



# THE SAN ANTONIO COMPATRIOT

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

Compatriot George Whittenburg, President - Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, Editor | May-June 2020



## PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Compatriots: We continue to live under extraordinary conditions resulting from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. As a result, we are navigating many new policies and rules designed to mitigate this disease. We continue to take the necessary actions to balance keeping the chapter involved in the community and protecting public health. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel our May and June Chapter Meetings. I have already added our Chapter Meetings for July and August; we hope that restrictions will have loosened by then, but we ask everyone to remain flexible in the event they are still in place. We will resume holding our Chapter Meetings at the Petroleum Club on the third Wednesday of the month when it fully reopens. We conducted our Executive Committee Meetings for May and June via telecommunications. We will return to the La Fonda Mexican Restaurant in Alamo Heights on July 8th.

One of the most important events of our year is to honor our First Responders. While Compatriot Peter Baron has continued to work with his contacts at the San Antonio Fire Department on the selection of our Award recipients, we will not be able to honor them until our September Meeting.

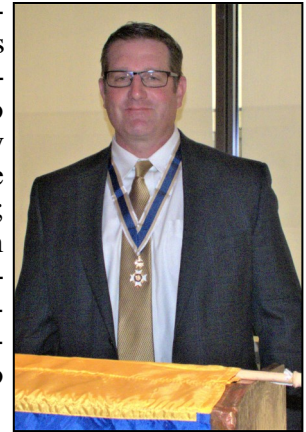
Compatriot Larry Loop continues to go above and beyond with the youth education programs — an update on our Oration Contestant Winner is provided on **page 2**. In addition, we need to continue making donations to the VA Hospital Popcorn Fund to cover lost revenues. In the last newsletter I encouraged chapter members to make a donation until we can start selling popcorn again. Because of the ongoing health concerns, it will likely be Fall before popcorn sales resume. For more details, see the item below.

We are saddened by the death of Compatriot Richard S. Wright. Although a member for only 3 years, he was actively involved in serving veterans at the Audie Murphy VA Medical Center. For more see **page 2**.

I congratulate Dustin Whittenburg, Immediate Past President of our Chapter, on his election as the Texas Society SAR Chancellor for 2020—2021. It's nice to have a member of our Chapter serving as a State Officer.

I thank all of you again for your patience and flexibility during these times. Stay healthy and remain in touch with each other. I look forward to seeing you all at the next chapter meeting. For details about our coming events, **go to page 3** or our Chapter Website at <http://www.sarsat.org>.

Respectfully, *George Whittenburg*.



## DONATIONS TO SERVE VETERANS AT AUDIE MURPHY VETERANS MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER

Because of the Coronavirus (COVID -19), all Veteran Service Organizations have cancelled their services to the VA Volunteer Services Office (VAVS) at the Audie Murphy Veterans Memorial Medical Center in San Antonio. As a reminder our Chapter provides a two-person team to operate the Popcorn Concession each Friday where we receive donations for each bag of popcorn we “sell”. These donations average about \$600 per month. These monies go into a Veterans Service Account that supports the personal needs of hospitalized veterans and all other veterans who receive health care services in the South Texas Regional Health Care System. Because of the loss of these revenues since March, several of our chapter members have made voluntarily donations to the VAVS so they can continue meeting the needs of these patients. To date, over \$1,000 has been donated. To continue these donations, chapter members are invited to make voluntary donations until our Popcorn Concession can be reactivated – possibly in the Fall. Any amount will help – maybe \$50 or more. State that your “donation be credited to the Sons of the American Revolution, San Antonio Chapter No. 4. Make the check payable to **GPF 7021** and put in the memo section of your check “Popcorn Fund, SAR, San Antonio Chapter.” Send your donation to: **Voluntary Services, Audie Murphy VA Hospital, Attn: Scott Traeger, 7400 Merton Minter Blvd., San Antonio, TX 78221**. Thank you for supporting our Veterans Programs.

