



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



March, 2021



*Robert Rankin President
Bruce McMordie*

Message from the President

FAREWELL MESSAGE TO THE ROBERT RANKIN CHAPTER

As President of the Robert Rankin Chapter for the past two years, I have good reason to express my heartfelt thanks to the officers, members, and friends of the chapter. We have accomplished much together in these years, and have received recognition from both the Texas and National Societies. At the 130th Congress of the National Society of the SAR, the Robert Rankin Chapter was awarded the President General's Activities Award to the Chapter, based upon size, which shows evidence of the most complete practice of implementing SAR programs and resolutions 2019-2020. In other words, the Robert Rankin Chapter was honored as the most outstanding small chapter in the United States.

Thank you, officers, members, and friends of the chapter! Thank you for the opportunity to serve a chapter that deserves to grow and prosper, and will grow and prosper with your continued support and participation. I look forward to continued participation in this growing chapter, and I want to close by wishing my successors the best.

Bruce McMordie

Immediate Past President, Robert Rankin Chapter

March 17, 2021



Out with the old and in with the new...

outgoing Rankin President Bruce McMordie is all smiles as he receives the President's Certificate and the Past President's Pin from incoming President Michael Bierman. It is commonly said that the Past President's Pin is the most coveted award that an SAR member could receive. It certainly produces the most smiles.

March Meeting

This is our annual meeting and our Officers are inducted. Compatriot Tom Jackson, in recognition of women's history month gives a brief presentation on Abigail Adams and some of her favorite quotes. Since this is St. Patrick's Day, he also touches lightly upon the contributions of the Irish during the American revolution. As a National Trustee, he provides a trustee update and comments on the Special Congress, which took place in Washington D.C. on March 13, 2021. The purpose of the special congress was to approve holding a congress virtually should the need arise. President Bruce McMordie gives us his farewell address and, also, provides This Day in History - The British Army abandons Boston. The Siege of Boston continued for weeks with only minor skirmishes, but on June 17, British Commander-in-Chief Thomas Gage took Bunker and Breeds Hills north of town, but in a bloody and very costly maneuver. Newly inducted President Michael Bierman notes that foremost on his agenda is to enhance member participation.

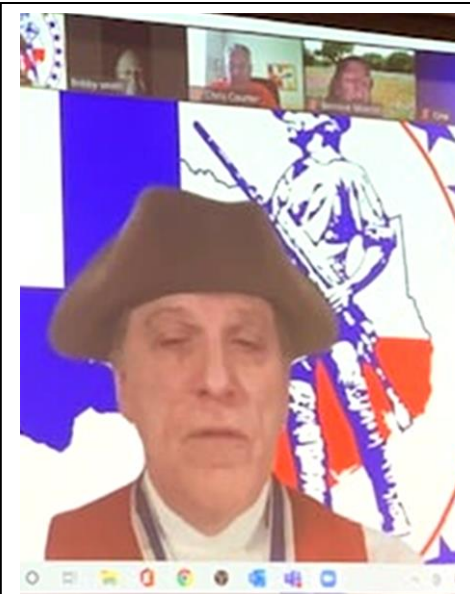


New members Steve Jester (L) and Robert Plank (R) joined us at the March meeting and share stories about their ancestors with each other.

Guest Speaker Texas State President Drake Peddie

President Drake Peddie is present via zoom; he Discusses the joy of finding your ancestry and provides an update for the upcoming state convention that will also be held via zoom. State committee meetings will start March 24, typically in the evenings.

EXTRA Drake Peddie announces that he plans to run for re-election! Compatriot Bobby Smith notes "you don't change horses in the middle of a stream."



Drake Peddie, Texas SAR President (2020-2021) is present via Zoom. And inducts the officers previously elected during the February meeting and nominated in the January meeting.

(Is the President sleep talking?)



In the photo, upper left, clockwise: Billy Sorrells, Robert Plank, Don Andress, Steve Jester and Harry Woodstrom

Theron and Olga McLaren

The Lady Washington Chapter, DAR honored Captain Theron McLaren & his wife Olga for their Vietnam Era service to coincide with the National DAR Day of Service at Houston's Woodlawn Cemetery, (aka Little Arlington). Over 100 individuals were in attendance for the cemetery and headstone cleanup project and included representatives of the SAR, General Society War of 1812, scouts, girl scouts and DAR members. Theron, a Rankin Compatriot, joined the DAR in 2009 while Olga, a Lady Washington member, joined the DAR in 1958. She has been highly supportive of the SAR throughout. Subsequently, the Rankin Chapter recognized their service. The Lady Washington Chapter is the world's largest DAR chapter and membership base approximates the size of the SAR in Texas. The presentation was made by Regent Mary Anthony Starz.

Theron and Olga spent 2 years during the Vietnam Era, from 1960-1962, on the island of Crete, Greece as one of 40 U.S. Air Force Officers at Iraklion Air Force Base (Iraklion Air Station). The mission of the Base was to monitor the radio traffic of the Russian Bloc. The base personnel were the first to announce the catcher of Francis Gary Powers. Francis Gary Powers was piloting a U-2 spy plane at 70,000 feet when he lost power, descended and was shot down and captured.

The first TV station equipment arrived at Athens Air Force Base in 1960. The Greek government did not want the 1st TV station to be on an American Base and accordingly, the equipment was sent to Crete. Olga was the Speech and Debate school teacher in Crete, and she was invited to help in the television programming and she hosted a generic talk show with items of interest.



From left to right: Tom Jackson, President (18-19) Texas SAR, Theron & Olga McClaren, Mary Anthony Starz, Regent Lady Washington Chapter, John Thompson, President General Society War of 1812 in Texas.

Upon their arrival, there weren't sufficient housing trailers, so for 2 months they lived "on the economy" as they called it, as they rented an apartment above a family home. They made friends with the family and went to into the community with them where they learned about the Greek culture, lifestyle and even a little of the Greek language. Then, as part of the deal, they lived on base before acquiring their very own 40-foot trailer for the remainder of their stay.

The McLarens reminisce on these two years in Crete with fondness as they remember all of the wonderful people, travel and experiences that they shared there together.

Special Congress: Chantilly, Virginia



In the photo the Texas SAR delegation at the Special Congress. From left to right, Independence Chapter President Brandon Gaines, Texas SAR Treasurer David Kinsey, PG Joe Dooley (Dual member), South Central District VPG Larry Stevens, Rankin Compatriot Tom Jackson, and Virginia IPP Bill Schwetke.

Special held Saturday, March 13 at 10 am at the Westfields Marriott Washington Dulles, Chantilly, Virginia. Motions were approved which in brief would permit the holding of a virtual or hybrid Congress as approved by a two-thirds affirmative vote by the Trustees. The By Laws which pertain to this matter would be considered at the next annual congress.

Hear Ye Hear Ye:

To attend the State Convention, you must register online. Registration can be found on the public site <https://www.txssar.org>. On the toolbar at the top of the page, hover your mouse over Events then move your mouse down to Upcoming Meetings in the dropdown menu.

Remember: On Friday night, the National President will speak and if you wear your uniform and/or registered, it will count as a national event towards earning your Color Guard medals.

Upcoming Events

- Rankin Annual Meeting, April 13
- Spring Creek Barbecue (Katy Fwy)
- Texas SAR Convention (Zoom) April 16-17
- National Congress, Renton, Washington July 8
- Fall Leadership, Louisville, KY Sept. 23-25
- Fall BOM, Clear Lake City, TX Oct. 7-10

MAY 2021

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JUNE 2021

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JULY 2021

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