



Robert Rankin Chapter #62

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution



The Rankin Register

Issue 22

September Special, 2008

Our Constitutional Celebration

by Tom Jackson (President, 2008-2009) included a town crier reading a broadside regarding the voting progress on the adoption of the Constitution, a description of a painting, a presentation on the Constitution, and special awards to teachers who encourage the study and understanding of the Constitution in a novel approach! All of this took place at Ciro's restaurant in September. Cozy seating, but great speakers!

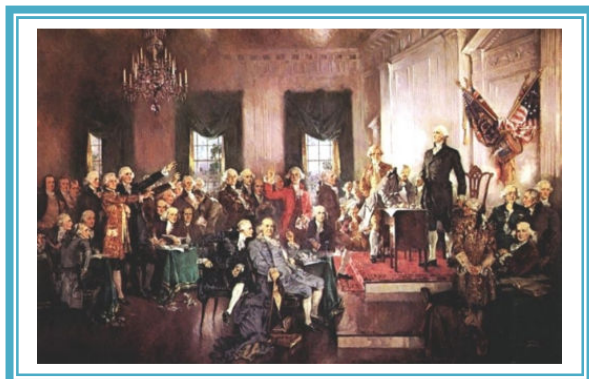


John P. Irish, a member of the Organization of American Historians, The American Historical Ass'n, and 3 time selection of Who's Who of American Teachers gives a presentation on Christy's "Signing of the Constitution". John is a published author of art of the Revolutionary Era and is a presenter to the Musuem of Fine Arts in Houston.

Christy's painting, shown above was (http://www.aoc.gov/cc/art/sign_constitution.cfm) painted in 1939/1940 and the 20' by 30' painting was comissioned as part of the 150 year celebration of the signing of the Constitution. The detail shown in the painting was extensively researched for historical accuracy; for example the breeches worn by Washington in the painting are those of his held by the Smitsonian!



Shown above is Colonel Mike Mastrangelo with 30 years active duty time and a graduate of the ROTC program from the University of Dayton, OH. He has a Master's Degree in American History, taught as an adjunct professor for two colleges, and has been a substitute teacher for the KISD system for three years. Col. Mike, Senior Vice Commander of Katy VFW, provided the second part of our program and spoke passionately of the meaning of the Constitution to a group involving SAR members and its importance to our country.



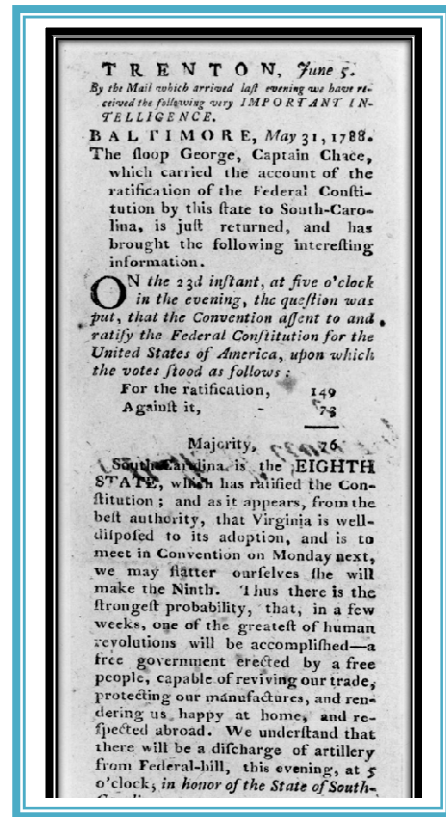
The third part of our Celebration of the Constitution was recognition of educators who have excelled in this area. The two teachers we honored, Dianne Sparks and Marilyn Chevalier embraced the “We the People” program and made it part of their schools curriculum. Ms. Sparks was unable to attend because it was Open House at her school! Each teacher received a Bronze Good Citizenship Medal with Certificate as well as a Flag Certificate for their schools.

We the People is a National Endowment for the Humanities program designed to encourage and enhance the teaching, study, and understanding of American history, culture, and democratic principles. President George Bush officially launched We The People on Constitution Day 2002.

Our Compatriot Ed Raines has been invited to serve as a moderator at both schools. Their classes go through the entire Election Process with candidates, primaries, conventions, speeches, debates, inc. and finally voting, with an inauguration ceremony in January.



From left to right, past Rankin President Ed Raines, Marilyn Chevalier, former state President Tom Green. Marilyn Chevalier is a teacher with 27 years of experience and teaches Language Arts and Social Studies in fifth grade at King Elementary in Katy ISD.



“On the 23rd instant, at 5 o’clock in the evening, the question was put that the Convention assent to and ratify the Federal Constitution for the United States of America upon which the votes stood as follows: For the Ratification 149, Against 73, Majority 76.”



Shown to the left is Chalie Power, Vice President of The John Bates Society CAR, who received a BGCMB with Certificate and the cash equivalent of a \$150 savings bond from Compatriot Jackson on behalf of the Robert Rankin Chapter.