



Robert Rankin Chapter #62
Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution
The Rankin Register



Year 5, Issue 52

Special Board of Managers Issue, part two

October 2010

The Luncheon to Honor Firefighters

Fall Board of Managers' Meeting, October 30, 2010, Houston Texas



Front row: Patrick Kerr, Mark Kitson, Adam Carlin, Henry C. Mendez, Doyle Veneralla, Gerald Koennig, Anastacio Urbina, George Dersheimer (standing).

Back row: Theron McLaren, Thomas McCormick, Raymond Cox, Blake Stilwell, Bobby Smith, George Brock, TXXSAR President James T. Jones Jr., NSSAR Past President Judge Edward F. Butler Sr., David Padovan, City of Katy Mayor Pro Tem H.M. "Hank" Schmidt, Russell Dart, Gustave Mistrot and Thomas I. Jackson.



From left to right, Rankin Flag chairman Theron McLaren, CyFair VFD District Fire Chief Doyle Veneralla, Rankin President Bobby Smith, and Houston Fire Department Firefighter Blake Stilwell.

Bobby has presented both Doyle and Blake with their Fire Safety Commendation Medals and Certificates while Theron prepares to give each firefighter a Flag Certificate issued to his respective Fire Station.

At the head table from left to right are Past President General Ed Butler, Mayor Pro Tem Hank Schmidt, and Past TXXSAR President Harry Fife.

Editor's Note: The Fall BOM, hosted by the Rankin Chapter, was such a big event it demanded a double issue! Enjoy!

More Recognitions ...



Piney Woods President and TXSSAR District 8 Vice President Raymond Cox (center) proudly recognizes Firefighter Adam Carlin (left) with the presentation of the Fire Safety Commendation Medal and Certificate. Tom Jackson (right) is reading the commendation for Mr. Carlin.

Accompanying Mr. Carlin to the luncheon was his wife, Kay, and children, Marissa, Seth, and Adam Jr. Adam has been with the Willowfork Fire Department since its inception in 2003 and currently serves as a shift Captain. He is an Arson Investigator with the Rosenberg Fire Marshal's Office. Certifications earned by Adam include among others, Master Fire Inspector, Hazardous Materials Technician, Master Structural Fire Fighter, and a Master Peace Officer Certification.

At the head table, from left to right are TXSSAR officers: Past President Harry Fife, President-Elect Bill Marrs, Treasurer Peter McClellan, and Chancellor Henry J. Voegtle, III.



Cradle of Texas Compatriot Russell Dart (center) makes the presentation of the EMS Commendation Medal to Henry Mendez, left, and the Fire Safety Commendation Medal to Gerald Koennig, right, as Tom Jackson (far right) narrates the commendation.

Gerald Koennig, accompanied by his wife of almost 40 years, Pamela, has been Fire Chief of the Clute, Texas VFD for 14 years and has been in Fire Service for over 33 years. He holds various certifications in EMS and Fire Service and has been an instructor in Fire Safety for many years. He has been a volunteer police officer in addition to being a charter member of the Clute EMS where he was an EMT-B for 8 years.

Henry C. Mendez is an Emergency Medical Technician with Sweeny Hospital in Sweeny, Texas and with the Lake Jackson EMS Department. Henry is a leader in EMS instruction including 11 years as an instructor in that field at Brazosport College, teaching stints at Texas A&M and Lamar University, and various fire departments and schools throughout the area. He is also a certified Instructor for Emergency Vehicle Operations for both Fire and EMS. He has been a member of the Lake Jackson Emergency Medical Services, Inc. Board of Directors for 7 years. Henry was accompanied by his wife Roni.



Firefighter Mark Kitson (right) receives the Fire Safety Commendation medal from Alexander Hodge President-Elect Tom McCormick (left). Mark's wife Valerie, and his two children, Madison and Ryan joined him at the luncheon. Mr. Kitson, a firefighter for nine years with the Missouri City Fire and Rescue. He has been part time with the Willowfork Fire Department for seven years. He is involved with fire safety and prevention in Missouri City through the Firehouse Clown Program and holds numerous state certifications in his field.

And still more Recognitions...

In the photo to the right, Anastacio Urbina, Jr. is to receive the Fire Safety medal and certificate from George Dersheimer of the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter. Accompanying Mr. Urbina to the luncheon were his wife, Marsha Urbina and his daughter, Asseneth. Firefighter Urbina has been a member of the Galveston Fire Department for 12 years. In 2003 he was selected Firefighter of the Year. He received the Fire Chief's Award in 2006 and was the 100 Club selection for the Firefighter of the Year Award in 2008. Russell Dart is seated at the table while Tom Jackson is at the microphone reading the commendation.



