



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



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Summer 2010

Summertime

by Thomas Jackson, Editor
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The Rankin Chapter traditionally does not have a meeting during the summer; however, that doesn't mean our Chapter stands still. There are numerous color guard events and of course we have our summer Board of Managers meeting, this time in Austin! Our summer newsletter is meant to be full of pictures and short on words; this year I made a few changes to that approach. I hope you had a good summer and look forward to seeing you in September.

Memorial Day

There are numerous events on this day that are special, but perhaps the one that is most significant to Rankin Compatriots is the celebration of Memorial Day at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin. Robert Rankin, namesake of the Chapter, is buried here and each year one or more Rankin Compatriots make the journey to Austin to commemorate his life. The event always makes television news in Austin and the Governor, a proud SAR member, often makes an appearance.

A short crow's flight east of the State Capitol, the Cemetery is the final resting place of legendary Texans who have made the state what it is today. The beginning of the Texas State Cemetery is marked with the burial of General Edward Burleson in 1851. Burleson, Vice President of the Republic of Texas, also served with Sam Houston. Throughout the years other notable Texans have been buried on Cemetery grounds including: Stephen F. Austin, General Albert Sidney Johnston, Governor Allan Shivers, Governor John Connolly, and Robert Rankin.



Shown above on the far left is Rankin Compatriot Stephen Tanner loosening a black powder volley at the Cemetery.



Steve Tanner is shown in the photo at the left at the gravesite of Robert Rankin.

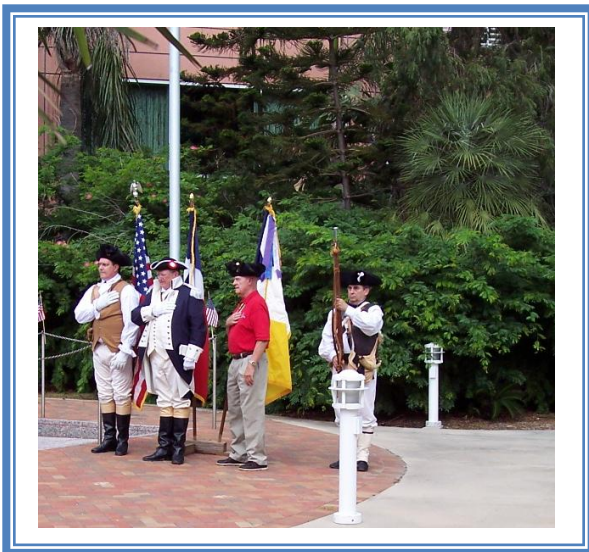
This year three Rankin Compatriots made the journey. In addition to Stephen, David Jones and Patrick Kerr also appeared. David Jones participated in the playing of taps on his mechanical trumpet.

*Memorial Day Program --May 31, 2010
Vietnam Memorial Garden
Moody Gardens Hotel -- Galveston*

The Bernardo de Galvez Chapter hosted a Joint Breakfast Meeting with Members from Robert Rankin and Piney Woods Chapters on May 31, 2010, at the Island Cafe in Galveston, Texas.



The photo above is a picture of the Flag Certificate Presentation at the Joint breakfast meeting. From left to right are (RR- Robert Rankin, PW- Piney Woods, and BG- Bernardo de Galvez): Pat Kerr (RR), Jim Cantrell (BG), George Dersheimer (BG), Billy Whatley (BG), David Jones (RR), Ron Whatley (BG), Jim Mitchell (PW), Island Cafe Manager, Steve Whatley (BG), Bryan Crittendon, Cafe Owner, Dave Dersheimer (BG), and Peter Lenes (BG).



Joint Chapter Color Guard posting the colors. L to R. Steve Whatley, BG Color Guard Commander, Pat Kerr, Robert Rankin Color Guard Commander, Pete Lenes BG, Jim Mitchell (Piney Woods), and LCMDR Bryan Crittendon, to the right, just out of the picture

*Proclamation read at
Memorial Day Ceremony
May 31, 2010*



This Memorial Day Remembrance of our nation's Veterans is an important reminder of the sacrifices our men and women have made to preserve our freedom. It is not a time to give political speeches of why we should or should not continue to defend those freedoms, but rather to honor our service men and women who are willing to serve their country by placing themselves in harm's way.

