



# THE SAN ANTONIO COMPATRIOT

SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER #4 • TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN

Compatriot David Brooks, President — Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, Editor

Mar-Apr 2016



## PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

WOW! Just two months ago I was installed as President – Elect for the year and on April 14th I was installed as President of the Chapter. President Tom Small had recently been hired on at Wal-Mart as an Assistant Store Manager but the demands of his new job became over-whelming. He was a sterling leader within our Chapter over the last year as President-Elect and as President in January. We will miss his leadership and enthusiasm for SAR. I hope to serve as your new President with equal determination and commitment to serve the members of this Chapter.

The Texas Society Annual Conference was held in Richardson, TX on April 1-3, 2016. Our attendees included President Tom Small and Compatriots Stephen and Frank Rohrbough and James Taylor. Chapter and Individual Awards are noted in the section below.

We attended two School History Fairs in early April to include Frank Tejada Middle School (Northside Independent School District) and Losoya Intermediate School (Southside Independent School District). **See page 5 for details.** Under the able leadership of Compatriot Paul Reynolds, our members are in the process of awarding SAR medals to outstanding Junior and Senior ROTC students in local area high schools and universities. We are in the process of selecting a winner of the Edward C. Snyder Jr Memorial Scholarship Award.

Our Chapter was asked to provide the Color Guard for the 97th annual Patriotic and Historical Ball (aka Pioneer Ball) at the Villita Hall as one of the “Kick Off” Events for Fiesta. **For more details, see page 3.**

As I am a relatively new chapter member, due my transfer from the Ohio Society; I am looking forward to meeting more of the San Antonio Chapter members who have not had the opportunity to attend a meeting since I arrived.

## CHAPTER RECEIVES AWARDS AT TXSSAR MEETING

Because of the sustained work of chapter members under the leadership of President Bob

Hancock during his second term of service throughout 2015, the following Awards were presented to our Chapter during the TXS SAR Annual Meeting held March 31 to April 3, 2016.

### Chapter Awards for Service to SAR

- **NSSAR Partners in Patriotism**—For service with veterans group in pursuit of common goals in service to veterans.
- **The Texas SAR Outstanding Public Service Awards**-Awarded to Chapters that give all 4 Public Service Awards during the year.
- **Silver Star for Streamer for Joe Hill Patriot Award**-Awarded annually to each Chapter that has total contributions to Patriot Fund that exceed the total of the previous year.
- **Silver Star for Streamer for Flag Certificate Award**—White Star and a Repeat Winner from last year.

### Individual Awards for Chapter Members for Service to SAR:

- **Certificate of Distinguished Service**—**Stephen Rohrbough** for his support as TXS SAR Trustee to National Society SAR.
- **Certificate of Distinguished Service**-**Jim Massingill** for service as District 3 Vice President
- **Silver Good Citizenship Medal**—**James Taylor** for services as State Chapter
- **Liberty Medal**- **Stephen Rohrbough** for being first line signer of 10 member applications
- **TXS SAR Color Guardsman of the Year for 2014**—James Taylor received this prestigious award for his service to TXS SAR Color Guard

Our Chapter can be proud of our services to the local community which has brought recognition to SAR.

## INDUCTION OF HENRY RAY LOZADA

Chapter of SAR at the Chapter Meeting on March 17, 2016. Because he resides in Lubbock Texas, his induction was delayed until now because he wanted to have his induction with others who were a descendant of one of the first 16 families that were sent by Spain to Texas to colonize Bexar County.



Specifically, Henry can trace his roots in Texas back to 1718, to the Alarcon Expedition. His ancestors from the Canary Islands formed the first civil government in the State of Texas. They were also involved in the Siege of Bexar of 1813, the Battle of Medina and the Battle at San Jacinto. Henry was able to join the NSSAR on account of his ancestor Francisco Rafael Leal. Francisco was a Spanish Soldier stationed at the Presidio de Bexar during the time of the American Revolution. Lozada's sponsor was Compatriot Rueben Perez, a member since August 2007.

(Above Right) President-Elect Dave Brooks inducts Henry Lozada as a member of the San Antonio Chapter SAR. Looking on is Compatriot Rueben Perez whose lineage is also through the Canary Island Families. (At Left) Shown is Henry Lozada and his wife Alice with Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, Chapter Color Guard Commander.



## LADY PRISSY HANCOCK SPEAKS ON "LIFE WITH DOLLEY MADISON"



Our Guest Speaker for our Chapter Meeting on March 17th was Priscilla Hancock, wife of our Immediate Former Chapter President Bob Hancock. She proved a sterling review of what time and life was like for Dolley Madison, First Lady of President James Madison.