## CHAPTER'S ORATION CONTESTANT ADVANCES TO NSSAR CONTEST

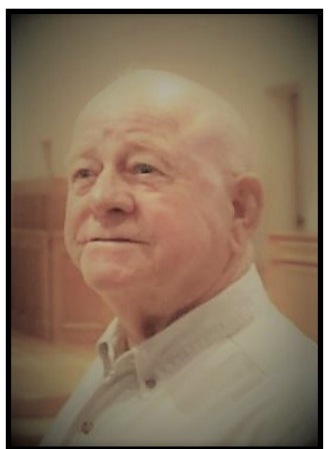


**(Photo at Left) Joseph S Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest:** As stated in the March - April Chapter Newsletter we noted that Candace Landrum from East Central High School had advanced to the Texas Society State Oration Contest. Because the State Meeting was moved from April to July 30th — August 2nd due to the coronavirus pandemic, the State Contest was conducted via a video presentation. In early May, Landrum was selected as the Texas Society Oration Contest Winner. Accordingly, she will compete in the National Society Oration Contest during the Annual Congress in Richmond, VA in July. However, with the coronavirus pandemic still affecting many communities across the nation, President General Jack Manning announced on May 25th that the Annual Congress in July has been cancelled. Landrum, along with other State Orations Contest Winners, will compete via a video presentation. Compatriots Larry Loop, Kevin Kanter and Dustin Whittenburg assisted Landrum in “video tapping” her presentation on June 12th. Her video presentation was sent to the NSSAR Oration Contest Committee

for judging in July.

As our Chapter Winner Landrum was sent her Certificate of Appreciation and \$500 honorarium in March. We are so very proud of Candace and her accomplishments. We wish her well and are so very pleased that we had the privilege of being her sponsor for the NSSAR Oration Contest. The final results will be reported in the July– August Chapter Newsletter. We hope to have her present her oration at a future Chapter Meeting.

## MEMORIAL SERVICES HELD FOR RICHARD S. WRIGHT



Richard Samuel Wright was born March 31, 1944 and passed away at his home on May 18, 2020 in Rio Medina, Texas. He was born in San Antonio to William and Jessie Wright.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Eilene Wright; daughters, Michele (Leyton) Mangold, Cassandra (Anthony) Pete, and Laurinda (Brandon) Mann; grandchildren, Nyla Pete, Sonny Mann, Nora Pete, Jolie Mann, Kingston Mangold, Kolton Mangold, Korey Mangold, and Kandi Mangold; sisters, Jessie Beatrice McNary, Barbara (Roger) Beck; sister-in-laws, Margie Wright, Jonnie Jo Wright.

He is preceded in death by his parents, William and Jessie (Slawson) Wright; siblings, Norma, Colleen, Floyd, Burl, Jon Christian, Thomas Marshall, and Ronald (Speedy); granddaughter, Victoria Wright-Bippert.

Richard spent most of his childhood on the Smith Ranch in Boerne, TX. He worked with his dad and siblings on the ranch and played football in school. He joined the Marine Corp at the age of 17 without completing high school. He finished 1st in his class in Aviation Ordnance School. Richard served in the USMC stationed at El Toro, Guantanamo Bay, and Okinawa, Japan. After he married Eilene, he served in the Vietnam War. After returning a year later, he started college at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos where he earned a Math and Physics degree. He taught one year at Kingsborough Middle School at Harlandale ISD. He worked for South Central Bell in Gretna, LA, Southwestern Bell in San Antonio, and as an independent telephone contractor before retiring from AT&T in 2006. He was a member and volunteer of the Sons of the American Revolution (San Antonio Chapter #4) and Sons of the Republic of Texas where he served as Secretary for the Alamo Chapter.

Richard was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin, and friend. He was an avid world traveler, visiting all seven continents with his wife. He enjoyed playing the guitar and making music with his friends and family. He enjoyed watching sports, genealogy, coin collecting, and taking pictures of his loved ones for memory albums. He truly loved his family. He was a huge supporter and active participant of his kids' and grandkids' activities. He will be dearly missed by all.

