



Year 4, Issue 30

## Robert Rankin Chapter #62

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

# The Rankin Register



March, 2009

### *A Fond Farewell*

*by Thomas Jackson, President (2008-2009)*

This is my last opportunity to wax loquaciously as I look back upon my four years as an officer, the last of which I served as your President and Historian. I am disappointed that I fell short of the many personal SAR goals I set for myself, but am impressed that the Chapter achieved new heights in spite of it.

My task as President was made easier as I was able to stand on the shoulders of those who held this office before me. Gus I am appreciative of your laser light and specific comments while Richard your warm smile and friendly words of encouragement were always of benefit. I still remember our multi topic conversations Kelly which permitted me to develop and explore different themes. Ed, we have had a grand partnership of ideas this past year as you listened to my ideas, both good as less than useful, and gently provided direction that you thought best for our Chapter. What many of you are not aware of is that every meeting this year I always had some facet that was open as the meeting drew near. I turned to Patrick and said I need help and so he did at every turn of the path, without question. Our chapter is blessed with having two District Vice President's as members, Ray Cox, and Allan Henshaw, both of whom I routinely turned to for advice. The best aspect of their advice was that their proposed solutions, when implemented, always worked!

This past year our Chapter recorded over 23,000 points on the state annual report. This score is 15% higher than that which we earned two years ago when we had the highest score of any chapter in the state and

set an unofficial all time record. The significance of what this Chapter did this past year is that if we measured ourselves nationally against the winners of the prior year we would have come out on top! The individuals who made this happen are in reality the Committee Chairmen and gentlemen, I salute you.

Thank you for a great year and I look forward to participating in many more interesting programs with the fine people who are a part of this organization.

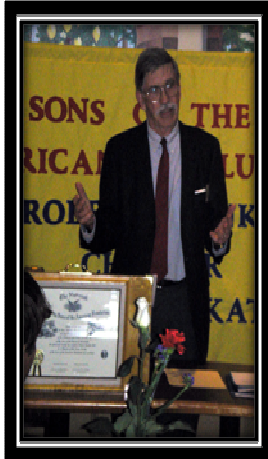


At the March meeting of the Rankin Chapter: Installation of Rankin Officers, from l to r: David Jones (President), Bob Smith (Vice Pres. & Treas., Steve Tanner (Secretary & Historian), David Crum Chaplain, Fred Jackson (Registrar), Allan Henshaw (Chancellor), Ed Raines (Sgt. At Arms), TXSSAR District VIII Vice President Raymond Cox. David Jones also received his President's neck ribbon while Tom Jackson received his Past President's pin.

Editor's note: The March issue is meant to chronicle the March meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

### *Support*



Fred Jackson, on the left, introduces us to Abigail Adams, the wife of Patriot and second President John Adams. The accomplishments of John Adams would have been lessened were it not for the support and counsel provided by Abigail as wife, mother, friend, and political activist!



The Rankin Chapter has its own group of Abigail Adams. In the photo above (from left to right) President Jackson awards a COA to Marti Thorne, Bernice Mistrot, Gail Raines, and Vionna Shanks. Gail, Vionna, and Bernice were recognized for their support and counsel of their husbands during their tenure as President as well as other offices they have held and in addition for faithful attendance at over 40 of our Chapter meetings, Board of Manager Meetings and State Conventions. Gail & Vionna were additionally recognized for assistance with our flag shows over the years while Bernice was noted for the contribution of her critical eye. Marti Thorne was recognized as the Mother of our member Brian Thorne and for her support of her sons in the endeavors of the SAR and the CAR and the Rankin Chapter in general.

Compatriot Jackson concluded his remarks by saying, “Ladies, the Robert Rankin Chapter thanks you as John Adams and his children thanked Abigail Adams.”

\*\*\*\*\*

### *Leadership*

Karen Tanner, on the right, provides the Chapter with a vignette of Robert Rankin, our namesake. Lt. Rankin served in the Third Regiment of the Va. line of the Continental Army in 1776. He participated in the battles of Germantown, Brandywine, Stony Point, and the siege of Charleston. He was also a prisoner of war. He is buried in the State Cemetery.



Robert Rankin was also a leader and he served in different leadership capacities in Virginia, Kentucky, Alabama, and Texas.