Born into a large Quaker family that went by strict rules and the highest morals, Dolley lost her first husband and married into the well-known Virginia aristocracy. Even though James Madison was a Congressman, Dolley was expelled from her faith as James was an Anglican. Never seeing a stranger and always kind and helpful to all, she was sought after in the Washington society. Madison, a brilliant writer, who was called the father of the Constitution and author of the Bill of Rights, disclaimed such talk saying there were many minds that created the work.

During their years in the White House, Dolley was known for the excellent meals and friendly atmosphere she provided. During the War of 1812 when President Madison was gone, it appeared that the British were nearing the White House and Dolley was urged to leave, but declined because she thought her husband would return and until then she would guard the country's most famous abode. Finally after all the Patriot soldiers and staff left the White House, Dolley and one servant were able to load up many important personal papers in a carriage. She had the famous picture of George Washington, painted by Gilbert Stuart (which was nailed to the wall) cut out of its frame, and left only minutes before the British arrived to sack and burn the White House.

Is it any wonder that Dolley Madison is an example of undying patriotism to us all even this day!





## FORMER CHAPTER PRESIDENT PASSES

2016. After graduating from Central Catholic High School in 1943, he attended Texas A&M and the Class of 1947. His studies were interrupted for service during WWII serving in the US Army Air Corps, and at wars end, in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations. He returned to A&M and graduated in 1949 receiving a commission in the U.S.A.F. Reserve as a 2nd Lieutenant. He was honorably discharged as a Captain in 1963. He retired from IBM Corporation in 1987 after some 30 years with the company.

Compatriot Dibrell was inducted to the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution on December 4, 1972. He became a Chapter President serving for two years in 1977 and 1978. John was an avid genealogist and could trace his ancestors back to the 7th Century AD. He belonged to many historic and patriotic organizations to include the Society of the War of 1812, sons of the Republic of Texas, Sons of the Confederate Veterans, Military Order of the Stars and Bars, Society of Lees Virginia, society of Colonial Wars, Ft. Delaware Society, Former Texas Rangers Association, First Families of Bexar County, San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society and San Antonio Conservation Society. He was a member of the Texas A&M Former Students Association, Corps of Cadets Association and the San Antonio A&M Club. Compatriot Dibrell is survived by his wife Myrtie and two daughters and many grandchildren, nieces and a nephew. He was interred at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery on April 15th.



## CHAPTER MEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN PIONEER BALL



Compatriot Jay Lewallen and his Lady Diane once again hosted a table at the 97th Annual Patriotic and Historical Ball (Pioneer Ball) on Saturday, April 18th at the historic Villita Hall. Their Guests included: National VPG South Central District Stephen Rohrbough, Former Chapter President Bob Hancock, Compatriot Paul Reynolds and his Lady Rose, Compatriot Frank Rohrbough and his Lady Diane, (Shown at Left) The Chapter Color Guard presented the Colors for the Opening of the Pioneer Ball Celebration. Shown from Left to Right are Compatriots Frank Rohrbough (Commander of the SAR Color Guard and Past President of the San Antonio Chapter); Bob Hancock (Immediate Chapter Past President) guarding the U. S. Flag; Stephen Rohrbough, NSSAR VPG South Central District carrying the U. S. Flag; Paul Reynolds (Chairman of the ROTC Committee), carrying the Texas Flag; and Jay Lewallen guarding the Texas Flag (Chairman of the Education Committee and member of the Pioneer Association.)

The 97th Annual Patriotic and Historical Ball is among the first of the galas to open Fiesta. The first Ball took place in 1919 to honor San Antonio's military personnel and has continued since that time. Military personnel from local installations and organizations are special guests for the evening.

(Shown at Left) Compatriot Jay Lewallen and Lady Diane as members in the Pioneer Ball Association have been instrumental in getting the Chapter to Present the National and State Colors each year since April 2012. Lady Diane and Compatriot Jay are the consummate host and hostess, true to their Texas roots, showing us genuine Texas Hospitality. They prepared a wonderful meal to include sandwiches, chips, fruit, snacks and drinks. Thank you for a fun-filled evening of entertainment and Fiesta celebration. Viva Fiesta!



## CHAPTER CELEBRATES 86TH BIRTHDAY

On April 20th at our Chapter Meeting, President David Brooks (shown in photo at



David Brooks

Stephen Rohrbough

Robert Hancock

Harry Long

Joseph M. Ware

Edward Butler

George W. Harcourt

far left) led the celebration of the Chapter's 86th Birthday. Our chapter has been quite active as noted in the President's Remarks. Several of our members are serving in leadership positions of the Texas Society SAR. Some of the Past Presidents present who are still actively contributing to the Chapters' success since its founding on April 19, 1930 include (**Photo L to R**): Dave Brooks (Apr 2016-Jan 2017), Stephen Rohrbough (Mar 1998-Mar 2000), Bob Hancock (Jan 2014-Jan 2016), Harry Long (Mar 1988-Mar 1990), Joe Ware (Mar 1993-Mar 1995), former President-General Edward Butler (Mar 2002-Mar 2004) and George Harcourt (Apr 2005-Dec 2005). Others Former Presidents not shown remain active as members of the Executive Committee and participating in Chapter Events throughout the year. These include Jimmie Massingill (2001-2002), Jack Cowan (Mar-2004—2005), Frank Rohrbough (Jan 2007-Jan 2008), Peter Baron (Jan 2010-Jan 2011) and James Taylor (Jan 2011-Jan 2013).

