



Robert Rankin Chapter #62

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

The Rankin Register



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The President's Corner

by Stephen Tanner, President (2011-2012)
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For the first time in the history of the Robert Rankin Chapter, we had not one but two Compatriots attend a National Convention. The 121st Annual Congress of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was held July 9 through July 13 at the Benson Convention Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

There were many highlights of my first national convention; however, the banquet where the top awards that a chapter may earn has to take the top spot. The Robert Rankin Chapter earned the President

General Activities Award, President General's Cup Award, and Compatriot Thomas Jackson were awarded the Carl Bessent Award for most outstanding Chapter newsletter. The **President General's Award** recognizes chapters for their efforts to achieve the administrative goals of the SAR and who contribute to the success of the NSSAR. The **Americanism Award (Liberty Bell Award)** for chapters) recognizes the societies and chapters that participate in outreach education efforts and who acknowledge community leaders for their efforts to perpetuate the goals of the SAR. The **President General's Cup** recognizes the chapter that best achieves the goals of both the President General's and Americanism Awards.

Well done Compatriots!



The Texas delegation gathers for a group photo at the annual congress. Compatriot Stephen Tanner is in his formal kilt on the second row on the far right. How many other members do you know?

*Robert Rankin
National Accolades*



Rankin President Stephen Tanner appears in each of these photos wearing a white dinner jacket and a red, white, and blue tie. TXSSAR

Past President Jim Jones is in a black tuxedo, while President General J. David Sympson wears a dinner jacket.



In the top photo the Rankin Chapter has been awarded the President General Activities Award, in the middle photo the Chapter has received the President General's Cup Award, and in the bottom photo Thomas Jackson was awarded the Carl Bessent Award for most outstanding Chapter newsletter.



*Reflections from
NSSAR Annual Conference
By Allen Greene*

I was my privilege to attend the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution's annual conference in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The southern charm of this city and its citizens was very evident from check-in to checkout. The first thing that struck me was the number of compatriots that attended and the variety of uniforms that they were wore. There was an immediate camaraderie with everyone I met and all were quick to engage in conversation. I was not there 30 minutes before I ran into Tom Green; he was everywhere.

In the first meeting when we recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, I was struck by the strength, conviction and volume of our pledge. Then when we sang the Star-Spangled Banner the entire auditorium reverberated from our voices. Great things happened throughout the meeting. The youth awards luncheon was truly a standout. The induction of the new Minutemen included a reading of the many accomplishments these men have made. Nevertheless, the **highlight of the convention was to hear Robert Rankin Chapter announced so many times for so many awards including Best Chapter in the United States.**

Stephen and I were invited to several meals for Texans Compatriots. It was a great opportunity to get to know some of our Texas members better. It was also a great chance for me to be reacquainted with good, old southern cooking.

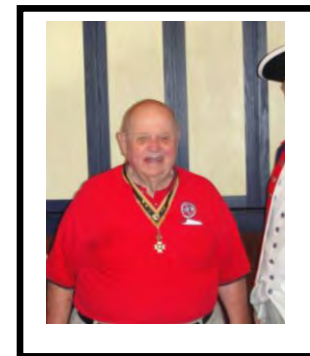
Stephen and I were also invited to several different hospitality suites where we made several new friends. California had by far the best suite because they seemed to have an endless supply of Napa Valley wines.

The Memorial service on Sunday morning was held at a Baptist Church less than two

blocks from the hotel. The Memorial service was of course for all our compatriots who had passed away during the year. The list was much too long.

What a sight it was to see the Color Guard with many different flags, lead the walk from the hotel to the church. The church was built in the early 1900's and had a round sanctuary with a domed ceiling and a balcony that circled three-quarters of the sanctuary. The first time I heard our compatriots sing the Star-Spangled Banner, the hairs on my neck stood up. However, nothing prepared me for hearing it in that old Baptist Church. For me it was the most moving experience of the conference.

**Stephen Tanner
in his formal kilt at
the National
Convention.**



**Donald Wagner Pugh
1931 - 2011**

Donald Pugh, of Lake Jackson, passed away August 29, 2011. He was born June 25, 1931, in Houston. Donald was a graduate of Reagan High School in Houston and graduated from North Texas University. He received his Doctorate from the University of Texas.

He started the music program at Brazosport College and was active at the highest levels of UIL. In 1975, he became the Academic Dean for the college and retired from the college after 25 years of service.

Donald was a longtime member of Sons of the American Revolution and Sons of the Republic of Texas, to promote patriotism and education of the children of Texas. He was also a Mason for over 50 years. He was a good friend to the Robert Rankin Chapter.

Highlights of the Board of Managers Meeting, Conroe, July 29-31, 2011



After the Banquet, Compatriot & Mrs. David Hall were able to position the Liberty Bell at the Hotel entrance. TXSSAR President Bill Marris is shown in the photo above ringing the bell.



At the dinner we were treated to Matt Stiner (in the photo above), Director of Development and Outreach for Veterans Justice Outreach, a division of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals.



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

*We announce the Best of the Best of the Best!
The Rankin Chapter was judged the Best
Chapter in the U.S.*

*From left to right in the photo are Jim Jones,
Stephen Tanner, Allan Henshaw, Allen
Greene, Tom Jackson, and Ray Cox.*



At the luncheon, we were treated to Judge David Hittner as our speaker. Hittner, shown above dressed in BSA attire, was a federal judge on the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas. President Ronald Reagan nominated Hittner on April 22, 1986. In the photo above, from left to right, appear Hittner, Charles Luna, and Bill Marris.