



Edition 2026 - 2

Robert Rankin Chapter #62

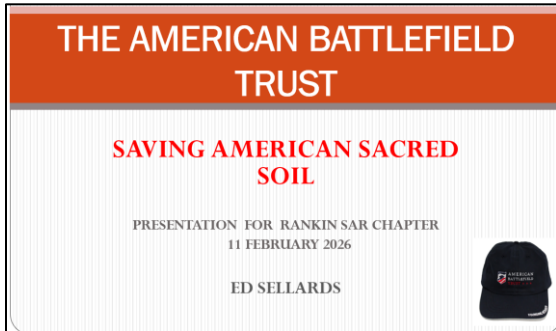
Winner of the National SAR Carl F. Bessent Award, 2024/2025, 2011/2012

The Rankin Register

February - 2026

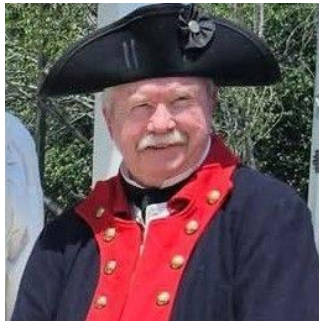
Saving American's Sacred Soil

"History can serve as a powerful lesson and inspiration, but only if it can be preserved".



Our speaker this evening was Ed Sellard from Freedom Chapter in The Woodlands. His presentation was about the American

Battlefield Trust. He discussed the importance of protecting the battle fields of our history. Sometimes it takes working with several generations of landlords to get the land protected for future generations.



Battlefields are part of our national heritage, scenes of struggle and sacrifice where American soldiers lost their lives. The American Battlefield Trust is working to preserve these "hallowed grounds," as Abraham Lincoln called them, so that future generations can learn

from them and can learn to appreciate their hard-won freedom.



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

Editor-in-Chief

Jerry D. Martin, M.Ed.

Send articles and photos to:
Newsletter.Rankin.sar@gmail.com

CHAPTER EVENTS

Patriot Markers

Thomas Park, Katy
3/7 – 10:00 am

Monthly Meeting

Spring Creek BBQ
3/11 – 6:30 pm

C.A.R. State Conference

Austin
3/27 – 3/29

Event Name
Location
Date and Time

Monthly Meeting

Spring Creek BBQ
4/11 – 6:30 pm

Liberty Tree Dedication

Glenwood Cemetery
4/11 – 10:00 am

SAR Youth Contests Have Started

With the beginning of the year, the entries have started arriving for the Youth Contests. This year we have entries for 6 different contests. Members of the Rankin chapter judged the entries and selected the winners. Each one of the winners has been sent to the Texas Society to enter the State level of competition. Judging on the State entries will take place at the Texas Society conference in April. Followed to National.

Winners:

Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest – First Place - Caydence N., Stars and Stripes C.A.R. Society



Middle School Brochure Contest – First Place – Kayla M, Second place – Emery L, Third place – Annabelle C, all from Pin Oak Middle School.

Texas SAR C.A.R. Essay Contest – First Place – Lorien W. – Captain Edward Weyman, C.A.R Society



Eagle Scout Contest – First Place – Girish P.

JROTC Recognition Program – Outstanding Cadet Competition – First Place, Karelyn B. – General Benjamin O. Davis Jr. Senior High School.

Knight Essay Contest – First Place – Arabelle C.

The winners of the JROTC Recognition Program are still being decided and will appear in the March Newsletter.

New Robert Rankin Compatriots

Three compatriots were inducted into the chapter.

Michael Morgan
Chris McLaren
Fred Jackson III



Picture is proud papa Fred Jackson II pinning his son Fred Jackson III with dad's membership pin.

Next Year's Officers Selected – Induction in March



President	Jerry Martin
Vice President	Sam Cannon
Treasurer	Steve Vettters
Secretary	Steve Vettters
Historian	Tom Jackson
Registrar	Don Address
Sgt. At Arms (as close)	OPOL
Chaplain	Don Address

INTRO – Last November, during the Veterans day ceremonies, I asked Harry Woodstrom if he would wright up a guide to the Veterans Service Organizations. I have been around different Veterans organizations most of my life, but I was not sure of the differences between them. This information supports the U.S.S. Stark National Annual Report.