## COMPATRIOT JOE WARE REVIEWS THE FOUNDING OF OUR CHAPTER



Compatriot Joe Ware conducted extensive research on the founding of our Chapter and provided a very interesting presentation at our April Chapter Meeting. He said "We have celebrated the April 1930 founding of our chapter for many years but this year we wanted to focus on and honor our founding President, Alexander B Spencer and his five co-founders." He reported:

"The stage was set: 1930 was the first year of the Great Depression, thought by historians and economists to be the most difficult peacetime period in our history. The stock market had crashed in October 1929 followed by multiple bank failures; consumer confidence plummeted and businesses failed by the hundreds; GNP was cut in half; unemployment doubled and doubled again. Some were preaching that our form of government and the free enterprise system had failed; Socialism and Communism were touted as the wave of the future. This was the environment in which our chapter was formed." Our Founding Leaders were:

- **Alexander Spencer**, had a wholesale lumber business and constructed homes in Terrill Hills, born in Virginia of a prominent family; the Spencer's who are related to most of the European royalty and include Winston Spencer Churchill and Princess Diana nee Spencer
- **Albert McDavid**, who later was TXSAR President and NSSAR Historian General
- **Jack Beretta**, a Graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology - who mapped the acequias (a system to distribute the water using seven gravity-flow irrigation ditches and five dams and an aqueduct constructed as a network to send water from the San Antonio River over fifteen miles to the missions.)
- **Samuel Scott**, who's ancestor was a hero at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse
- **F. L. Hillyer**, a successful local businessman, and
- **Herbert Spencer**, the brother of Alexander Spencer, also a successful local businessmen.

In summary, Ware stated: "All of them were successful in their careers and worked hard to defend our U. S. Constitution and the way of life that had been built in a growing America. They set an example for us to follow."



## CHAPTER PARTICIPATES IN ANNUAL TEJEDA MIDDLE SCHOOL HISTORY FAIRE

On Saturday, March 28th, while many of our Chapter Leaders were attending the Annual Texas Society SAR Meeting in Houston, several of our members participated in the Frank Tejada Middle School History Faire. Compatriot Jay Lewallen took the lead role to provide selected demonstrations of the American Revolution events, period uniforms and weapons, camp life during the Revolution. **(Photo at Right)** Compatriot Jay Lewallen (standing at left) wearing the coonskin hat is conversing with Compatriot Bob Hancock (seated), Immediate Past President, San Antonio Chapter. Compatriot Fred Soupiset is seated demonstrating the making of a powder horn while Compatriot Bud Davenport looks on.



## LOSOYA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL HISTORY FAIR

intermediate School (Southside ISD) to participate in their fledging History Fair. This is the second time we attended the event and found the staff and student very welcoming. President Dave Brooks (sitting in white shirt) presented US Flag Pins to all students and their parents encouraging each to hear presentations on the American Revolution, the weapons and uniforms worn during the War and historical experience's of our Patriot Ancestors. Leading these discussions were Compatriot Bob Hancock in his early war uniform. Not shown were Compatriots Frank Rohrbough in his Continental Line (First Virginia Regimental Uniform) and Stephen Rohrbough in his First VA Militia uniform similar to Bob Hancock's uniform.

On April 9th, four members of the Chapter assembled at the Losoya In-



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

### **Chapter Business Meeting:**

Napa Flats Restaurant, 1301 N Loop 1604 W (in Vineyard Shopping Center), 2nd Thursday each month at 11:30 A.M. Next meetings are on May 12th and June 11th)

**Chapter General Meeting:** Usually held at the Petroleum Club on 3rd Wednesday each month at 11:30 A.M to 1 P.M. Next Meetings are on May 18th and June 15th .

### **Operation Ancestry Research:**

Training sessions are on Mondays May 42nd &

### **Flag Placement Scouting Program:**

Presentation of Colors, Friday, May 29th at 5:00 P.M. Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery. (Assemble at 4:15 PM)

### **Independence Day Events:**

- **Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort Educational Program, Jul 3rd, 10 AM**

(Assemble at 9 AM at the Lukenbach Pavilion) (All members are invited to participate or attend.)

- **Granaderos de Galvez Memorial Service, Ft. San Houston National Cemetery, Jul 4th, 10 A.M. (Assemble at 9 AM)**

For more, go to our Chapter Website at:

[www.sarsat.org](http://www.sarsat.org).