



THE SAN ANTONIO COMPATRIOT

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

Compatriot David Brooks, President — Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, Editor

May-Jun 2016



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Compatriots: The Chapter has been very active the past two months. On May 27th, we pre-

sented the National Colors for the Opening of the Annual Scouting Flag Placement Program that resulted in over 100,000 US Flags being placed on the Tombstones of veterans who are buried at the National Cemetery at Ft. Sam Houston.

With the help of Compatriot George Harcourt, the Texas SAR State Planning Committee and President Michael Radcliff selected the El Tropicana Hotel as the site for the 2017 Annual Conference. Our Chapter will be the host chapter for this State Meeting which will be held March 30 – April 2, 2017.

At our May 18th Chapter Meeting, the membership elected four new officers – Compatriots Larry Loop as President Elect, Dustin Whittenburg as Treasurer, Roy Leonard as Vice President of Programs and Joe Ware as Historian. Recently, Henry Garcia was appointed as the new Membership Chairman and Kevin Kanter as Education Committee Chairman. Whittenburg and Leonard were installed at this Chapter Meeting and Loop and Ware was installed at the May 12th Executive Committee Meeting. I extend my personal gratitude to each of them for taking on these important roles in our Chapter. This fills all the Officer and Committee Positions for 2016.

Because May is Law Enforcement Month for SAR, we sought a candidate from the San Antonio Police Department. This year, we recognized Officer Michael Fields for his service. Deputy Chief Joseph Mackay was our guest speaker. (See Page 2)

At our June 15th Chapter meeting, we hosted Compatriot James Barkley, Vice President for District 3 of the Texas Society, where upon he reported to us the goals for the State Society for this year and gave specific attention of goals as outlined by President Radcliff upon his induction in March. His goals for his Presidency are simple: Recruit and Retain our Members, i.e., recruit new members and retain those who are dropped because of “None Payment of Dues”.

I wish to pay a special tribute to long time member Donald Childs who passed away on April 29th; his Obituary is provided on Page 5.

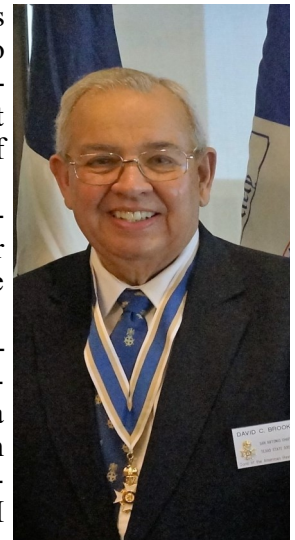
We hosted two special guests. First, we recognized Ms. Paula Allen, as staff writer for the Express News, who wrote a wonderful article about the founding of the San Antonio Chapter in 1930; the article appeared in the San Antonio Express News, Metro Section, on Sunday, April 3rd. I presented her with the Silver SAR Good Citizenship Award for researching and preserving the history of our Chapter's founding. (See Page 5). Secondly, we recognized Ms. Alexia Lazcano, the winner of our Chapters Knight Essay Contest, read her outstanding Essay entitled “The Radical Patriot of the South” and received a check for \$250.00. (See Page 6; Essay is on Page 7)

We have two Independence Day Events coming up in early July and I ask for those who live in the San Antonio area to participate in these events. Our biggest program is our Independence Day Celebration which will be held on July 3rd at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort at 3:00 P.M. All compatriots (in Revolutionary Period dress or appropriate dress of the day) are invited to attend and share their stories of their Patriot Ancestor with the 100 plus Hotel Guests who will be attending the event. I ask that if you can, please join us. Our second event is the Wreath Laying Ceremony conducted by the Granaderos de Galvez y Dames at San Antonio National Cemetery on July 4th. As your President, I will place our Chapter Wreath before the attendees.

As a reminder, there will be NO chapter meetings in July or August. We will continue to have our Executive Committee (Business) Meetings in August and September.

Have an enjoyable and safe summer; hope to see you at our next Chapter Meeting on September 21st at the Petroleum Club.

Compatriotly, *David Brooks*



LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD

Each year our Chapter presents SAR's Law Enforcement Award to a deserving Law Officer. For his dedicated service over 27 years, Chapter President Dave Brooks presented Officer Michael W. Fields with SAR's Law Enforcement Commendation Medal at our May 18th Chapter Meeting.

