



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

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Editor: Tom Jackson

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Message from the President



*Robert Rankin President
Alex Thorne*

As I thought about what I could bring to the Chapter as President, I thought about all of the new members and the rough start they have had joining in the Covid-19 era. While we can't undo the past, we have the opportunity to re-welcome our newest members and encourage them to be active participants with us in Robert Rankin.

Since 2019 we have added 31 new members to our Chapter, 22 of them in 2021 alone. We have essentially doubled in size in 3 years. Our Registrars and Genealogists have done a great job growing the Chapter.

With our recent growth, we are no longer considered a small Chapter and it is my goal to see Robert Rankin becomes a successful large Chapter. Becoming a large Chapter took many years of good work by the Chapter and a concerted effort to expand our membership numbers. I want us to remain a large Chapter.

The easiest way to accomplish this goal is get our newest members involved in our programs. I also want to get more our long tenured members to re-engage as the pandemic wanes.

In the past Robert Rankin has won State and National recognition as an outstanding Chapter. I believe that if we carry out the programs of the SAR effectively and with our larger membership extend our reach into the West Houston, Katy, Cypress and Fulshear communities, it is likely that some recognition will follow.



Vice President District 8 Ken Graalum (L) is invited to install the new officers. Here Ken is reading the oath to Vice President & Secretary Michael Bierman (C) and President Alex Thorne (R).



March Meeting – This Day in History



Michael Bierman spoke on “The Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution”. The last naval battle of the American Revolution took place off of Cape Canaveral on March 10, 1783. Two American ships, the Alliance and the Duc de Lauzun, were on a mission to bring 72,000 Spanish silver dollars from Cuba to the American colonies to pay the Continental soldiers.

Public Service Honoree

March 22, 2022. Sergeant Richard Standifer with the Texas Department of Public Safety is awarded the SAR Law Enforcement Medal by Public Service Chair Tom Jackson. Sergeant Standifer manages the department's Citizens Academy is on-call nearly every day of the year and responds to critical incidents and significant events at a moment's notice.



2022 DAR State Convention Guest Speaker – Tom Jackson



There are three speakers this morning and Robert Rankin's Tom Jackson is honored to be one. His presentation is on the Contributions of the Orange and the Green, which is an entertaining and lighthearted look at the Irish contribution to the creation of our country. Tom highlight's the Irish leadership politically not only for America, but also England and Spain. He also tries to answer why did they choose to come and how significant was their presence. Immediately after Tom is Arizona State DAR Regent Morgan Elliott, whose topic is Scots-Irish, What's in a Name? Although their presentations overlap a bit, they both present new information. Tom think's she is a better speaker, but he's quick to point out he has music in his PowerPoint!

2022 Youth Contests

The Robert Rankin Chapter is very active in youth programs. At the state level, Chapter sponsored contestants have placed regularly. Essays have won first place and third place. A strong year for Rankin sponsored contestants, Noah Hagler placed second in 2020. A sponsored poster won second place in 2020 & 2021. Again in 2020 & 2021 we had a sister and brother, Kate and Matthew Jeong both place first in the state brochure contest, respectively, with Matthew going on to place third in the national contest.

Each year the Chapter also recognizes outstanding JROTC cadets by awarding Bronze JROTC medals and certificates at every high school in the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District with a JROTC program. In 2005, Eagle Scout certificates were mailed to over 30 new Eagle Scouts living in the Katy Independent School District. In 2006, the Robert Rankin Chapter received the Group 1 (10-39 members) Outstanding Chapter award, largely because of its enthusiastic participation in these educational and patriotic programs during 2005, which we hope to get going again.



Victoria Smith was the first-place winner of both the 2021 Robert Rankin Chapter C.A.R. SAR Contest and Knight Essay Contest, finishing 2nd in the Texas State C.A.R. contest. She was elected National 1st Vice President at the 2022 C.A.R. State Convention.

Robert Rankin Youth Contests Winners

The Robert Rankin Chapter sponsors each of the following contests and awards. For each of the contests, the Chapter offers a minimum of a \$100 savings bond for the Chapter nominee to the State Contest.

- ❖ Knight Essay Contest – *no entrants this year*
- ❖ Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest – *no entrants this year*
- ❖ ROTC/JROTC Recognition Program – winner Cadet Sidney Kahla
- ❖ Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest – *no entrants this year*
- ❖ Eagle Scout Contest – *no entrants this year*
- ❖ Texas SAR C.A.R. Essay Contest – winner Victoria Smith
- ❖ Middle School Brochure Contest – winner Samantha Tran



President Alex Thorne Bio



Incoming Robert Rankin President Alex Thorne.

Personal:

Wife: Marti

Sons: Brian and Greg, both are SAR members

Educational:

MBA – University of Michigan, 1981

BA – College of Wooster, 1979

Professional:

My career has been primarily in the Oil and Gas Industry in Contracts Management.

Revolutionary Ancestors:

Major Abraham Leggett: Westchester County NY. Fought in the Battles of Brooklyn, Long Island, Harlem Heights and White Plains. Captured by the British at Fort Montgomery. Freed in prisoner exchange in 1781, returned to duty in New Jersey and Long Island.

SAR Offices and Awards:

Served as Chaplain and Treasurer of Robert Rankin #62 and earned the Roger Sherman bronze medal.

Hobbies and other activities:

I enjoy golf and collecting Lionel trains. I am a golf rules official. Looking forward to being a doting grandfather.

Upcoming Events

Rankin Meeting, Rudy's BBQ	April 13
Texas Society, D.A.R. State Conference	March 17
Texas Society, C.A.R. State Conference	March 25
Texas SAR Convention, Richardson, TX	March 30 - April 3
National Congress, Savannah, GA	July 10-15
Summer Texas SAR BOM, ZOOM	August TBD
Texas Society Fall BOM, McKinney	October 21-23
Wreaths Across America	December 17

Chapter Officers

2022-2023

President:

Alex Thorne

adthorne@consolidated.net

Vice-President:

Michael Bierman

Secretary:

Michael Bierman

Quartermaster:

Chris Courter

Treasurer:

Billy Sorrells