

Robert Rankin Chapter #62

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

The Rankin Ramrod

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Annual Report 2005

by Gus Mistrot, Past President (2005-2006)

During calendar year 2005, Robert Rankin Chapter welcomed three new members, David Jones, Alan Valle, and Dominick Valle; and one transfer member, Allan Greene. Regrettably, two compatriots, Lee Bryant and William Hall, died in 2005.

The Chapter continued its extensive involvement in youth-oriented programs. We awarded 4 bronze ROTC medals, gave out 31 Eagle Scout certificates, had 63 essays entered in the George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest, solicited posters in the James Looney Poster Contest from 19 Katy ISD elementary schools, and received 250 poster entries.

The Chapter formed a Color Guard in 2005, which although modest in size, regularly posted the colors at Chapter meetings. The Color Guard and other chapter members participated in Colonial Flag Programs at over 20 schools and other organizations.

Five members of the Chapter attended the 111th Annual TXSSAR Convention in Sugar Land, March 17-19. The Chapter was recognized in several ways. Ed and Gail Raines were awarded Good Citizenship medals by the State Society for their enthusiastic and extensive involvement in

the Flag Programs. Stephanie Bishop, sponsored by Robert Rankin Chapter in the Knight Essay Contest, took third place in the state finals.

Our most important recognition was being named Outstanding Chapter for 2005 among the 30 chapters with 39 members or less. To put this into perspective, out of the 49 active chapters in Texas, we were one of 11 with entries in the poster contest, 8 with entries in the essay contest and 9 with entries in the yearbook contest.

It my pleasure to take this opportunity to thank the officers and members of Robert Rankin Chapter for their dedication and work that made 2005 the successful year that it was. My job as President was easy because of the many capable members who efficiently administered the various programs. I am confident that 2006 will be an even better year than 2005.

Our March Meeting

Incoming State President Tom Green spoke on the goals of the organization – Educational, Historic, and Patriotic – with emphasis upon youth oriented programs. A pledge card was distributed to all present to reaffirm their dedication to the goals of the Society. He also provided an educational program on the Battle of Lindley's Mill.

Upcoming Events

April 5, 10:30 a.m. – Colonial Flag Program, Westside HS, 14201 Briar Forest Drive
For more details, please contact Ed Raines at 281 693-7203.

April 12, 6:30 p.m. – Business Meeting at IHOP

May 10, 6:30 p.m. – Social Meeting at King Fish Market, Speaker: Marc Koeppinger,
Team Leader, Special Forces Reaction Team in Afghanistan and Iraq

Member Spotlight



**Edwin Lee Raines,
First President,
Robert Rankin Chapter
April 2002 to
February 2004**

Personal: Born in 1940 in Seminole, Oklahoma. He is an Eagle Scout and was married to Gail Anderson in 1961. Ed and Gail have one daughter and three grandchildren.

Educational: Graduated high school, Bellaire HS in 1957. Both Ed and Gail graduated from Rice University in 1961. While he was earning his BS in German, Ed was active in the Naval ROTC.

Military: Ensign, Ltjg, Lt in U.S. Navy from 1961-1965 on *USS Borie* (DD704) and *USS Montrail* (APA213). Participated in Cuban Crisis in 1963 and surfaced a Russian submarine while on blockade patrol during the crisis. Discharged into the Naval Reserve in 1965.

Professional: Worked for SW Bell Telephone Company (1965-1971), Arcata Communications (1971-1975), Occidental Petroleum Company (1975-1979). Founded

HIS Communications Services, Inc. in 1979 until present. HIS Communications employs 15 technicians and provides telecommunications support and services to larger companies. Within the last year, HIS added IP telephony to the services that they provide. In addition, they are Cisco Premier Partners, Small/Medium Business Specialists, and IP Telecommunications Specialists. HIS promotes and represents Cisco Systems and Covad Communications in the SMB marketplace. Gail remains active in the business as well.

Genealogical: Ed holds a dual chapter membership with Alexander Hodge and has held various positions with the Robert Rankin Chapter. He started and is currently the chair of the poster contest and the essay contest. The first yearbook of the chapter was prepared by Ed. He has served as the chapter genealogist and is currently the chapter registrar. He is active in the flag programs and the ROTC recognition as well. At the 2006 State convention in Texas, Ed and Gail both received the Texas Bronze Good Citizenship Medal for participation in the Flag Programs. The Chapter previously bestowed the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal on Ed for his efforts in organizing the Chapter. He was the recipient of the Liberty medal from National for being the sponsor of 10 new members. The War Service Medal was awarded to Ed by the Chapter as well.

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