Officer Michael W. Field distinguished himself with dedication to duty and outstanding achievements as a Patrol Officer and an Instructor with the San Antonio Police Department. While assigned to the San Antonio Police Department, he has served as a Field Training Officer and Training Instructor for the Traffic, Patrol, and Support Divisions continuously demonstrating strong leadership skills in each unit and achieving high respect from his peers and supervisors alike.

Officer Field's leadership has consistently demonstrated an instinctive ability to teach others not only the skills and knowledge required to perform but also to instill greater professionalism within the San Antonio Police Department.

Officer Field's distinctive accomplishments, hard work ethic, diligence to duty, strong determination, and the ability to improve the professionalism of others reflects great credit upon



(Above) Officer Field's speaks about his work as a Field Training Officer with the Police Department. Attending the Awards luncheon were 25 other co-workers and friends.

himself, the San Antonio Police Department, and the Citizens of San Antonio.

The San Antonio Chapter, Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution recognizes Officer Michael W. Field and proudly awards him the National Society Sons of the American Revolution, Law Enforcement Commendation Medal, with Bar, and certificate this 18th day of May 2016.

(Photo at Left) Deputy Chief Joseph Mackay was our Guest Speaker from the San Antonio Police Department; he witnessed the Award presentation to Officer Fields as noted above. He was presented a book entitled "Desperate Sons".



NEW OFFICERS FILL VACANT POSITIONS

President Brooks took quick action to backfill several Officer and Committee positions following his Installation as our Chapter President on April 14th. As noted in the President's Remarks on Page 1, four members were asked to fill critical positions to keep the Chapter on course for the rest of 2016. At our May 18th Chapter Meeting, the membership elected four new officers – Compatriots Larry Loop as President Elect, Dustin Whittenburg as Treasurer, Roy Leonard as Vice President of Programs and Joe Ware as Historian.



(Photo at Right) Vice President General for the South Central District (NSSAR) Stephen Rohrbough gives the Oath of office to Compatriot Joe Ware (center) and Larry Loop (right) at the Executive Committee Meeting on May 12th.

(Photo at Left) Compatriots Dustin Whittenburg (left) and Roy Leonard (right) were installed by VPG Rohrbough at the May 18th Chapter Meeting. To fill out the Committee positions, President Brooks recently appointed Henry Garcia as the new Membership Chairman and Kevin Kanter as Education Committee Chairman.



CHAPTER CELEBRATES MEMORIAL DAY WITH AREA SCOUTS

On May 23rd our Chapter participated in the Opening Ceremony of the Scouts Annual Flag Placement Event at the National Cemetery at Ft. Sam Houston, TX. The VA provided small US flags for the scouts from the San Antonio Area to place in front of all 100,000 Veterans' Grave Markers in the cemetery. The event honors all veterans who have served our country throughout previous and current wars. (At Right) Color Guardsmen (from right to left) were: Compatriots James Taylor, Bob Hancock, Paul Reynolds, Frank Rohrbough and Stephen Rohrbough (VPG SCD). Chaplain General Taylor gave the Invocation and Benediction.



“They Stood for Something and We Owe Them Something” Excerpts From President Reagan’s 1986 Memorial Day Speech

Today is the day we put aside to remember fallen heroes and to pray that no heroes will ever have to die for us again. It's a day of thanks for the valor of others, a day to remember the splendor of America and those of her children who rest in this cemetery and others. It's a day to be with the family and remember.

Arlington, this place of so many memories, is a fitting place for some remembering. So many wonderful men and women rest here, men and women who led colorful, vivid, and passionate lives. There are the greats of the military: Bull Halsey and the Admirals Leahy, father and son; Black Jack Pershing; and the GI's general, Omar Bradley. Great men all, military men. But there are others here known for other things.

Here in Arlington rests a sharecropper's son who became a hero to a lonely people. Joe Louis came from nowhere, but he knew how to fight. And he galvanized a nation in the days after Pearl Harbor when he put on the uniform of his country and said, "I know we'll win because we're on God's side." Audie Murphy is here, Audie Murphy of the wild, wild courage. For what else would you call it when a man bounds to the top of a disabled tank, stops an enemy advance, saves lives, and rallies his men, and all of it single-handedly. When he radioed for artillery support and was asked how close the enemy was to his position, he said, "Wait a minute and I'll let you speak to them." [Laughter]

Michael Smith is here, and Dick Scobee, both of the space shuttle Challenger. Their courage wasn't wild, but thoughtful, the mature and measured courage of career professionals who took prudent risks for great reward—in their case, to advance the sum total of knowledge in the world. They're only the latest to rest here; they join other great explorers with names like Grissom and Chaffee.

