implications of the American War for Independence are made clear on this day in history as the American-allied French navy begins a 14-month-long series of five battles with the British navy in the Indian Ocean. Between February 17, 1782, and September 3, 1782, French Admiral Pierre Andre de Suffren de Saint-Tropez, otherwise known as Bailli de Suffren, and British Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Hughes, commander in chief in the East Indies, engaged in four major battles in the Indian Ocean region: the Battle of Sadras on February 17, the Battle of Providien on April 12, the Battle of Negapatam on July 6 and the Battle of Trincomalee on September 3. The French attacked British possessions on the Indian coast and in Ceylon as part of the world war spawned by the American Revolution. Although Suffren failed to take any of Hughes' ships, he managed to prevent Hughes from taking any of his own fleet. This alone was a significant improvement in French performance when pitted against the legendary British navy. The fifth and final encounter of the two fleets-the Battle of Cuddalore on April 20, 1783-forced Hughes to leave for Madras, just before Suffren learned of the Treaty of Paris and returned to France.



Battle of Trincomalee

En route home at the Cape of Good Hope, Suffren received compliments on his strategy from the English captains he had opposed in East India. Napoleon, too, had a high opinion of Suffren, commenting that he would have become France's Lord Nelson, had he survived. Instead, he died suddenly in France on December 8, 1788, of either a stroke or wounds from a duel.

Hughes also profited from the East India campaign. He returned to Britain extremely wealthy from the various prizes and exquisites he won in the Indies and had his portrait painted in full naval splendor by the renowned Sir Joshua Reynolds.