A Guide to Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) and Their Names

Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) play a vital role in supporting those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. They provide advocacy, benefits assistance, community programs, and a sense of camaraderie for veterans, service members, and their families. Many of these organizations are **congressionally chartered**, meaning they have been formally recognized by the U.S. government for their service to the veteran community.



This article offers an overview of what VSOs are, why they matter, and a **list of notable VSO names** to help you identify groups that may be relevant to your needs or interests.

What Are Veterans Service Organizations?

VSOs are nonprofit groups dedicated to assisting veterans in various ways, including:

- **Benefits Representation:** Helping veterans navigate the VA claims process.
- **Advocacy:** Lobbying for policies that improve veterans' quality of life.
- **Community Support:** Offering peer networks, events, and volunteer opportunities.
- **Specialized Services:** Addressing needs such as housing, mental health, and education.

Some VSOs are large, national organizations with millions of members, while others are smaller, local groups focused on specific communities or service branches.

List of Notable Veterans Service Organizations

Below is a selection of well-known VSOs, including many that are congressionally chartered:

- **Navy Mutual Aid Association** (Founded 1879)
- **The American Red Cross** (Chartered 1905)
- **The American Legion** (Chartered 1919)
- **Disabled American Veterans (DAV)** (Chartered 1932)
- **Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW)** (Chartered 1936)
- **AMVETS (American Veterans)** (Chartered 1947)
- **Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)** (Chartered 1971)
- **Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)** (Chartered 1986)
- **Blinded Veterans Association (BVA)**
- **Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)**
- **Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV)**
- **Marine Corps League**

- **Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA)**
- **Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)**

Note: This is not a complete list. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs maintain official directories of recognized VSOs.

Why This List Matters

Knowing the names of these organizations is more than trivia—it's a gateway to resources. Whether you're a veteran seeking benefits, a family member looking for support, or a citizen wanting to volunteer, these organizations can connect you to the right programs and communities.

Conclusion

Veterans Service Organizations are pillars of support for those who have served the nation. From century-old institutions like the American Legion to newer advocacy groups like IAVA, each plays a unique role in honoring service and improving lives.



The SAR, founded 20 years before the American Legion, has from its beginning embraced support of all veterans. As descendants of America's very first veterans, members of the SAR have provided long-standing support to Veterans. It started originally with support to the Veterans Administration and specifically the medical centers. However, this has now expanded to a number of activities which are much broader.

Foremost is support to the VA, but it extends to Operation Ancestor Search, the Wounded Warrior Program, Wreaths Across America, and the Partners in Patriotism program among others. You can volunteer time at the VA, donate goods or money to a Veteran's Organization or participate in WAA to name a few.



At the February meeting, members of the color guard were recognized by Ed Sellards, Texas CG Southern Adjutant, and Rankin CG Commander Ralph Reed with a certificate of appreciation. This included Don Andress, Tom Jackson, Jerry Martin, Carter Sharbough, Ralph Reed, Billy Sorrels and Steve Vettes. To qualify you must wear either military period attire or Class B while engaged in an SAR event. Class B attire is either coat and tie with SAR insignia or SAR shirt with SAR cap. Ralph Reed is concluding his third year as Color Guard Commander. Rankin CG recognitions may be found at https://www.texassar.org/RobertRankin/rec_colorguard.htm.



For \$249 you can purchase the above coat! Join today!

Liberty Tree Dedications – Glenwood, Columbus

*Glenwood Report
Liberty Tree &
Bench
April 11, 2026*

Fred Jackson
Tom Jackson
Bernice Mistrot
Ralph Reed
Alex Thorne

Project Leads in Red



Vets Memorial
Center

Columbus, Tx.

April 30th

4:00 pm

SAR, DAR, and
VVA

David Zachmeyer
Judy Zachmeyer



February/March Birthdays

Donald Andress	02/13
Lucas Gonzales	02/13
Stephen Jester	02/21

Patrick Burell	03/06
Ronald Hayward	03/07
William Marshall	03/21
David Zachmeyer	03/22
George Gayle	03/24
Joshua Joiner	03/31

THE 250TH MOMENT

Compatriot Fred Jackson II's 250th Moment presentation was "The Shot In a Duel" and "The Shots That Missed". These short stories came from a document called "Famous Shots in the American Revolutionary War.

