



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



Year 6, Issue 62

Organized April 2002

Summer 2011

Summertime

by Thomas Jackson, Editor
(longhorntij@yahoo.com)

The Rankin Chapter traditionally does not have a meeting during the summer; however, that doesn't mean our Chapter stands still. There are numerous color guard events and of course we have our summer Board of Managers meeting, this time in Austin! Our summer newsletter is meant to be full of pictures and short on words; this year I made a few changes to that approach. I hope you had a good summer and look forward to seeing you in September.

Memorial Day

There are numerous events on this day that are special, but perhaps the one that is most significant to Rankin Compatriots is the celebration of Memorial Day at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin. Robert Rankin, namesake of the Chapter, is buried here and each year one or more Rankin Compatriots make the journey to Austin to commemorate his life. The event always makes television news in Austin.

Just east of the State Capitol, is the final resting place of legendary Texans who have made the state what it is today. Governors Ma and Pa Ferguson are here along with John Connally and Ann Richards.



In the photo above Steve Tanner (left) and Tom Jackson (right) flank the gravesite of Robert Rankin.



Shown above is Rankin Compatriot Stephen Tanner preparing his musket and then loosening a black powder volley at the Cemetery.



Color Guardsmen gather at the State Cemetery after the service. Can you find Stephen Tanner and Tom Jackson?

*Heritage Grand Flag Dedication Ceremony
Flag Day, June 14, 2011*

Members of the Robert Rankin Chapter, Paul Carrington Chapter, TXXSAR, joined with the Texas Society Sons of the Republic of Texas and veterans from the Katy VFW post and the Heritage Grand Veterans Organization to dedicate two flagpoles and their flags at the Heritage Grand Community Center. Afterwards there was refreshments and a flag show.



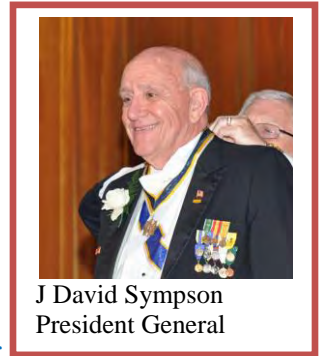
Sam Houston IV posts the Texas colors at the newly installed flag pole at Heritage Grand in Cinco Ranch, Katy.



In the photo, from left to right, are Tom Jackson, Tom Green, and Stephen Tanner. Our Compatriots assisted Tom Green in the presentation of a flag show at Heritage Grand.

*May 31, 2011
Proclamation read at
Memorial Day Ceremony*

Today marks the forty-fifth anniversary of the official birthday of Memorial Day, as signed into law in May 1966 by President Lyndon Baines Johnson at Waterloo, N. Y.



J David Sympson
President General

This day of remembrance for those who died in our nation's service is by no means new in our American history. The origins of Decoration Day, as this celebration was once known, are lost to history. A group of women in the South began decorating veterans' graves before the end of the Civil War.

This day of remembrance of our nation's veterans is an important reminder of the sacrifices our men and women have made to preserve our freedom. It is not a time to give political speeches of why we should or should not continue to defend those freedoms, but rather to honor our service men and women who, today, are willing to serve their country by placing themselves in harm's way.

We Americans who are here today are the beneficiaries of that legacy, regardless of our own heritage and ethnic origins. It would be fitting of us to remember a loved one or perhaps an ancestor who made the sacrifice that brought honor and peace to our nation.

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution continues its efforts to mark the graves of our Revolutionary War patriots, wherever their final resting place is located. The ceremony today represents one of over 350 locations across the nation where Americans have gathered together to honor our fallen heroes. We are proud to be a part of all Americans who have come here today to remember these patriotic men and women as well as those who continue to serve our country. We pray for their safe return.

God bless America,

J. David Sympson.
President General (2010-2011)
The National Society Sons of the American Revolution

*Flag Day Celebration – Tuesday -
June 14, 2011*



Past President David Jones started the current Rankin Flag Day Celebration to place American Flags on Veteran's graves and present flag certificates. Past President McBride previously planned a June meeting around Flag Day with a Flag program by Ed Raines as the centerpiece.

Compatriot Jackson, in his blue and white both at the left and below assisted President Stephen Tanner (shown below) in the placement of 50 flags at the Katy cemetery.

Did you know?

In a tradition started by [Past President Gus Mistrot](#), the Rankin Chapter celebrates each of the eight patriotic holidays as outlined by the state and national organizations. Originally the Chapter had a compatriot address each topic at our meetings in addition to remembering the event in our newsletters. Rules and guidelines changed. Past President Jackson started the tradition of dual meetings to celebrate our holidays. Past Presidents Jones and Tanners refined the process.

What are the eight holidays?



JROTC Events

Our JROTC Committee was quite busy this year. Compatriots Jackson and Tanner were both at eight high schools this year while Gus Mistrot attended two. He was accompanied by Bernice and Karen went with Stephen at one banquet. Thanks for a job well done Compatriots!



Stephen Tanner (foreground) presents a JROTC medal at Langham Creek High School banquet while Compatriot Tom Jackson is at the podium.



Compatriot Jackson (left) is addressing the audience at Cypress Falls High School while Stephen Tanner (right) listens.



In the photo above is Steve Tanner at Jersey Village High School while in the photo below Stephen Tanner (left) and Tom Jackson (right) pose with the JROTC awardee at Cypress Fairbanks High School.



Stephen Tanner presents a flag certificate (left) and JROTC medal and certificate (right) at Cypress Creek High School.



Gus Mistrot, left, and Tom Jackson, above in uniform, present the JROTC medal at Cypress Ridge High School.