Oliver Wendell Holmes is here, the great jurist and fighter for the right. A poet searching for an image of true majesty could not rest until he seized on "Holmes dissenting in a sordid age." Young Holmes served in the Civil War. He might have been thinking of the crosses and stars of Arlington when he wrote: "At the grave of a hero we end, not with sorrow at the inevitable loss, but with the contagion of his courage; and with a kind of desperate joy we go back to the fight."

All of these men were different, but they shared this in common: They loved America very much. There was nothing they wouldn't do for her. And they loved with the sureness of the young. It's hard not to think of the young in a place like this, for it's the young who do the fighting and dying when a peace fails and a war begins. Not far from here is the statue of the three servicemen—the three fighting boys of Vietnam. It, too, has majesty and more. Perhaps you've seen it—three rough boys walking together, looking ahead with a steady gaze. There's something wounded about them, a kind of resigned toughness. But there's an unexpected tenderness, too. At first you don't really notice, but then you see it. The three are touching each other, as if they're supporting each other, helping each other on.

I know that many veterans of Vietnam will gather today, some of them perhaps by the wall. And they're still helping each other on. They were quite a group, the boys of Vietnam—boys who fought a terrible and vicious war without enough support from home, boys who were dodging bullets while we debated the efficacy of the battle. It was often our poor who fought in that war; it was the unpampered boys of the working class who picked up the rifles and went on the march. They learned not to rely on us; they learned to rely on each other. (Cont'd on Page 4)

DISTRICT 3 VICE PRESIDENT VISITS CHAPTER

Compatriot James R. Barkley, Vice President of District 3, Texas Society and Past President of the Hill Country Chapter in Kerrville, TX, was our Guest Speaker at our June 15th Chapter Meeting. He spoke on the goals of the State Society for 2016-2017 with specific attention to the goals as outlined by President Michael Radcliff upon his induction at the State Meeting in Richardson, TX in March. His goals as Texas Society President are simple: Recruit and Retain our Members.

VP Barkley went on to state that all Texas Chapters need to continue recruiting new members and most importantly retain those who are dropped because of "Non-Payment of Dues".

We appreciate the time VP Barkley took to visit us and share his thoughts with us.



INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBER

(At Left) At our June 15th Chapter Meeting. President Brooks inducted Compatriot Robert Johnson, Jr. of Blanco TX. As part of the induction ceremony, Stephen Rohrbough, VPG South Central District NSSAR, pinned the SAR Rosette on Compatriot Johnson. Compatriot Johnson gave some brief remarks about his 4th Great Grand Father and Patriot Ancestor Michael



Lebkicker.

Michael Lebkicker was born 19 March 1759 in Lancaster Pa. He enlisted in August of 1776 at age 17. He served as a private in Capt. Henry Buehler's Pennsylvania Company. He was in a skirmish at Staten Island and in the battle of Fort Washington where he was taken prisoner when the Fort's commander surrendered.

He was held at a Presbyterian church in New York City for two weeks and then transferred to a prison ship for two months. He was then released on parole. He served a total of eight months. He died 27 January 1848 at age 88.

When asked about coming to Texas, Johnson said "that when his Dad was transferred to Kelly AFB, I enlisted in the Air Force. I came to Texas to begin college. I graduated from University of Texas in 1972 and reentered the Air Force for an additional 18 years. My last assignment was at Randolph AFB, so I stayed in Texas and went to work at USAA." Compatriot Johnson now lives on a ranch near Blanco.

President's Reagan's 1986 Speech (Continued from Page 3)

And they were special in another way: They chose to be faithful. They chose to reject the fashionable skepticism of their time. They chose to believe and answer the call of duty. They had the wild, wild courage of youth. They seized certainty from the heart of an ambivalent age; they stood for something. And we owe them something, those boys. We owe them first a promise: That just as they did not forget their missing comrades, neither, ever, will we. And there are other promises.

We must always remember that peace is a fragile thing that needs constant vigilance. We owe them a promise to look at the world with a steady gaze and, perhaps, a resigned toughness, knowing that we have adversaries in the world and challenges and the only way to meet them and maintain the peace is by staying strong.