George Brock (left), President of the Paul Carrington Chapter, proudly recognized David Padovan (right) with the presentation of the Fire Safety Commendation Medal and Certificate.

David joined the Cy Fair Volunteer Fire Department in 2000. Among his other duties, he is the public information officer responsible for the design and implementation of the CFVD recruiting program. In addition, he was instrumental in the creation, development, and organization of the annual Fire Fest, which is open to the public for their education in fire safety.

The Carrington Chapter also presented David with a Flag Certificate in the name of CF VFD Station No. 3.

In the photo to the right, from left to right, is TXSSAR Newsletter Editor and Historian Larry Stevens, Gus Mistrot and Bernice Mistrot.

Gus was the Coordinator for the Fire Fighters' Luncheon and spent approximately sixty hours in the planning of the event.

In his capacity as coordinator, he interfaced with compatriots from the various chapters as well as the Firefighters themselves when necessary. Gus assisted Tom Jackson with obtaining the Commendation information. Gus and Bernice also conducted a pre-luncheon walkthrough with Tom Jackson and the Hilton management.



Our Luncheon Speaker, Mayor Pro Tem Hank Schmidt



From left to right at the head table are TXSSAR President Jim Jones, Katy Mayor Pro Tem Hank Schmidt, and past TXSSAR President Harry Fife.

Compatriot Jackson introducing the luncheon speaker said, "Hank Schmidt is a Scion of Katy, where he has been a resident for 42 years. In addition to that which you can read about him on your luncheon program I would add that he is a Past Board Member of the Katy Chamber of Commerce and Past President of the Katy Rotary Club. He has been a former Chairman of Wood Creek Reserve Municipal Utility District, former Chairman of the Board of Directors of Villages of the Katy Development District and he was named the Greater Katy Area Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year for the year 2000."



As an honorarium for his role as main speaker for the luncheon, Schmidt is given a print of the "Birth of Freedom" watercolor. This was signed and numbered by the artist Dr. James Johnson, Jr. Rankin Color Guard Commander Patrick Kerr presents the painting to Mr. Schmidt. Rankin Compatriot Jackson commissioned the painting for the Fall BOM.



Vice President Steve Tanner of the Rankin Chapter presents Hank with a Bronze Good Citizenship Medal with Certificate for his outstanding contributions to the City of Katy. Hank also receives the Speaker COA and SAR coffee mug from Stephen. Past TXSSAR President Harry Fife listens.

Editor's Note: The recognition of the Speaker with a COA and coffee mug is a Rankin tradition first implemented by Kelly McBride.

It is based upon action taken by the NSSAR during the late 1890s, recorded in their minutes, to recognize the evening speaker (a member of the DAR) with a silver engraved cup and written note of acknowledgement. The Rankin Chapter continues this tradition with every speaker, although with the price of silver, the cup is ceramic. Previously, the Chapter awarded penand pencil sets.



Chatting after the luncheon are Ash Jackson (left) and Ralph Aniol (left). Ash helped with registration and Ralph handled publicity for the evening banquet.

Registration!



In the photo at the left, Steve Tanner is at the desk while Fred Jackson is behind him. Tom Jackson, Chairman of the Fall BOM Host Committee, is pictured above pointing the way to the Hospitality Room to road weary Compatriots and Guests. The registration table is shown to the rear.

Stephen Tanner was the Registrar and Treasurer for the BOM. In this capacity, he interfaced with the State Treasurer for those Compatriots who paid via Pay Pal in addition to those Compatriots who preferred snail mail. Seventy-six compatriots registered, while eighty-three individuals attended the luncheon and one hundred fifteen were present for the evening banquet. As registrar, Stephen contributed over eighty hours prior to the event and three very long days during the event. Helping at the registration desk were Ash Jackson, Allen Greene, Tom Jackson, and Fred Jackson.

As registrar he accompanied Tom Jackson on a final walk through of the Hilton before the event as well as the settlement meeting on the following Tuesday.

Name tags and table name tents were the responsibility of Rankin Friends Marti and Alex Thorne. When they were called away, Stephen and Tom stepped up to complete the tasks.

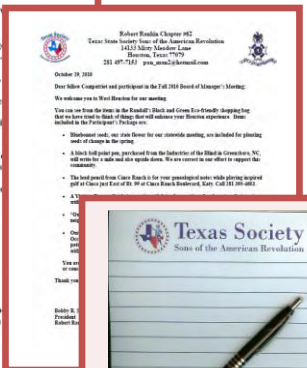
Fred Jackson was in charge of the "Welcome Bags" for Compatriots. Working within a budget, he chose the content and drafted the welcome letter. He and his wife Brenda completed the first phase of assembly work, aided by Theron and Olga McLaren.