The Rankin Chapter recognized leadership at its March meeting three different ways. The first involved leadership within the Chapter and to that end a Chapter Service Medal was awarded to Gustave Mistrot III and to Ed Raines, each of whom have served the Chapter for more than five years as an officer. In the photo below are Compatriots Jackson, Mistrot, and Raines, as well as the head of Ray Cox.





The Chapter also honored Patrick Kerr, shown here holding his Chapter Service Medal as President Jackson reads his Certificate.



Patrick received this award not only for having served as President when the Chapter, under his tenure, was named Outstanding Chapter in the State of Texas but also for assuming chairmanship and expanding the JROTC program. In addition he became a member of the Color Guard and appeared at new Citizens ceremonies, scouting events, school events, parades, grave side ceremonies, and DAR events.

The next area of recognition was leadership to the community by SAR members.

The SAR authorizes the issuance of a BGCM for recognition of leadership in furthering the ideals of America. In the case of an SAR member he shall have served in at least four of the leadership capacities in specified local organizations.

At the March meeting this recognition was initiated by awarding a BGCM and certificate to Richard Shanks and Gus Mistrot who are shown in the following photo and to the left of President Jackson at the podium. Richard was a church leader for over 30 years in three different states in addition to leadership roles in scouting, military, and hereditary groups. When he



was a NASA controller during the moon launch he was an officer in a business association of space scientists and managers. Gus has been an officer for over 22 years in hereditary societies in addition to leadership positions in scouting and his church. He served 19 years in leadership positions within his Petroleum Engineering associations and was an ass't. fencing coach at Texas A&M University. A stunning history of leadership in our community.

The third area of leadership recognition was to Citizens or non SAR members and the area selected was elections. Recognized with a BGCM was Richard Feiden, a precinct chairman and election judge for over 20 years; his wife Dolores Feiden received a COA for assisting. They were also awarded a flag certificate. They are shown below as Dolores receives her certificate.



COA's were also given to assistant election judges Bryan Goober and Basher Panda.

The fourth area of leadership recognition was the awarding of the Samuel Adams Certificates of Appreciation awarded to Committee Chairman: Ed Raines (Flag program, Poster Contest), David Jones (Knight Essay and History Teacher), Gus Mistrot (Public Service), John Davis (Eagle Scouts), Kelly McBride (Membership), Bobby Smith (Veterans), Doug Thornton (DAR Liaison), Pat Kerr (JROTC, Nominations), Ray Cox (Webmaster), and Tom Jackson (Sea Cadets, Oratory, Flag Certificates, CAR Liaison).

Thomas Jackson was awarded the Chapter level Meritorious Service Medal for exemplary leadership and service to the Chapter over the past four years.

\*\*\*\*\*

### *Youth Recognition*

The Chapter awarded an Eagle Scout medal and \$100 cash equivalent savings bond to Greg Thorne for being the Eagle Scout state nominee as well as a BGCP and the cash equivalent of a \$100 savings bond for finishing fourth in the TXSSAR CAR Essay contest. From left to right are the Thorne's Alex, Marti, and Greg and then President Jackson.



Marti Thorne, past Tejas DAR Regent and past James Bates Society Senior received a BGCP and the cash equivalent of a \$150 savings bond for Charlie Power for finishing third in the CAR Essay Contest

\*\*\*\*\*



Shown above receiving membership pins are, from left to right, Kelly McBride (5yr), Bobby R. Smith (15yrs), Doug Thornton (5yr), and Tom Jackson (5yr). Missing is Ash Jackson (5yr) who had to leave to pick up the agenda because a family member (his Dad) forgot them! (How did the Prez recite the SAR pledge without looking at the agenda?)

Thomas Paine Certificates of Appreciation for excellence involving the spoken or written word were awarded to our Web Masters, Ash Jackson and Ray Cox (current)

Robert Morris COA's for outstanding financial support were awarded to Bobby R. Smith, David Jones, Edwin Raines and Thomas Jackson.



Ray Cox, shown here at the left with his wife, entertained and enthralled the audience with his fifeing of different revolutionary era tunes and the meaning. It was a wonderful way of ending a delightful evening. Ray holds a Masters Degree in Music Performance on brass instruments, but adapts well to the wooden ones!

*Don't Forget the State Convention. in Nacogdoches, Mar 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>th</sup>, (Check State Website), See you there! T. Jackson longhorntij@yahoo.com*