



The Rankin Register

Edition 2025 – 11/12

November/December- 2025

In Memory of "Ginny" Evans



Virginia "Ginny" Evans passed away on October 22. Ginny loved children and spent many years visiting elementary schools across the state playing "Betsy Ross" and teaching children the history of the American Flag with the Robert Rankin chapter of the National Society of the American Revolution. Ginny was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Medal for Youth Education becoming only one of three women to ever receive this award from SAR. She was the past Regent of the Tejas Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Daughters of Texas.



For the last 10 years, Ginny was involved with the Wreaths Across American at Woodlawn Cemetery – ensuring sponsors were contacted and scheduled. Every year, she would speak to the audience to make sure they understood the history and relevance of the program.

We will miss her.

Induction of New Member

Past president Alex Thone presents the membership certificate to William Carl Glaw. His membership was approved in 2024, but he has been unable to attend a meeting to receive his installation. His son Austin Reed Glaw also received his membership in 2024, but he lives in Bryan and was unable to receive his certificate. Compatriot William was given Austin's certificate to present. William is the Founder and Managing Partner of GLO CPAs, LLP accounting firm in Houston.



Chapter Officers

Tom Jackson

Interim President
Longhorntij@yahoo.com

Wayne (Chip) Spivey

Vice-President
Chipspivey@aol.com

Steven Veters

Secretary
Sveters@comcast.net

Billy Sorrells

Treasurer
Billinda77389@yahoo.com

Ralph Reed

Color Guard Captain
Reed10910@comcast.net

Don Andress

Chaplin
Beau606@gmail.com

The Mission of the SAR

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.

Editor-in-Chief

Jerry D. Martin, M.Ed.
Send articles and photos to:
Newsletter.Rankin.sar@gmail.com

CHAPTER EVENTS

Monthly Meeting

Sugar Creek BBQ
Jan. 14 - 6:30 pm

Stars and Stripes CAR

VFW Hall - Katy
Jan. 25 – 3:00 pm

Monthly Meeting

Sugar Creek BBQ
Feb. 11 – 6:30 pm

Stars and Stripes CAR

VFW Hall - Katy
Feb. 22 – 3:00 pm

American 250 – Patriots Marker

Thomas Park - Katy
10:30 am

Monthly Meeting

Sugar Creek BBQ
Mar. 11 – 6:30 pm



Stars and Stripes Society

Invites you

“Texas Native Americans during Pilgrim Times”



Katy, TX

Veterans Day Recognition at Hutsell Elementary School in Katy

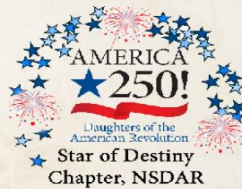
At Hutsell Elementary School in Katy, Texas, Thursday, November 6th, 2025. The School provided a BBQ dinner for the Veterans and spouses followed by a Veterans Day Recognition program with the School



Principal, Ms. Shaunta Smith, and her staff. The students sang patriotic songs, and each branch of the service was recognized. It



was a very nice program as I stood representing the USAF and my military service being among many Veterans. Provided by Ralph Reed.



You are cordially invited to the dedication of an **America 250! Patriots Marker** honoring Revolutionary War patriots.

In celebration of **Katy's 130th Anniversary on January 23, 2026**, the ceremony will also recognize the city's founders and their Revolutionary War patriots.

James Oliver Thomas • Reuben Merritt Cash • Louis Charles Luckel with **Adam Stockdick**, helped bring families to Katy and shape the town.

Saturday, March 7, 2026

10:30 AM

Dedication Ceremony — Thomas Park, 5919 4th St., Katy, TX 77493 (parking available on 3rd St. and at Katy City Hall, across Avenue D)

Reception after— Stockdick House, Katy Heritage Park, 5990 George Bush Dr., Katy, TX 77493

Hosted by **Star of Destiny Chapter, NSDAR, Katy, TX.**

Before the event, take a few minutes to get ready for the fun! Visit **FamilySearch.org** to create or update your family tree, then download the free **FamilySearch Tree app**, and sign in. To use Relatives Around Me, you will need to give the app permission to use location services. That way, you'll be all set to use the “**Relatives Around Me**” feature to instantly discover who at the event might be your cousin!