Admiral Edward Hughes

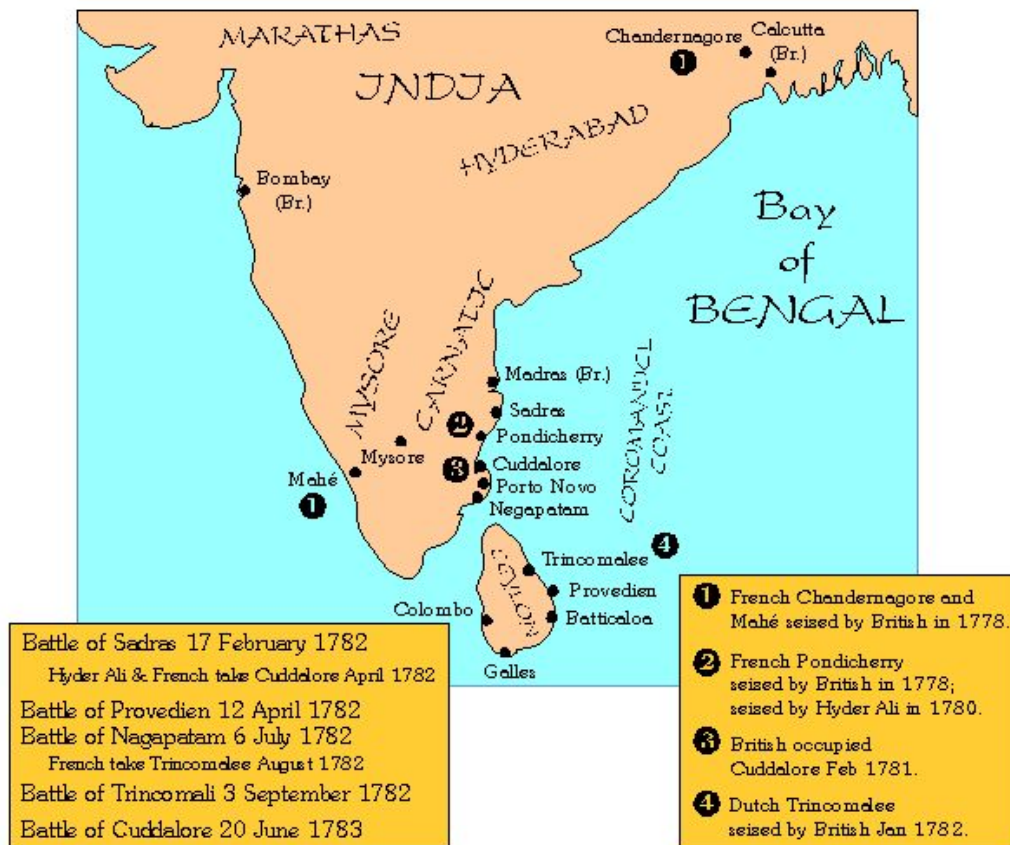


This Month's Revolutionary Stories



Contributed by Joe Conger

Victory at Sea 1776 – 1789 (Cont'd)



Abstract of the killed and wounded on board His Majesty's ships

Ships	Killed	Wounded	Total
SUPERB	11	25	36
EXETER	10	45	55
MONARCA	1	5	6
HERO	9	17	26

Source: "Biographical Memoirs of the Late Sir Edward Hughes, KB", *The Naval Chronicle* 9



Connect!



Upcoming Meeting Tidbits and Officer Connection Information

**Happy Independence Day! Be safe and we will see all of
you on 5 August!**

Connect with our Officers!

President [Bob Johns](#)

Treasurer [Scott Knightly](#)

Color Guard Commander [Dave Fautheree](#)

VP of Medals and Awards [Kevin Ennis](#)

VP of Chapter Programs [Melvin Richards](#)

VP of Veterans Affairs [BJ Bjorklund](#)

VP of Youth Activities [Alan Roach](#)

Registrar [Duane Carter](#)

Sergeant at Arms [Ronald Carey](#)

Chaplin [Rocky Miller](#)

Secretary [Randall Bush](#)

[Plano SAR Chapter #37 Website](#)

*"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."*



The Minutes

of the

3 June 2025

Chapter Meeting

Plano Texas

Chapter #37

Sons of the American Revolution

Tuesday 3 June, 2025 Meeting
Location: Outback Steakhouse,
1509 N Central Expy, Plano, TX 75075

Call to Order: The Meeting is called to order by President Bob Johns at 7:00pm.

The Invocation: Offered by Rocky Miller, Chaplin
Based on Psalm 2.



Pledge to The American Flag: Offered by Joe Conger

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.



Pledge to The Texas Flag: Offered by Jim Smetzer

Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, One State under God, one and indivisible.



Pledge of The Sons of the American Revolution: Offered by John Martindale

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.



The Sons of the American Revolution Mission Statement:

Offered by Bob Johns

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.



Self Introductions: Total Attendance: 20

Dave Fautheree, Duane Carter, Scott Knightly, Dan Ray, Thomas Alderman, John Rothermel, John and Dorene Martindale, Grover Thurman, Jim Smetzer, Julie Zeisset, Billy Brewer, BJ Bjorklund, Michael Garner, Rocky Miller, Bryan and Lea Humphreys, Joe Conger, Ron Carey and Mike Becker.

- **Consideration and Approval of the Minutes of the May 2025 Chapter Meeting;**

Presented by President Bob Johns

The May Meeting Minutes were approved by acclamation.

- **Treasurer's Report: Presented by Scott Knightly, Treasurer**

- Checking Account Balance \$12,272.13
- Investment Account: \$14,410.49

The History Minute

“Bunker Hill”