The second phase occurred on Friday, October 29, as Fred led Rankin Compatriots Allen Greene, Allan Henshaw, Tom Jackson, Ash Jackson, and David Jones in stuffing imaginative items into the welcome bags, donated by Randalls Food Stores.

Pictured to the right are just some of the extras placed into the welcome bag.

EVENTS OCCURRING THE LAST 3 DAYS OF OCTOBER DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

- 1774 Late October: The first battle of the War is fought in Point Pleasant, Virginia. Indians and Canadians are driven away from the fort.
 - 1775 30th In Longsight, Quebec, American Col. Seth Warner repulsed a large force of Canadians and Indians. The enemy suffered heavy losses.
 - 1776 29th British ships bombarded Fort Lee, NJ. Land forces also attacked.
 - 1776 29th At White Plains, NY, General Howe led 8000 British and 5000 Ge against an equal number of militia and regulars under General Washington. Despite prevailing, General Howe withdrew to heavily fortified New York City.
 - 1777 30th The first British prisoners of war from the very important Ameri Saratoga, NY reach Boston Harbor and the prison on Governor's
 - 1777 31st At Palmer's Fort, Elgonter Valley, PA, Ens. Wood's militia was r by a force of Indians and Canadians.
 - 1778 29th On Narragansett Bay, RI, Mr. R. I. Hawke under Major Silas Talbot and a mixed crew of soldiers and sailors captured HMS Pigot and her crew of 45.
 - 1778 31st A British force from NY landed at Amboy, NJ, marched on Brunswick and pillaged. On returning to Amboy, a local militia engaged with casualties of 4 killed and 6 captured.
 - 1779 29th At Fox Island, Pendseet Bay, ME, Capt. Mowat and crew memb Albany went ashore and were fired upon by militia with 2 British
 - 1780 31st At Tearcoat Swamp, Black River, SC, Col. Francis Marion with 150 men routed some Loyalists under Col. Samuel Tynes.
 - 1781 29th The French fleet departs from the harbor at Yorktown, VA after the British surrender to General Washington on October 19th.
 - 1781 30th Col. Marius Willsett caught up with about 600 British regulars, led by Col. John Ross near W. Canada Creek, Jerseyfield, NY. The British enemy had 13 killed including Major Walter Butler.
 - 1782 29th The first draft of ask for immediate United States of
 - 1783 31st British forces an last British troop
- The Robert Rankin Chapter October.



Selling the event

Board of Managers Meeting
October 30, 31, 2010

Warrior Brand Rifle
50 caliber Hawken .50 caliber black powder musket and one .50 caliber black powder pistol


Now is the Time to be Fired Up for the October 2010 BOM Meeting

Hilton Houston Westchase
9999 Westheimer Road, Houston, TX 77042
713-974-1000, Room Rate: \$89 per night, TXSSAR discounts

Saturday Luncheon, Back to Basics, Focus on Firmman/EMO Recognition

Privately hosted by The Robert Rankin Chapter. For Questions please contact General: email Tom Jackson, phone: jackson3841@bellsouth.net
Registration: email Steve Tanner, stvntan@bellsouth.net
Ladies Auxiliary: email Ed Rouse, wrausa@hcc.com

Fall Board of Managers Meeting
Robert Rankin Chapter
Privately Announces the Speaker for the Evening Banquet
October 30, 2010



Dr. Robert Ivany
President
University of St. Thomas

- Eighth president of the University of St. Thomas
- Retired with the rank of Major General, U.S.A.
- Presided over U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, PA for three years
- Army Aide to the President of the United States
- Assistant professor of history and football coach at the Military Academy at West Point
- Past Commanding General of the Military District of Washington
- Graduate of Science degree from the U.S. Military Academy
- Ph.D. in History from the University of Wisconsin in Madison
- Recipient of George Washington Award for Distinguished Service From the Sons of the American Revolution

See TXSSAR Web Site for Registration Form

Fall Board of Managers Meeting
Saturday evening, October 30, 2010
Featuring the music of

Charlie Prause
renowned pianist, trumpet player and jazz band leader

presented by
Robert Rankin Chapter

Come for the music... Stay for the Meetings

See TXSSAR Web Site for Registration Form

TXSSAR Fall 2010 BOM

Patriots Fund Raffle

Support our Patriots Fund and have an opportunity to win the beautiful Hawken .50 caliber black powder musket and one .50 caliber black powder pistol.