That, of course, is the lesson of this century, a lesson learned in the Sudetenland, in Poland, in Hungary, in Czechoslovakia, in Cambodia. If we really care about peace, we must stay strong. If we really care about peace, we must, through our strength, demonstrate our unwillingness to accept an ending of the peace. We must be strong enough to create peace where it does not exist and strong enough to protect it where it does. That's the lesson of this century and, I think, of this day. And that's all I wanted to say. The rest of my contribution is to leave this great place to its peace, a peace it has earned. (Bolded for Emphasis)

Thank all of you, and God bless you, and have a day full of memories.

EXPRESS NEWS WRITER RECOGNIZED

For our Chapter Meeting on April 20th, Compatriot Joe Ware researched the founding of our Chapter and provided a very interesting presentation to our members. He noted “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.”

Ms. Paula Allen’s assistance and research was critically important to his efforts. Ware recommended that she be recognized for her efforts.

Ms. Paula Allen, as staff writer for the Express News, wrote the wonderful article about the founding of the San Antonio Chapter in 1930; the article appeared in the San Antonio Express News, Metro Section, on Sunday, April 3rd. At our June Chapter Meeting, President Brooks presented the Silver SAR Good Citizenship Award to Ms. Allen for researching and preserving the History of our Chapter’s founding.

(Photo Above) Looking on is Compatriot Joe Ware.



PASSING OF COMPATRIOT DONALD CHILD



September 27, 1927 - April 29, 2016

Donald Eugene Child was called home to his Lord and Savior on Friday, April 29, 2016 after spending an afternoon with his family by his side. He was born in Great Bend, Kansas on September 27, 1927 to Paul William and Sarah Marcella (King) Child. A few years later his family moved to Wyoming.

Mr. Child was a veteran of both World War II (US Army Air Corps) and Korean Conflict (US Air Force) time periods and continued to serve in the Reserves until retirement. He first entered the service after completing high school and was sent to Lackland for Basic Training. While on a pass to town, he met the girl he would marry, Betty Cotulla Child. The couple married in 1947 and lacked a few weeks of celebrating their 69th wedding anniversary.

He was a graduate of Trinity University receiving both his BS and MS in the field of Business and Economics. He worked at Kelly AFB for 33 years as a civilian starting as a Machinist Apprentice and retiring as a supervisor of Logistic Management.

Mr. Child was a 60+ year member of Harlandale Lodge No. 1213 AF&AM, Order of the Eastern Star, Harlandale Chapter #750, Scottish Rite, Alzafar Shrine, AAONMS where he was a member of Sons of Hiram and the Hospital Corps (Past Commander). He also belonged to the American Legion, Alamo Post 2 and the Disabled American Veterans, M. Earley Chapter 14. He was member of the Mayflower Society, San Antonio Colony (Past Colony Governor), the Sons of the American Revolution, San Antonio #4 and Texas State Pioneers Association. He was also Past Exalted Ruler and District Deputy of the BPOE #216, a member of MENSA, and NARFE, NW Chapter #1320. For many years he was a volunteer at Audie Murphy VA Hospital where he worked as a patient escort; he also worked as volunteer mediator at the Bexar County Dispute Resolution Center.

Church has always been a part of his life. For many years he attended Trinity Episcopal Church where he served on the Vestry (Past Senior Warden), Eucharist Minister, and Council Representative. Several years ago the Trinity family decided to close the church and Don found a new home at Christ Episcopal. He attended the Men's Bible Class, served as a Eucharist Minister and later joyfully did the Prayers of the People. Mr. Child was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters, Gwendolyn Hankins and Betty Rowse, and his son, David Eugene Child. In addition to his wife he is survived by his daughter, Linda Child Nairn, grandson, Andrew Nairn, granddaughter, Amy Nairn Pitzel and her husband, Jason, and great-grandchildren, Mathias Joseph Pitzel and Sarah Josephine Pitzel, a niece and two nephews. Services were held May 13, 2016 at 1:30 pm at CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 510 BELKNAP, SAN ANTONIO, TX 28212.

In lieu of flowers, Memorial Contributions can be made to Alzafar Shrine Children's Hospital Transportation Fund, Alzafar Shrine Center, 901 N. Loop 1604 West, San Antonio TX 78232; Habitat for Humanity, 311 Probandt Street, San Antonio, Street 78204.

KNIGHT ESSEY CONTEST AWARDEES RECOGNIZED

The George and Stella Knight Essay Contest Award criteria requires historical accuracy, clarity of thought, organization, grammar and references.