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/united-states/>



The SAR 2030 5-year Operational Plan

The SAR 2030 5-year Operational Plan is a framework or roadmap for the state societies, committees, and national leadership to implement programs that will accomplish stated goals and objectives. The plan covers a variety of areas of note within SAR. The primary areas of focus for PG Michael Elson include the following:

- **PEOPLE:**
Create and implement a digital/paperless online membership application as soon as possible but no later than 1 June 2027
- **HISTORICAL PROGRAMS:**
"Commemorate the people, events, and documents of the American Revolution by promoting and growing public engagement in our ceremonies."
- **PATRIOTIC PROGRAMS:**
Grow our Color Guard and the scope of its mission
- **EXTERNAL RELATIONS:**
"Continue to build relationships with organizations, especially the C.A.R. and DAR to enhance our common mission."
"Plan, fund, and staff assets to promote/advertise the NSSAR utilizing social media by the end of 2027"
- **INTERNAL OPERATIONS:**
"Fund and implement a fully integrated ERP system at SAR HQ with
- **SAML interface and SSO capability with access permissions coordinate with role by 2030"**
"Form a task force of relevant committees and staff to identify and prioritize IT projects by the end of 2025."

What should Rankin Chapter do?

Various Medals and Certificates were presented to Compatriots



- *SAR Military Service Medal*

This Medal and Certificate were presented by Past President Ralph Reed to:
Mark Rotter, Steve Betters, Jerry Martin, David Gillespie, and Kevin Strange.

- *SAR Military Service Certificate of Appreciation*

This certificate was presented by Harry Woodstrom to:

David Gillespie, Fred Jackson, Theron McLaren, Ralph Reed, Mark Rotter,
Jerry Martin, Billy Sorrells, Kevin Strange and Daavid Zachmeyer.

- *SAR Patriot Grave Marking Medal*



Presented by Ralph Reed to Tomas Jackson

A Compatriot may be awarded this medal for helping to honor fellow SAR members as well as those members' Patriot ancestors. A specific set criteria is required, including Having participated in at least fifteen grave marking events.



- *SAR Partners in Patriotism Award - Robert Rankin Chapter*

- *SAR Education Outreach Streamer Award – Robert Rankin Chapter*

- *SAR National Certificate of Appreciation – Communications and Marketing Committee*

Presented by Tom Jackson to: Carter Sharbrough and Jerry Martin



- *SAR National Society – Carl W. Bessent Award*
"To the editor of the most outstanding single sheet Chapter Newsletter for 2024 – 2025"

Presented by Tom Jackson to: Jerry Martin, M.Ed.



Dickens on the Strand

The Queens' Parade

In 1973 Galveston began a small festival to celebrate its' Victoria era and a festival dedicated to the English author Charles Dickens. He was born February 1812 and died June 1870 and is generally considered the greatest author of the Victorian era. Some of his more prominent novels include Oliver Twist (1838), A Christmas Carol (1843) and David Copperfiledc (1850).

The event now attracts up to 40,000 visitors with the Queens Parade an early Saturday morning feature. Rankin Compatriots Patrick Kerr and Tom Jackson first marched in the parade in December 2006 and Rankin has had a presence every year since then. The Rankin Chapter has had members marching in the parade.

You may well ask why the time frame of Dickens is appropriate for those in colonial attire to be part of the festivities. In 1864 Rev. Elias Hillard photographed the last six soldiers of the American Revolution. Perhaps more compelling is A Tale of Two Cities published in 1859 by Dickens. This novel was set in London and Paris with the event timeline starting in 1757 and ending in 1792. Of course the SAR decade of the Revolution is from 1773 to 1783.



How can you be involved?

The easiest way to participate in a parade is to acquire colonial attire, either a military uniform of the period, militia attire or even civilian duds like Ben Franklin might wear. This year another possibility exists which are "Class Bs." For the SAR this would be a shirt and cap both with SAR logo or a blazer sporting the membership pin and paired with khakis slacks. The Queens Parade this year included two in their "Class Bs!"



*An Exhibition of Flags
Forging America*

On November 20th, members of Robert Ranking Color Guard visited Nottingham Country Elementary School in Katy. They were there as part of the 5th Grade Colonial history SPICE program. The members were Tom Jackson, Ralph Reed, and Jerry Martin.



Both Tom and Ralph wore different Colonial Military Uniforms, while Jerry wore a militia costume.

The set up was for 6 groups rotating every 25 minutes with a break after the first 3. Ralph started off each group by discussing the costumes and the meaning of their coloring. Then mine as militia with the “hit and run” attacks against the British and Hessians.



Tom and Ralph would pull out a flag and either Jerry or Tom would talk about the flag such as its name and why it was important in history.



We brought about 15 different flags – starting with St. George and St. Andrew. Other flags included Ferdinand and Isabella, Bedford, Washington Command, British, Scottish, Spanish, French, and Colonial.

The children were full of questions, but we were on such a tight schedule, there wasn't time.



Origin of Veterans Day.

Compatriot Member Harry Woodstrom gave a short presentation about the creation of the Veterans Day Celebration. Originally, the important date of November 11 came about when “The Great War” or World War I officially became the date and time of cessations of hostilities between the Allied nations and Germany in 1918. Eleventh hour of the Eleventh day of the Eleventh month.