The origins of Decoration Day, as this celebration was once known, are lost to history. A group of women in the South began decorating veterans' graves before the end of the Civil War. This day became official in May, 1966, at Waterloo, New York, by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

We Americans who are here today are the beneficiaries of that legacy, regardless of our own heritage and ethnic origins. It would be fitting of us to remember a loved one or perhaps an ancestor who made the sacrifice that brought honor and peace to our nation.

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution continues its efforts to mark the graves of our Revolutionary War patriots, wherever their final resting place is located. The ceremony today represents one of over 350 locations across the nation where Americans have gathered together to honor our fallen heroes. We are proud to be a part of all Americans who have come here today to remember these patriotic men and women.

God bless America,

Hon. Edward F. Butler, Esq.
President General (2009-2010)
The National Society
Sons of the American Revolution

Flag Day Celebration – June 14, 2010



Editor: I asked David Jones how and why he developed his Flag Day program, was it successful, and what his thoughts were for the future.

David replied, “The Rankin Chapter has always had plans to celebrate Flag Day, but there never seemed enough time or enough people. One nice part of being a Past President is that you seem to have more time to address programs.

Our program on Flag Day was to place 50 American Flags on Veteran’s graves and present flag certificates.”

“I would like to make this an annual event and I would also like to extend this project to Veteran’s Day. I would like a Chapter member to step up and take over this project.”

“On Flag Day Tom Jackson, Stephen Tanner, and myself went to the Houston National Cemetery on Veterans Memorial Drive and we placed 50 American Flags and presented a flag certificate.” (David, left, and Tom right, are shown presenting the flag certificate in the photo to the left.)

In addition, Compatriot Ralph Aniol, shown in the photo below wearing his Korean Veterans Cap, went to Memorial Oaks Cemetery on Katy Freeway. Ralph placed twenty-five flags on veteran graves and presented a flag certificate as well.

One of the graves that Ralph placed a flag on was a WWII veteran of the Battle of the Bulge and was also a former neighbor of Compatriot Fred Jackson.



Did you know?

In a tradition started by [Past President Gus Mistrot](#), the Rankin Chapter celebrates each of the eight patriotic holidays as outlined by the state and national organizations. We also have a compatriot address each topic at our meetings in addition to remembering the event in our newsletters. Three of these holidays are represented in this newsletter. What are the others?



Elementary School Presentations



Posters, posters, and more posters are what May and June are all about...

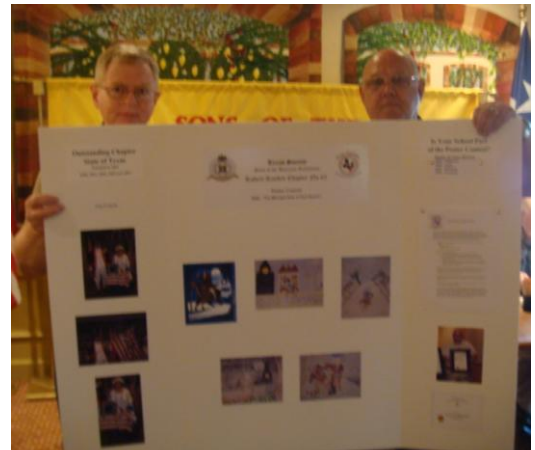


On the left, at Stanley Elementary School are from the left, Stephen Tanner, David Jones, and Ed Raines. Ed Raines is shown above announcing winners of the poster contest at Stanley.

In the photo below Stephen Tanner (left) and Ed Raines (right) hold a tri fold poster reminding students and teachers about the poster contest. This appears at all elementary functions.



In the photo above and also below is Ed Raines appearing at Cimmaron Elementary School in KISD congratulating students on their participation in the poster contest.



CAR News:

Brian Thorne serves as National Vice President of the South Central Region, and **Greg Thorne** serves as National Treasurer of the CAR? Both are members of the James Bates Society and the **Robert Rankin Chapter!**

Photo credits: George Dersheimer, Ralph Aniol, Stephen Tanner, Tom Jackson.

Copy Editor credit: Gus & Bernice Mistrot, Anon.

Thanks to all!