Presented by Ron Carey, Sgt at Arms



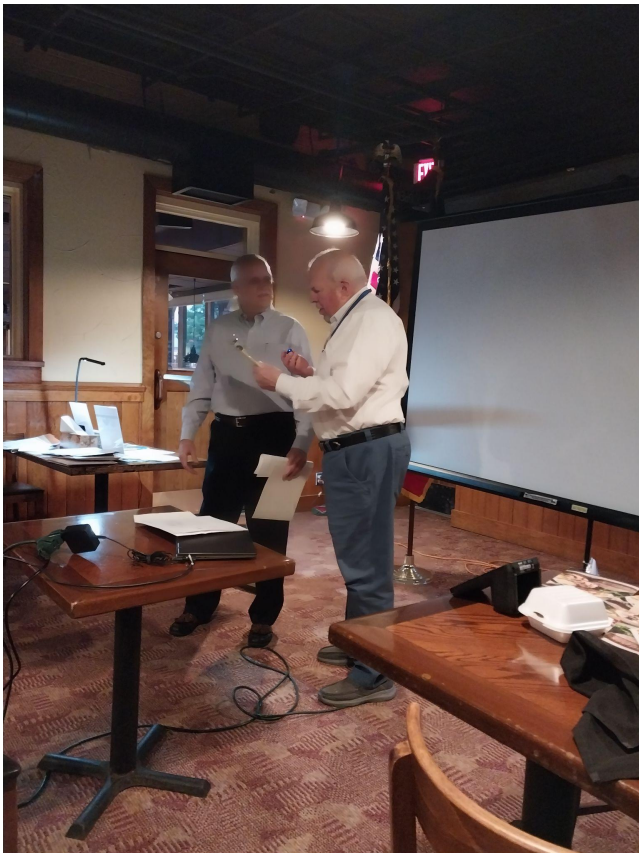
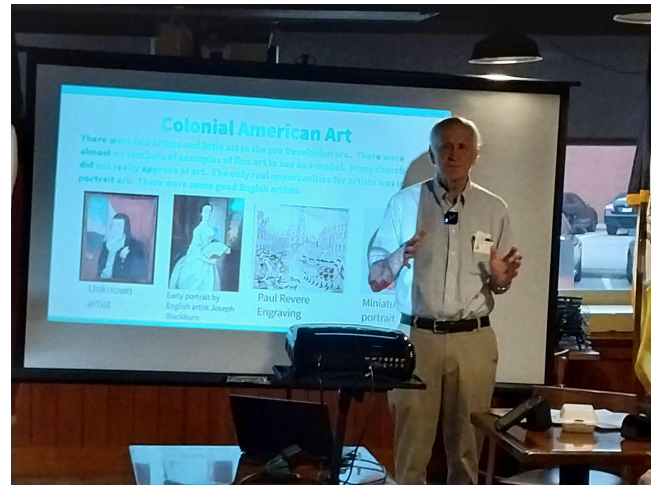
Compatriot Carey discusses the events surrounding the Battle of Bunker Hill, fought on 17 June, 1775.

The Featured Speaker Presentation

“Art and Artists of the American Revolution”

Presented by Duane Carter, Registrar

Duane discusses the content of art during the American Revolution and the artists that produced it.



New Members

Presented by Bob Johns, President

New Members

Thomas M Alderman - David Alderman - NC
MIL

Color Guard Report

Presented by Major Dave Fautheree, Color Guard Commander

Commander Fautheree provides the current and upcoming Color Guard events report.



JROTC Report

Presented by Ron Carey, Sgt at Arms

Compatriot Carey reports on the presentation of JROTC Awards to the perspective High School candidates.

Veterans Report

Presented by BJ Bjorklund, VP Veterans Affairs

Compatriot Bjorklund provides current and upcoming Veterans information.



Compatriot Awards and Recognitions

Presented by Bob Johns, President

**President Bob Johns awards the
War Service Medal to BJ
Bjorklund, VP of Veterans Affairs**



**President Bob Johns awards the
Silver and Bronze Galvez Medals to
Major Dave Fautheree, Color
Guard Commander**

**President Bob Johns awards
the Bronze 250th
Anniversary Medal to Ronald
Carey, Sgt at Arms**



Current/Other/New Business

Presented by Bob Johns, President

The Benediction: Offered by Rocky Miller, Chaplin



The Adjournment/Recessional:

The Meeting is adjourned by Bob Johns, President at 8:00pm

"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.:"

Respectfully Submitted,

Randall Bush
Secretary
Plano Chapter #37
Texas Society
Sons of the American Revolution