President Wilson proclaimed November 11th as the first commemoration of Armistice Day in 1919.

In 1954, President Eisenhower issued the Veterans Day Proclamation.

THE 250TH MOMENT

Fred Jackson gave this presentation starting Famous Shots in the Revolution War.

In December 1774, John Langdon led a group of militia from Portsmouth, NH to British Fort William and Mary in Newcastle, New Hampshire to grab gunpowder. With little resistance, they took about 100 barrels. The next day, they attempted to return to recover munition, cannons, and muskets. This time there was a skirmish and both sides fired muskets.

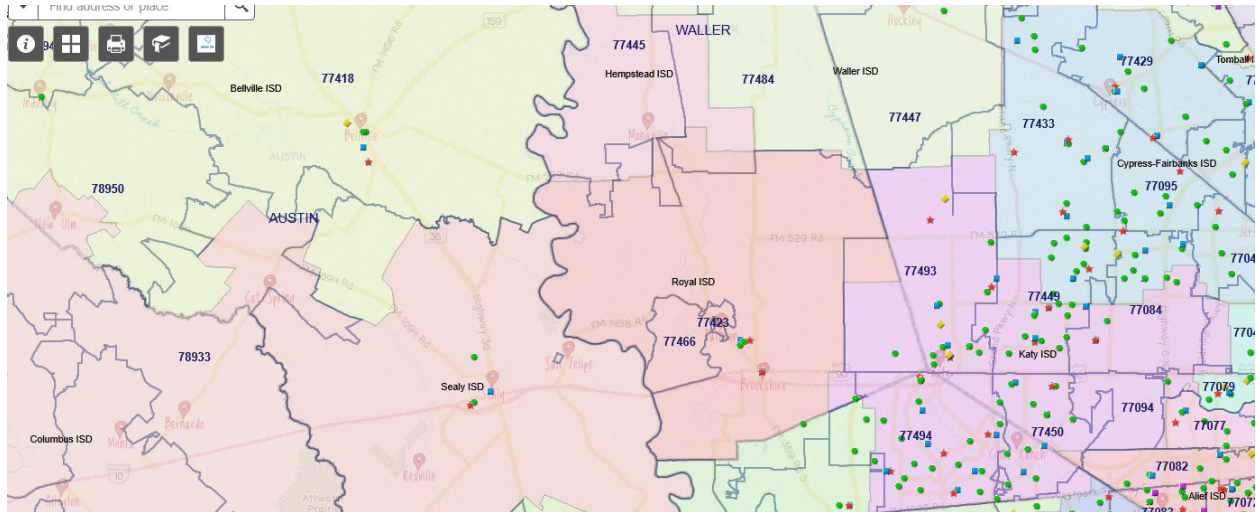
They negotiated for a while, then broke into the fort and took 15 cannons and small arms.

In a sign of defiance, the patriots lowered the Union Jack and raised their flag in the fort.

British Governor Wentworth of New Hampshire realized the Revolutionary War had indeed been started.

News from Columbus Branch

The Robert Rankin Chapter is a bit unusual in that its service area is large in terms of territory as well as population. The main chapter serves the area best described by founding President Ed Raines as West Houston. West Houston would include the school districts of Katy, Cypress-Fairbanks, Spring Branch, Alief, Aldine, Lamar Consolidated and part of HISD. Rankin has given Spring Branch to Freedom and Lanar to Hodge and all but Pin Oak to Carrington. However, it has added Waller & Royal and Columbus.



The Columbus Satellite, an hour drive, is most active including Flag Chairman David Zachmeyer, Registrar Jack Muggli and Norm Strey. Each month these three join with the DAR to present a flag certificate, ask the owner “Why do you fly the American Flag?”, craft a story & have it published in six different newspapers.



Pictured: Front- Nancy and Bob Stiles; Back from the left-Judy Zachmeyer, Glen and Nelma Strey, Connie Dittrick, Marti Herring, Donna Pustejovsky, Stephanie and Rick Mattix, and Dave Zachmeyer.

The John Everett Chapter, DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution), and the Robert Rankin Chapter #62, SAR (Sons of the American Revolution) presented Bob and Nancy Stiles, 634 Spring Street, Columbus, Texas 78934, with the American flag display Certificates for October 2025.

Bob and Nancy married and lived in Columbus for 35 years. The home they live in has 2 Historical Markers. The home was a Railroad Hospital that burned in 1876. It served as a hospital in 1892. Bob worked for Texaco and Nancy was Principal at Katy Elementary. Nancy spent 49 ½ years in education. Bob and Nancy support Columbus ISD sports and attend both home and away games. The Stiles home was on the Magnolia Tour for three years and they showed their home and promoted it. The home was a Bed & Breakfast for many years and still have one in LaGrange called the Lodge and Lake Fiesta.