## KING GEORGE III'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE AMERICAN COLONIES

On this day in history, June 4, 1738, King George III is born. He would become the 3rd longest reigning monarch of Great Britain and oversee the loss of Britain's American colonies during the American Revolution. George William Frederick was the grandson of George II of England. He became heir to the throne when his father died in 1751. As the heir-apparent, George lived a life of luxury as a child, but also received an intense education in politics, astronomy, chemistry, geography, history, music, math and law.

George II died on October 25, 1760 and George III claimed the throne at the age of 22, during the middle of the French and Indian War. Britain soon won the war, claiming vast swaths of North America from France. The downside of the victory was the great cost involved with governing such a huge territory. Parliament saw it as necessary that the Americans should pay for their own defense and government and began instituting a series of taxes to pay for it, turning the Americans against them.

George is viewed as a tyrant by most Americans due to the propagandistic nature of the Declaration of Independence and other incendiary language of the Founding Fathers, but this view is not really accurate. George was not a tyrant in the sense of an evil monster bent on pillaging and destruction for his own personal gain. Instead, George viewed the war with America as upholding the Constitutional rights of the people of England through their elected Parliament. George did not make the policies of Great Britain during the American Revolution, but instead assented to the wishes of various officers and committees of Parliament. The King of England did not have absolute power. Instead, most of the power rested in the hands of Parliament.

After the colonies were lost, Britain entered a protracted war with France during the time of the French Revolution and after. George held up the standard against France and was viewed as a hero to most Englishmen during that period.

George married Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz in 1761. By all accounts, they had a happy marriage. He was completely faithful to her and never had the usual string of mistresses common to other British monarchs. They had 15 children together.

George began to suffer from mental illness around 1765 and for periods of time he would be incapacitated and engage in bizarre behavior. The longest instance occurred in 1788, when he was known to talk nonsense for hours at a time. By 1810, the illness was permanent and George was completely deranged for the last ten years of his monarchy. His faithful wife Charlotte tended him until her death in 1818. Some historians believe George suffered from a disease called porphyria which can lead to mental illness. He finally passed away in 1820 and his son, George IV, who ruled in his place as Regent during the time of his father's illness, took the throne.

George III reigned for 59 years, longer than any other British monarchs with the exception of the present Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria. He is remembered for the loss of the American colonies, but also for standing against France during the years of the French Revolution. George is also remembered for being a patron of the arts and sciences. He collected artwork and books, encouraged agricultural science and oversaw England's Agricultural Revolution and the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution. Of course the one thing he is most remembered for though, is the loss of the 13 colonies in America.

Source: <http://www.revolutionary-war-and-beyond.com>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

**Annual Independence Day Programs:** July 3, 2020, Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort, 10:00 A.M. (**Cancelled**) (Frank Rohrbough)  
**Texas Society of SAR 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference:** July 30 — August 2, 2020 at The Westin Hotel at the Woodlands, TX; Registration Form and Hotel Reservation Information is on the TXSSAR Website at [www.txssar.org](http://www.txssar.org). (Frank Rohrbough)  
**Next Chapter Executive Committee Meetings:** July 8, 2020, La Fon-

da Mexican Restaurant, Alamo Heights (Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday each month 11:30 A.M.)  
**Chapter Meetings:** July 15th and August 19, 2020 (**Tentative**); Petroleum Club (7th Floor), 11:30 A.M. Reservations are required via [reservations@sarsat.org](mailto:reservations@sarsat.org). (Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month.)  
**Poteet Strawberry Festival and Parade:** Saturday, November 2, 2020; Invited to Participate with

Boerne SAR Chapter; Assemble at 9:00 AM and Ride in the "Boat Float"; Parade begins at 10:00 AM. (**All Are Welcomed**)  
**Annual Pioneer Ball:** November 7, 2020 at La Villita, **Color Guard Assemble** at 6:00 PM; Opening Ceremony begins at 7:00 PM. Present the Colors. (Frank Rohrbough)

**For more information, please go to our Chapter Website at:**  
**[www.sarsat.org](http://www.sarsat.org)**