

# *Our November Meeting*

*November 11, 2020*



From left to right: Compatriot Allen Greene, guest speaker Jack Busiek, President Bruce McMordie and Compatriot Tom Jackson.

## *Robert Rankin, Texas SAR*

### *Spring Creek Barbecue November Meeting Highlights Veterans Day Celebration*

- ❖ Primary Speaker Jack Busiek, Attorney and member of the State Bar of Texas spoke on “Stories of Charles Willson Peale, John Trumbull, William Raney, and Rembrandt Peale”
- ❖ President Bruce McMordie presented This Day in History on the funeral for Joseph Hewes
- ❖ President (2018-19) Texas SAR, Tom Jackson provided a Registrar Report
- ❖ District 8 Vice President Texas SAR, Allen Greene gave a presentation on Wreaths Across America
- ❖ New Member induction of Harry Woodstrom, who also gave an Ancestor Presentation

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Allen Greene reminds that the Robert Rankin Chapter continues to be involved in Wreaths Across America. It will take place this year on Saturday, December 19. Compatriot Harry Woodstrom is in charge of the ceremony at Katy Magnolia Cemetery. Compatriot Bruce McMordie, a Merchant Marine, will lay the wreath for them. Allen Greene and Tom Jackson will be at Woodlawn Funeral Home Cemetery as we have for the past 10 years. Compatriot Allan Perkins is on the Houston National Cemetery Committee for WAA which will be a drive through wreath laying which will start at 8AM.



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## *New Member Induction – Harry Woodstrom*



President Bruce McMordie (L) officially welcomes new member Harry Woodstrom (R) to the Robert Rankin Chapter. Harry is the Vice Commander of the 22nd District, Department of Texas of the American Legion and on the board of Elks Lodge 2628, Katy, Texas.



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## Ancestor Presentation



Newly inducted member Harry Woodstrom shared the story of “Fifth Great Grandfather Lieutenant James M. Wells (1732-1778).

James Wells, born 1732 at Colchester, Conn.; on March 28, 1754 married Hannah Loomis, also of Colchester. In 1771, with his wife and nine children he removed from Colchester to the Wyoming Valley, where he rendered valuable assistance as surveyor in establishing the boundaries of Kingston and Plymouth townships.

Early in 1778, while with Washington's army in New Jersey, he learned of the threatening conditions at Wyoming and, fearing for the safety of his family, obtained a leave of absence and hastened to Wyoming the latter part of June. Lieutenant Perrin Ross accompanied him. In the battle which followed on the 3rd of July, both went out to meet the enemy and were slain.



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## *Ancestor Presentation*



The Battle of Wyoming (also known as the Wyoming Massacre) was an encounter during the American Revolutionary War between American Patriots and Loyalists accompanied by Iroquois raiders which took place in the Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania on July 3, 1778, in Exeter and Wyoming, Pennsylvania. More than 300 Patriots were killed in the battle.

### Wyoming Monument

Traditionally on the Fourth of July, every year for the past 140 years members of the Wyoming community and Luzerne County Historical Society have organized a ceremony reenacting the battle

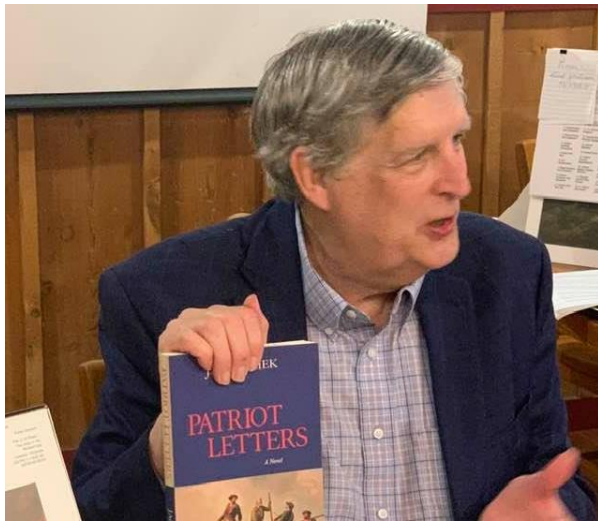




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## Guest Speaker – Jack Busiek



Speaker Jack Busiek, Attorney and member of the State Bar of Texas for more than fifty years, and published author of the novel Patriot Letters.



His presentation settles on tying together five different artists from 1783 through 1857 beginning with Benjamin West followed by Charles Willson Peale, Rembrandt Peale, John Trumbull and William Ranney.



(L) Speaker Jack Busiek and (R) Compatriot Fred Jackson.

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President Bruce McMordie (standing) has 2 presentations. The first is the Veterans Recognition and Celebration and he reads part of the proclamation of President Trump and recognizes the Veterans in the audience. His next presentation is This Day in History November 11, 1779-The funeral for Joseph Hewes, signer of the Declaration of Independence and "Father of the US Navy," was held at Christ Church in Philadelphia.



Compatriot Fred Jackson, in conjunction with the presentation by guest speaker Jack Busiek, talks about the painting he is holding, which is *Surrender of General Burgoyne at Saratoga* by John Trumbull.



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In the photo to the left, Robert Rankin Chapter President Bruce McMordie proudly shows certificates issued to chapter member William Bozic. William was awarded the Thomas Paine Certificate, Thirty Year Membership Award and the Patrick Henry Certificate.



President Bruce McMordie (L) and Compatriot Allen Greene At the meeting, the Robert Rankin Chapter recognized chapter achievements: John Bruce Stuart Jr. Memorial Award Group #2 (26--39) 2018, Texas SAR Americanism Award Group #2 (26-39) 2018, Outstanding Chapter Award Group #2 (26-39) 2018, Outstanding Public Service Award 2018, Partners in Patriotism and Wreaths Across America 2019-20.