



## Robert Rankin Chapter #62

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

# The Rankin Register



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### *The President's Corner*

by Stephen Tanner, President (2011-2012)  
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Our organization is not a Veterans organization. Many different groups fulfill that important function such as the American Legion, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. It has been estimated however that half of our members are in fact veterans and certainly many of our patriotic ancestors were veterans of the American Revolution.

With these thoughts in mind, I started last year a tradition that I hope will continue for many years which is holding a joint meeting with the VFW Post 9182 out of Katy, Texas. I should note that I am a member of this Post as is David Jones, a former member and past president of the Rankin Chapter. The VFW program, open to the public, was in three parts that included an overview of the VFW and then remembrances from veterans of WWII and Vietnam.

Retired Col. Michael Mastrangelo, a friend of the Rankin chapter and Commander of Katy VFW Post 9182, came and spoke at a Rankin meeting for his fourth consecutive year. In speaking of the history of the VFW, he noted that it received its charter by an act of the United States Congress in 1936 but was organized in 1899 at Denver, Colorado and was initially called the American Veterans of Foreign Service. The VFW name was created in 1914 with the merger of American Veterans of Foreign Service and the National Society of the Army of the Philippines.

He noted that the goals of the VFW are fraternal, patriotic, historical, and educational. Specifically this includes a charge to strengthen comradeship among its members and to assist comrades. It is also to honor our dead and to assist their widows and orphans. Included as well is ongoing service to the community, educating the public and advocating the welfare of the U.S. military.



Pictured above is Col. Mike.



Norris Miertschin is a WWII US Army veteran and also a graduate of Texas A&M. He spoke of his time as a chemical weapons engineer during WW II.



Pictured in the photos above are Arthur Shaw (top) and Stephen Brady (bottom). In the top right corner is the Cross of Malta of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, emblematic of membership in their organization.

Stephen Brady, a veteran of the Vietnam War and an Air Force pilot spoke of his reasons for joining the armed forces and his time spent in special forces.

Arthur Shaw informed the Rankin Chapter of the reopening of the VFW Museum. The museum features a replica flintlock pistol from the American Revolution donated by David Jones, Stephen Tanner & Tom Jackson. Each of the four speakers were thanked for their service to our country and received both a Speaker Certificate of Appreciation and a SAR coffee mug.



Pictured above are Compatriot David Crum and his wife Sue.



Enjoying the meeting, from left to right, is Compatriot Theron McClaren, his wife Olga, and Compatriot Bobby Smith.

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Allen Greene is shown above giving a power point presentation on the battle of Lexington and Concord to the students at Pin Oak Middle School in Houston ISD. Tom Jackson joined him with a presentation on the diversity of participation in the revolution.

Separately, Tom Green gave a power point presentation on the origins of the U.S. Navy while Virginia Evans gave a presentation on Betsy Ross and Ed Raines gave a one-man flag show.





*Board of Managers Meeting  
Galveston, Texas, October 28 - 30*



In the photo above, Ladies of the TXSSAR Auxiliary are showing their handmade quilt that is available for raffle. Galveston Compatriot George Dershimer is holding one end of the quilt.



In the photo above, from left to right, is Peter McClellan (Past TXSSAR Treasurer) Robert Cohen (TXSSAR President Elect), and Karen Tanner, wife of Rankin President Stephen Tanner.



Firefighters are honored at the luncheon. In the photo above, front row from left to right: George Dershimer, Assistant Chief David Schneider, Pearland Fire Dep't., Firefighter Darrell O. Ferguson, Pearland Fire Dep't., Galveston's nominee for the fire safety award, Captain Mike Cornitius of the League City Volunteer Fire Dept., Past President General Judge Ed Butler, Galvez President Pete Lennes, Back row, Russell Dart (Cradle of Texas Chapter), and TXSSAR President Bill Marrs.

The Board of Managers Meeting in Galveston was well attended and was great fun. The tour to see the carved trees was exceptional and the comic convention provided nice visual humor. In the photo at the bottom left are Bill Marrs, Galveston Mayor Joe Jaworski, and George Dershimer.

In the bottom photo, Galvez President Pete Lennes is recognizing Firefighter Darrell O. Ferguson.



## Musings

Why do we have this banner? Why do we use this name? These are both simple questions that were recently asked of the editor, but there is meaning embodied within answers to each.

Newsletter editors are encouraged to display both the NSSAR and state logos. The newer state logo, which is displayed, depicts the militiamen looking inward or to the left, as compared to the earlier logo, which depicted the militiamen looking to the right. The national logo is merely one of a number of different approved logos. Most periodicals number the issue within each year. **This was not done because the number of issues change from year to year thus numbering them sequentially makes for easier reference.**

The name of the newsletter is a different matter. Some would argue that the name should not be stodgy, dull, traditional, and boring, but rather modern, clever and catchy. National suggests that the name be reflective of the intent of the editor. **The decision was made that the newsletters reflect the chapter meetings as well as activities in which members participated. (The newsletter editor's way of saying thank you!) The newsletter would register what was accomplished in lieu of trumpeting events yet to occur.** Both national and state SAR representatives urge that the newsletters document activities of the chapter to accompany annual reporting if requested. **Since the Rankin Chapter competes at both levels, this approach resonates deeply and is followed.**

### *Upcoming Events:*

*No Chapter meeting in December  
Jan 11 Chapter Meeting*

*Check State Website*

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The Lady Washington Chapter, NSDAR in conjunction with the Harris County Historical Society and the Heritage Society at Sam Houston Park hosted a re-dedication of the Alexander Hodge Monument on November 13, 2011 at the gravesite of Alexander Hodge. Representing the Robert Rankin Chapter were Stephen Tanner (above left) and his wife, Karen Tanner (above right). The emcee for the event was Barbara A. Petrov, Regent for Lady Washington Chapter.

Speakers included Marjorie Lowe Past President of the Houston Genealogical Forum and Tom Green, Past President of TXSSAR. Tom spoke of the life and contributions of Alexander Hodge who along with his brother William Jr. served with Francis Marion, the Swamp Fox.

Ron Brown, President of the San Jacinto Chapter of the Sons of the Republic of Texas reminded the audience that Hodge was a member of Austin's old three hundred.