Nancy has written three plays that were performed at the Opera House. She is planning another for when the remodeling is finished. Nancy also served two years as president of the Chamber of Commerce and was Woman of the

Wreaths Across America

On Saturday, December 13, 2025, the annual Wreaths Across America was celebrated at cemeteries across America. Compatriots from Robert Rankin



Chapter participated at 6 different cemeteries in 4 cities. At Woodlawn Cemetery in Spring Branch, there was Tom Jackson, Steve Vettters, and Jerry Martin.



Compatriot Harry Woodstrom participated at Katy Magnolia Cemetery, Katy Community Cemetery, and “Soldiers Rest”, a section of Lawndale Cemetery. David Zachmeyer and Sorm Strey were in Columbus at the Willing Workers Cemetery.



David, Jays, and Jackson Murrell participated in at Magnolia Cemetery in Dallas.

At Woodlawn, there were over 400 participants presenting over 1000 wreaths.



As one of the sponsors, Tom Jackson was one of the speakers

Compatriot Jerry Martin set up a table and dared



individuals to sign a copy of the declaration of Independence



David Zachmeyer is last on right

Quote – George Washington

Government is not reason; it is not eloquent; it is force. like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master. Experience has taught us that it is much easier to prevent an enemy from posting themselves than it is to dislodge them after they have got possession, and when the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.

**The 250th is here.
Will You Join Us
In Celebration?**

**July 4, 2026 will be the 250th
birthday of our country.**

**It didn't start or stop on that day,
but was a decade long process:
1773 - 1783**

america250sar.org

Memorable events 250 years ago...

- 2023 Boston Tea Party
- 2024 The First Continental Congress
- 2025 Battles of Lexington and Concord.
- 2026 Declaration of Independence
- 2027 Battle of Saratoga
- 2028 French Alliance
- 2029 Siege of Vincennes/Kettle Creek
- 2030 Battle of Kings Mountain
- 2031 Siege of Yorktown
- 2032 Battle of Blue Licks
- 2033 Treaty of Paris

Public Service, Rankin in the news Nationally and Locally

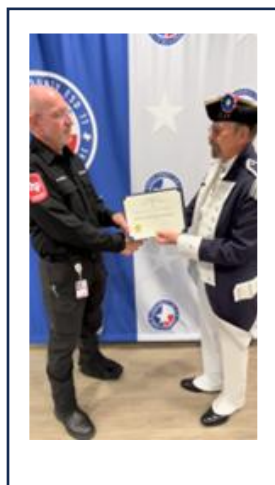
The National SAR Committee has just published their annual booklet entitled “Public Service and Heroism Commendations 2024 - 2025. This report details the medals to be awarded and the requirements. You may view the entire report on the National Web Site: Log in to SAR.org and then https://www.sar.org/app/uploads/Public_Service_and_Heroism_Commendations_Award_Recipients_2024-2025.pdf

Texas was recognized as one of the states to be singled out for special recognition. The following state societies and its chapters have presented Award Commendations to one or more recipients in each of the five categories: Georgia, Tennessee, Indiana, Texas, Missouri, Virginia, and New Mexico.

The following state societies and its chapters have presented Award Commendations to one or more recipients in the categories of EMS, Fire Safety and Law Enforcement: Florida, New Mexico, Georgia, Ohio, Indiana, Tennessee, Maryland, Texas, Missouri, and Virginia.

The top three reporting state societies were: The Virginia Society: 65, The Texas Society: 42 and The Georgia Society: 30.

Very special work by the Texas Society presenting 42 medals in the reporting period. Of special note is that Robert Rankin presented 21 medals during this period or one half of Texas. A quick review of the report indicates that our Rankin Chapter is one of the top three chapters in the country.



In the photo on the right: First Responder Sponsor VFW Post 8905 Col. Allan Perkins, Texas State Rep. Mike Schofield, Honoree Exec. Assist. Chief Keith Seafous, Harris County Precinct 3 Commissioner - Tom S. Ramsey, P.E., Harris County Commissioner Precinct 4 Steve Radaack, and Tom Jackson. December 16, 2025, Cy Fair Chamber of Commerce. Community Impact published this article.

In the photo on the left: December 16, 2025. Tuesday. Compatriot Tom Jackson presented a Certificate of Appreciation for Covid Heroic Service to the Harris County ESD #11 Mobile, HCESD #11 published this on their web site. Healthcare unit on behalf of the Robert Rankin Chapter SAR.



How can you be involved? The local news highlights special service and this can provide ideas. What's easier is to contact the local agencies for someone to be recognized. For details on how to proceed contact Tom Jackson at longhorntij@yahoo.com.