On June 15th at our Chapter Meeting, the San Antonio Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) recognized Alexia Lazcano, as the 1st place winner of their annual George and Stella Knight Essay Contest. She read her outstanding Essay entitled "The Radical Patriot of the South". Her essay is published on **Page 7**.

(Photo at Right) President Brooks presented Alexia with a SAR Certificate and q check for \$250. Looking on is Past President Tom Small.



Alexia graduated from Incarnate Word High School in May and plans to attend American University in Washington D.C. starting in September. There she will major in History with special focus on colonial America, the American Revolutionary War, and early U.S. politics.

Other Award Winners were recognized in February by then President Tom Small and highlighted in the January-February 2016 Chapter Newsletter. These recipients were:

- **Rebekah Gardea** won 2nd Place with an essay entitled "Nathanael Greene: The Pacifist General." Rebekah Gardea is a Junior at Castle Hills First Baptist School. She was presented her Award on February 16th during the school's lunch period and received a Certificate of Appreciation and a check for \$150.
- **Coggin Galbreath** won 3rd place with an essay entitled "Nathan Hale: Patriotism and the Fire that Forged America." Coggin, who is a Senior at Geneva High School in Boerne, was presented a Certificate of Appreciation and a check for \$100 at his home in Fair Oaks.
- **Eleanor Galbreath**, sister of Coggin, placed 4th in the Contest and received an Honorable Mention Certificate of Appreciation. As a freshman she was encouraged to compete again next year.

For greater public recognition, the principals at their schools were notified of these Awards.

Because of our alliance with the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa and our participation in their Annual Independence Day Event in July, **the Resort now sponsors these Youth Awards.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

Summer Recess: No Chapter Meetings will be held in July or August.

Next Chapter Executive Committee Meetings: Egg & I located at 9985 IH-10W (Colonnade) on Spectrum One St., August 11th and September 15th at 11:30 A.M.

Next Chapter Meeting: September 21st at 11:30 AM at the Petroleum Club.

Operation Ancestry Research: July 25th at the Wounded Warrior Family Support Ctr., Ft. Sam Houston, TX; Session starts at 1

P.M. (All Members are invited to participate.)

Independence Day Events:

- Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort Educational Program, **July 3rd, 3:00 PM** (Assemble at 2:00 PM at the Lukenbach Pavilion) (All members are invited to participate or attend.)
- Granaderos de Galvez y Dames Memorial Service, San Antonio National Cemetery, **July 4th, 10 A.M.** (Assemble 9:15 AM)

126th National Society SAR Congress Boston MA, July 8-13, 2016, Late Registration Fees Began on June 10th. (All members are invited to attend these Annual Events) For details, go to <http://www.sar.org>.

For more information about our chapter activities, go to:

SASAR Chapter Website:
<http://www.sarsat.org>

KNIGHT ESSAY CONTEST AWARDEE'S ESSAY

The Radical Patriot of the South by Alexia Lazcano

Attack or fall back and secure help; these were options that American Revolutionary War leader, John Laurens, was faced with on multiple occasions. Known for his recklessness and hasty decisions, it was no surprise that Laurens chose to be the instigator and draw out a reaction from the British on August 27th 1782 at the Battle of the Combahee River.(1) Unfortunately it was here that he finally met his demise even after surviving different wounds he sustained at every battle he fought in.(2) With Laurens' death also came the end of another battle he was fighting, the fight against slavery.