Raffle Tickets: \$5 each, packet of 5 for \$20

Purchase through the registration process
Or contact David Jones: 5hnsfga@att.net

Especially For the Ladies
October 30, Saturday Morning - Houston - Fall BOM

THE FORBIDDEN GARDENS



Forbidden Gardens invites you back to time to experience some of the most significant historic and cultural sites in China today. As home to one of the most ancient civilizations in world, many of its historical sites are considered to be among the world's wonders. Here you are offered a chance to visit two of these historic sites, without ever leaving home Texas.

Forbidden Gardens is open to the General Public Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at 10:00AM. Sessions (over 60) \$1; Adults \$10.

Or the Magnificent

Barrow Bend

The Ira Hogg house was designed in an eclectic style with architectural elements reminiscent of 18th century Georgian, Spanish Creole, and Southern Plantation. Architect John H. Spack, with collaboration from Mr. Hogg, designed the house which was built in the 1890's.

Open: Friday January 20, 2010 9 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. 40-minute tours offered every 15 minutes
Admission \$10 Adults \$8.50 senior adults (65+) and college students with ID
Guided tours: of the house are for ages 10 and over. Children 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Children under the age of 10, including babies, are NOT admitted into the house for Guided tours.

See TXSSAR Website for Registration & Information

The Ed and Tom Show at the BOM
5 to 6 p.m. October 29th

How did they do it? Research, write and publish books about their families? They will share what they learned and they will entertain you for a BOM hour you won't want to miss. **Wives are invited!** You wave your arm for questions, let her take notes.

Just don't get in a shooting match with Ed and Tom. Ed Butler holds the Air Force Small Arms Marksmanship Medal and both US Navy Expert Pistol, Shot and Rifle Shot Medals. Tom Meinecke has the Air Force Rifle Marksmanship Medal.

They are long-time SAR members. Ed since 1966, Tom 1997. Both have Tennessee connections. Judge Butler graduated from Vanderbilt School of Law. "I first wore judicial robes as a juvenile Court Judge in Memphis." And he went to high school with Elvis. "We played in the same band." Tom recently held a Grave Marker Ceremony for a Tennessee ancestor.

Judge Ed Butler is, of course, immediate past president of the NSSAR. He is a Perpetual Life Member, has been SAR Ambassador to Mexico, SAR Genealogist General and Chancellor General. He has written two law books, a State Department Guide to Australia and an award-winning book on the Butler family. And many, many articles.

Tom Meinecke is a UT graduate and past president of the Alexander Hodge Chapter. He has degrees from SMU's Southern Graduate School of Banking, and the U of Oklahoma National Commercial Lending School. For most of a generation, Tom was the go-to man in Houston banking circles. When a bank was failing, had opened shakily, needed a boost, his phone would ring. He logged his last 17 years in Houston business as an A-list Houston financial advisor.

Both are world travelers, which has also led to publications, but don't get them off the subject: **It's how they researched, wrote, published, etc.**

The Top Ten Reasons
TXSSAR Fall Board of Managers Meeting

When: October 29, 30, 31

Where: Houston Hilton Westchase
9999 Westheimer Road, Houston, Texas, United States 77042-3800
Tel: 1-713-974-1000 Fax: 1-713-974-8866
Rooms are \$89 per night, plus tax, and must be booked prior to Monday, October 18, 2010.
Rooms are limited. If reservations are made by phone, use code SONSOQ.

Who: Compatriots & their guests, especially for Our Best Members

How: Register online or fill out the attached registration form

Why:

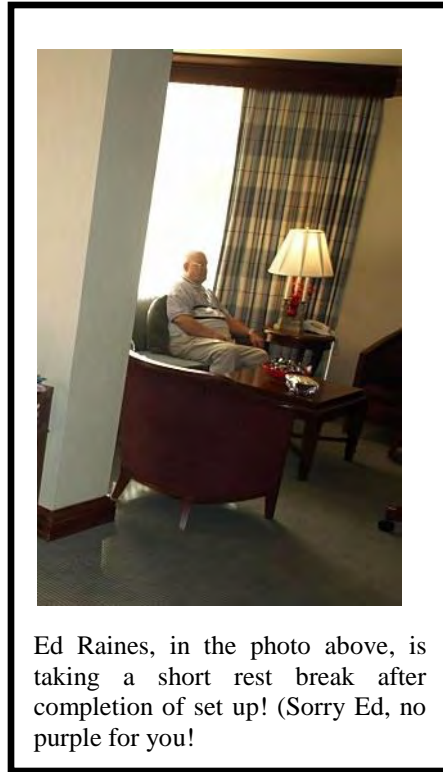
- 1) Obtain valuable insight into the workings of the State Society
- 2) Exchange ideas with members of other chapters
- 3) Participate in committee meetings
- 4) Attend the Friday evening panel of distinguished authors
- 5) Enjoy a "firefighters lunch" on Saturday
- 6) Enjoy a good meal Saturday night, set back and listen to a retired Major General
- 7) Reunite with friends and make new ones
- 8) Potentially win a door prize
- 9) Enter the Patriots Fund Raffle: \$5 each, packet of 5 for \$20
Prize: One Hawken .50 caliber black powder musket and one .50 caliber black powder pistol
- 10) Just for the fun of it!

