



Robert Rankin Chapter #62

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution



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Our Flag Program

by Ed Raines, Past-President (2002-2004)

The report of a significant fall off in our flag programs for 2007 was thankfully exaggerated! This past year we reached an estimated audience of 3,984. Although this is not a reportable item for the SAR, it is for the DAR and we rely upon their figures.

We presented to 24 school assemblies; this translates into 170 programs, as defined by the state, being presented! (The chapter annual report instructions state, "School assembly talks count 25 points per class in attendance.")

In addition to school assemblies we presented to ten other groups to include SAR chapters, DAR chapters, churches as well as the AARP.



Gail Raines (left) assists Ed Raines (right) at McMeans Junior High School. An estimated 450 students, teachers, and other parents were in attendance on November 12, 2008. The school reported that there were 17 classes attending.

Ed Raines presented both a Certificate of Appreciation as well as a Flag Certificate.



The flag program is presented to private schools as well as at public schools. Shown here at the Parish School in September 2007, are, from left to right: Tom Green, Ed Raines, Richard Shanks, Ginny Evans.

Ed Raines is shaking a rattle as he discusses the Gasden Flag. The Gasden Flag was inspired in part from a political cartoon drawn by Benjamin Franklin which accompanied an article where he suggested that the colonists should send rattlesnakes to England! The cartoon appeared in the May 9, 1754 issue of Franklin's paper, *The Pennsylvania Gazette*.



From <http://www.benfranklin300.org/frankliniana>

(From left to right: Ed Raines, Virginia Evans, Richard Shanks, Vionna Shanks, and Patrick Kerr.)



Chapter members are shown here with members of the Tejas Chapter of the DAR after they finished with their presentation for members of the Libertad Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution at a catered luncheon on October 4, 2007 as part of a celebration of the anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States.

Shown is the “Betsy Ross Flag”. Virginia Evans, as part of the presentation recounts the Legend. Virginia notes that although there is not absolute proof that Betsy made the flag, it is based upon sworn affidavits of descendants of her family that they heard the story from Betsy Ross herself. Included in these family members was her grandson William Canby who stirred interest in the flag in a speech he gave to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in 1870. Virginia further notes that the uncle of Betsy’s husband John, George Ross was a member of the Flag committee.

According to oral testament, a committee of three approached Betsy in 1777 to make a flag with thirteen stripes and thirteen six pointed stars. Betsy told the committee, consisting of George Washington, George Ross, and Robert Morris, that she would make the flag, but would need to make the star with five points. And the rest as they say is history!



Through the flag program we award flag certificates at most of the schools. Here, Ed Raines presents Mrs. Marilyn Chevalier of King Elementary a Flag Certificate. This year, 20 flag certificates were presented through the flag program (21 total)!

An additional 2 certificates of appreciation were presented.

The Chapter believes that presenting of the certificates not only expresses our appreciation but serves a key marketing element whenever these certificates are framed and shown in classrooms or hallways.

An estimated 300 Robert Rankin volunteer hours were contributed to the flag program, most by Ed and Richard, however Patrick Kerr, Tom Jackson, and Kelly McBride also contributed to the effort. Also assisting were Dar members Gail Raines, Virginia Evans, and Vionna Shanks.

Location, Location, Location

Flag Programs were in the cities of Conroe, Liberty, Houston, Katy and Sugar Land and in four counties including Ft Bend, Chambers, Montgomery, and Harris.