The American Revolutionary War was fought to secure the liberty of the American colonists who felt enslaved by England; however not only did Laurens fight for his country's freedom, but he also fought for enslaved blacks, who yearned just as desperately for freedom. It is ironic that John Laurens was an opponent of slavery despite being from South Carolina, a colony dependent upon slave labor. John Laurens was born in 1754 at Charleston, South Carolina. He was the fourth of twelve brothers and sister, but the first to live to reach maturity.(3) His father, Henry Laurens, rose to great heights, profiting greatly from his merchant firm, slave trade, his plantations, and his political positions.(4) Despite Henry Laurens' success in slave trade, and as the owner of many large plantations, the elder Laurens abhorred slavery. His sentiments stemmed from Christian principles, that these humans should not be treated as property, however, he felt that it was only commonplace now because of the original enslavers in the slavery system.(5) The defense of slave owning Southerners' case was simply the argument that slaves attributed to their socioeconomic status; they were property that contributed to their plantations as a whole. John Laurens received education in Geneva, Switzerland, and took on the European ideals of Republicanism.(6) To the younger Laurens, Republicanism "emphasized active citizenship and virtuous self-sacrifice for the common good."(7) The American Revolution began while Laurens was studying law in London, and he desperately wanted to return home. Laurens in the past years had done as his father wished, choosing law over his passion for medicine, but now with this need to live a life of moral virtue, he would leave England to fight in his home country.(8) Laurens was of Southern aristocracy, however, he saw it fit that he should give up himself for the public interest; he did not intend to get paid for his duty to the country. In the discussion of slavery, coinciding with Laurens' new understandings, he believed that "blacks shared a common nature with whites, which included a natural right to liberty," writing that "we have sunk the Africans & their descendants below the Standard of Humanity, and almost render'd them incapable of that Blessing which equal Heaven bestow'd upon us all."(9) Few white men, especially slaveholders, shared this view. Laurens went to the fight for liberty and freedoms in his country, despite what his father might think of him. Laurens was invited to be an aide-de-camp to General Washington, August 4th, 1777, with the help of Henry Laurens' political influence.(10) The young Laurens was not only for championing an American people, but also the enslaved blacks. He voiced a thought, which pointed out the hypocrisy of the fight for freedom, "I think that we Americans, at least in the Southern colonies, cannot contend with a good grace for liberty until we shall have enfranchised our slaves."(11) Luckily for him, when Laurens joined Washington's family in the Continental Army, he bonded with Alexander Hamilton who shared the same ideals, fellow abolitionists. On September 11th, 1777, Laurens got his first taste of the fight at the Battle of Brandywine. Here in his first battle he was injured, and the Marquis de Lafayette commented on his friend's recklessness, saying, "it was not his fault that he was not killed or wounded[,] he did everything that was necessary to procure one or t'other."(12) This was only the start of his hasty actions. On October 4th, 1777, at the Battle of Germantown, Laurens had been hit by a musket ball in his right shoulder, but still went on to Chew's House, using one hand to fight with a sword, and the other he used to set fire to the house.(13) While the young soldier was commended for his courage, he was slowly becoming notorious for his brash behavior. On October 6th, 1777, Laurens was officially appointed as an aide-de-camp to General Washington, and promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.(14) His status as an aide allowed him to become close friends with Lafayette, Hamilton, and also with his own General Washington. Laurens (as well as Hamilton) spoke about the hypocrisy and encouraged those around him to consider freeing their slaves. Lafayette eventually reached an understanding, and Washington felt that it would be unwise, predicting that it would cause a great magnitude of economic and social upheaval.(15)

At the beginning of 1778, Laurens sent his father two proposals. In the first he asked to be allowed to return to South Carolina to recruit a regiment of slaves for the Continental Army, and at the end of the war they would receive their freedom; in his letter to Henry Laurens he writes, "[the raising of black battalions would] ... advance those who are unjustly deprived of the Rights of Mankind [and] ... reinforce the Defenders of Liberty with a number of gallant soldiers.(16) The second challenged the South to operate without slave labor.(17) The passionate Laurens would not stop pestering his father of Congress on the matter. It is not until March 1779 that Congress sends him to the South to begin his plan, or as Hamilton describes it in a letter to John Jay, "a project, which [he thinks], in the present situation of affairs there, is a very good one and deserves every kind of support and encouragement."(18) Even though the Continental Congress accepted his proposal, the southern states rejected the plan and the formation of the regiment failed.(19) Laurens would continue to serve in the army, as well as work along side Benjamin Franklin as a special minister to France to help secure aid for the American side.(20) John Laurens was never able to push for his plan again. After the Battle of Yorktown, Laurens' friend, Alexander Hamilton, resigned from the army, but Laurens did not; he did not consider the war over.(21) He hastily rushed into the fight at the Battle of the Combahee River and was shot, leaving him to die on the ground.(22) Washington wrote of Laurens, "no man possessed more of the amor patria - in a word, he had not a fault that I ever could discover, unless intrepidity bordering upon rashness could come under that denomination, and to this he was excited by the purest motives."(23) It seems that Washington had been right about the nature of this soldier. John Laurens had fought for the American cause; a cause that encompassed freedoms and liberties for both white and black alike, because he felt it was his moral duty, but his downfall was his persistent and reckless behavior.

Text with Footnotes () is available on request from the Editor