The first story involved a duel between General Thomas Conway and General John Cadwalader. General Cadwalader did not like the lies and Rantings about General Washington and challenged General Conway to a duel. Cadwalader shot Conway in the head after Conway missed his target. Conway survived the duel but ended his Continental Army career.

The second story is about the Battle of Trenton where Washington arrived and took command of the colonials. Washington led the troops forward to within 30 yards of the enemy and ordered them to fire. When the British started shooting Colonel John Fitzgerald was certain Washington was going to be hit. When the smoke cleared, Fitzgerald discovered that Washington was unhurt and leading the advance.

Passages from "Famous Shots in the American Revolutionary War" Fred Jackson, II

Explore the SAR University E-Learning Course Catalog



Explore the SAR University E-learning Course Catalog below. Most modules average about 15 minutes in length. The Registrar Modules developed by the Genealogy Committee are quite lengthy. Please allow 1 hour per genealogy module.

There are a few short video trainings for each officer – this will help you understand your position and what is expected from it. Please send the competition page from each course you complete to Jerry Martin. If you want to expand, you can complete additional courses and receive Certification. **Note: YPT is required of all Color Guard Members and all involved with youth.**

[Link to SAR University](#)

Ctrl + click

General Training

Compatriot Training
Blue Data Base Training
Youth Protection Training
Smart File Training

Officer Training

Chapter President
Chapter Vice President
Chapter Secretary
Chapter Treasurer
Chapter Registrar
Chapter Chaplain
Chapter History
Vice President -General
Training

University

Certification
Future University



robertrankinsar@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/rankin.sar

C.A.R. Posting Colors

The theme of the February program of the Stars and Stripes Society, Children of the American revolution was to learn the proper protocols of Posting the Colores.



Members of the Robert Rankin Chapter SAR were asked if we would be able to instruct them.

Three members of Rankin SAR met

with the CAR members at the VFW Hall in Katy. These members included



Ralph Reed, the Rankin Color Guard Commander and past president; Tom Jackson, past president of both Rankin Chapter as well as the Past President of the Texas Society; and Jerry Martin,

Editor of The Rankin Register Newsletter and incoming President of the Chapter.

Commander Reed gathered five individual members and started walking them through several different scenarios actually carrying flags. Commander Reed included all the required commands and the different direction the flag carriers were to proceed with.

Incoming Chapter President Jerry Martin invited them to the chapter's April meeting to Post the Colors to open our April meeting.

George Washington's Horse Blueskin

BLUESKIN WAS A GRAY HORSE (GONE WHITE LATER IN LIFE) RIDDEN BY GEORGE WASHINGTON AND WAS ONE OF WASHINGTON'S TWO PRIMARY MOUNTS DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR. THE HORSE WAS A HALF-ARABIAN, Sired BY THE STALLION RANGER (ALSO KNOWN AS "LINDSAY'S ARABIAN) AND WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN OBTAINED FROM THE SULTAN OF MOROCCO. DUE TO HIS THEN WHITE COAT, BLUESKIN WAS THE HORSE MOST OFTEN PORTRAYED IN ARTWORK DEPICTING WASHINGTON ON A HORSE

**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 Life Saving Medal Awarded



In January at the Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Tom presented Paramedic Caleb Jordan with the SAR Life Saving Medal and Certificate. Mr. Jordan was the Cy-Fair Fire Department Heart Saver of the Year Recipient with seven saves. Pictured above from L-R are Compatriot Allen Perkins, Honoree Caleb Jordan and his wife, Asst. Chief Justin Reed, Chief Amy Ramon, and Compatriot Tom Jackson. Robert Rankin is a member of the Chamber.



In February, Tom was the speaker at two DAR Chapters, Heritage Trail and Star of Destiny. His three presentations were: The many loves of George Washington, Did the Redcoats catch George Sleeping? And Salute to the Ladies. In addition, he presented the Bronze Good Citizenship Pin with certificate to Regent Mary Thompson (HT, above) and Regent Laurel Cull (SOD, below). TX SAR Ladies Auxiliary President Rowena Hayes and Mary Thompson each received a Certificate of Appreciation for sewing masks during Covid.



The 23rd annual Pass-in-Review for the CFISD AFJROTC Cadets who number about 1,600 strong took place on February 28th at the Berry Center. The Pass in Review is a longstanding military tradition designed to show the readiness of troops to a newly assigned commander. Tom Jackson attended wearing his continental blues.