From the perspective of the host chapter, a measure of the success of a BOM is the degree of participation of Compatriots and their guests through registration and attendance at the luncheon and evening banquet. A decision was made to advertise the event with broadsides developed by *Tom Jackson* with photos by *Stephen Tanner* and distributed by *Bob Cohen* through the Da Da mailer system implemented by *Ray Cox*. *Ray* also posted the broadsides on the state website and *Stephen Tanner* sent out emails to Chapter Presidents by pulling emails off the state membership list. *Tom* and *Stephen* also used that old device called a telephone and called members of the Chapter in addition to State officials to exhort Compatriots to attend. *Doc Rice* even got into the effort by writing a broadside to publicize the Friday night symposium.

Hospitality & the Ladies



All smiles and awaiting to welcome Compatriots and ladies to the hospitality room are (from left to right) Gail Raines, Carol Howard, a member of the Ladies Auxiliary, and Linda Edwards, President of the Ladies Auxiliary.



Ed Raines, in the photo above, is taking a short rest break after completion of set up! (Sorry Ed, no purple for you!



Ed and Gail Raines were in charge of the Hospitality room and events for the Ladies. They were joined by Gail's sister, Carol Howard, in completion of the task. Together the three of them purchased decorations and food totaling just over three hundred dollars and collectively spent ninety hours in the process!

The ladies were provided a choice of touring the Forbidden Gardens or Bayou Bend prior to joining together for lunch. Almost all of the ladies selected the Forbidden Gardens and Rankin Ladies Debbie Henshaw, Brenda Jackson and Gail Raines joined Ed Raines as the drivers for the tour. Appreciative comments abounded from both Compatriots and their Ladies! Communication, communication, and more communication occurred between the Ladies and the Chapter. Rankin Host Chairman Tom Jackson met with Linda Edwards, President of the Ladies Auxiliary, and the Auxiliary members during the state convention in March to present ideas and to obtain feedback. Of the choices offered, the Ladies picked a Forbidden Garden Tour and a guest speaker. The latter never materialized. Stephen Tanner and Tom Jackson met with the ladies once again at the summer BOM in Austin to reconfirm the tour idea and to troubleshoot. Ed Raines stayed in communication during the fall as well.

The Raffle and the Silent Auction



Rankin Chapter Past President David Jones (left) and in charge of the Patriot Fund Raffle is trying to convince Bernardo de Galvez Chapter Compatriot George Dersheimer to buy more raffle tickets.



Patrick and Sylvia Kerr were in charge of the Silent Auction for the Fall BOM. Proceeds from the silent auction went to benefit the various goals of the Chapter. The majority of items sold during the auction were donated by the Kerrs.

Pat and Sylvia were also responsible for the creation and procurement of the door prizes, which were awarded throughout the event to the merriment and enjoyment of all. The Kerrs also donated the door prizes to the Chapter for use during the BOM. Pat and Sylvia spent over ninety hours related to the silent auction and door prizes!

The silent auction netted just over \$900 for the benefit of the Chapter.



Compatriot David Jones turned a pair of ten-hour days at the Katy Rice Festival, as guests of the Katy VFW Post, selling raffle tickets. Patrick Kerr (above holding the rifle) and Stephen Tanner each spent a day assisting David. The effort grossed over \$1,600.



To the left is shown the beautiful Hawken .50 caliber black powder musket and .50 caliber black powder pistol. Both the rifle and pistol were purchased by Compatriot Jones and contributed to the Rankin Chapter.

Compatriot Kerr assembled and polished the rifle!

Tickets were \$5 each and a packet of five for \$20. The raffle netted enough for the Chapter to donate approximately \$2,100 to the Patriot Fund and an additional \$500 to the National Endowment Fund as part of the Chapter Challenge.