



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



Organized April, 2002

May, 2021

Message from the President



Our challenges as a Chapter for the coming year are twofold. On the financial front, we probably need to engage in modest fundraising to pay for those medals and certificates that we like handing out. With our bringing in new members, we also need to move forth with a mentoring/hospitality approach to make our new members feel welcome. The additional challenge here is to encourage participation of our members at the chapter and state level. I know that working together, we can not only be successful going forth but accomplish more than we have in the past.

And finally, my challenge to all members is to get involved no matter how small it is with the Chapter.

Robert Rankin President Michael Bierman

May Meeting Highlights



In the photo on the left, newly inducted Compatriot Steve Jester steps in with an Ancestor Presentation on Captain John Ashmead. In the photo on the right, Tom Jackson presents Jack Muggli with the Texas Society Silver Service Medal. Tom Jackson gave Historical presentations on Memorial Day and the Irish contribution to the Revolution entitled The Green & The Orange and Jack Muggli spoke on the Fall of Charleston for This Day in History.

May Meeting – Law Enforcement Recognition



Above: Sgt. Steven Hemphill discussed his task force on street racing.

Sergeant Steven Hemphill of the Texas DPS created the task force in Houston within his department to counter act street racing. Just this year street racing has claimed five lives, including three bystanders. At the chapter meeting, Sgt. Hemphill was presented with a Law Enforcement Commendation and Medal for his efforts.

For ten years, studying street racing was Sergeant Hemphill's niche. Anything and everything to do with illegal street racing were directed to him. As the Katy Sergeant, he taught his troopers about the illegal street racers' tactics to help make them successful with their enforcement efforts. Then, after 25 years of community service, Sergeant Hemphill retired from the Cy-Fair Fire Department. For Spring Break 2017, Sergeant Hemphill helped form the first multi-agency task force of about 60 law enforcement officers focused on targeting illegal street racers during TX2K. Sergeant Hemphill, along with the Texas Department of Public Safety, has since spearheaded this annual multi-agency task force now consisting of approximately 175 officers from various local agencies.

Rankin Essay Contest Winner – Victoria Smith

Victoria Smith is the first-place winner of both the 2021 Robert Rankin Chapter CAR SAR Contest and Knight Essay Contest. Victoria joined the May meeting via Zoom to read her winning essays.

Victoria is the National Organizing Secretary for NSCAR. Prior to this role she was the National Vice President of the South Central Region of NSCAR. Before that she was the President of TSCAR raising \$27,000 for the Battleship Texas with the help from Robert Rankin Chapter, TXSAR, and SAR members. The donation to the Battleship has been earmarked for self-guided tour audio wands and a set of signal flags. In 2017 she was named Outstanding Member of the TSCAR. Victoria is a member of the Stars and Stripes Society of TSCAR in Katy, Texas where she has held multiple positions.



She just graduated from Second Baptist School summa cum laude. She will attend Oklahoma State University in the fall where she will study Nutritional Sciences Allied Health. She has been selected to be on the board of her Residence Hall and hopes to be involved with Student Government.

JROTC Cadets and Instructors Recognized



L to R Trustee Tom Jackson, Chairman John Thompson, Principal Anthony Watkins, Instructor Lt Col Porfirio Munoz and Cadet Diana Cantu.

During the springtime, and following COVID-19 protocols, JROTC Chairman John Thompson and Trustee Tom Jackson made several stops to present top cadets in the Extended JROTC Program with a medal, certificate and scholarship or stipend award letter. They visited General Benjamin O. Davis High School to recognize Diana Cantu for finishing First Place in the Extended contest. She was sponsored by the Robert Rankin Chapter, received a scholarship award of \$2,500 and was entered into the National contest.

In addition, Senior Aerospace Science Instructor Lt. Col. (Retired) Pofirio Munoz received the Silver Good Citizenship Medal. Munoz had previously been recognized as one of the top SASI in the nation by the Air Force and was named to the Wall of Fame at Cypress-Fairbanks ISD. Further, his cadet nominees have earned a First-Place finish in the Texas contest five times, Second Place once and one First Place at the national level.

Ambrosia's Crossing in Hempstead, TX was where Waller High School held their military banquet. This was a special stop as MSgt (Retired) Joel L. Barnett was awarded a Silver Good Citizenship Medal in recognition of his being named one of the top instructors in the nation and his strong support of the SAR program, including the First-Place finisher in the Extended Contest in 2018 and 2020 Third-Place finisher Justin Benassi. Cadet Benassi was presented a medal that he earned in 2020 but never received because of the Covid-19 pandemic. MSgt Barnett is concluding his 10th year at Waller. In that time, the Phantoms, the all-female drill team, won first place in Texas this year under MSgt Barnett's instruction and will be headed to Nationals in Daytona. During his tenure, the Phantoms have a first place and a second place in the National Drill Team Competition. The Warhogs, the all-male drill team, will also be competing at National. Notably, the high school principals were present for each presentation.



L to R Chairman John Thompson, Principal Stephanie Fletcher, lead JROTC instructor Lt. Col. Byrl Engel, Silver Good Citizenship Medal recipient Instructor MSgt Joel Barnett, Cadet Justin Benassi and Trustee Tom Jackson

May Meeting - More New Member Inductions



At left (L-R): President Michael Bierman, Robert Planck, Robert Dowling, Joshua Olachia, Micah Olachia, Jennie Muggli, Steve Jester and Tom Jackson.

President Michael Bierman and Compatriot Jackson flank the newest members of Robert Rankin. Jennie Muggli (front) joined the photo showing her awards received this evening. Jennie was awarded the SAR Daughters of Liberty Medal & Certificate, Oak Leaf Cluster for the SAR Daughters of Liberty Medal & Certificate, another Oak Leaf Cluster for the SAR Daughters of Liberty Medal & Certificate, Oak Leaf Cluster for the SAR/DAR Medal of Appreciation & Certificate and another Oak Leaf Cluster for the SAR/DAR Medal of Appreciation & Certificate

JUNE 2021						
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JULY 2021						
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AUGUST 2021						
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Upcoming Events

- National Congress, Renton Washington** July 8
- Summer BOM, Zoom** Aug 6-7
- South Central District, Richardson Texas** Aug 27-28
- Robert Rankin Meeting** Sept 8
- Fall Leadership, Louisville Kentucky** Sept 23-25
- Fall BOM, Clear Lake City** Oct 7-10