



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 | Sep-Oct 2020



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

As most of you know we continue to work through issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and to take the appropriate steps to keep our chapter active in the community and protecting public health. Executive Committee Meetings are being held in person at the La Fonda Mexican Restaurant in Alamo Heights on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Our "In-Person" Chapter Meetings for September and October were cancelled. We hope that we can return to "In-Person" Meetings in early 2021 when restrictions may be relaxed.

In the meantime we conducted a Virtual Chapter Meeting on October 22nd. We were honored by the attendance of the National Society President General and San Antonio Chapter member Jack Manning. He provided an update on current events with the National Society of SAR and the status of the Headquarters in Louisville. Thankfully they have not experienced any damage or social unrest at the headquarters.

Compatriot Peter Baron worked with the San Antonio Fire Department leadership who selected two distinguished First Responders for the National Society's Public Service Awards. For details, see **Page 2**. They will be presented their Medals and Certificates at Fire Stations where they work. Additionally, Compatriot Larry Loop, our Historian, gave a historical vignette about the drafting and enactment of the U. S. Constitution by the Constitutional Convention that was held in Philadelphia during the Summer of 1787. See **Page 3**.

We need to continue supporting the VA Hospital Popcorn Fund to cover lost revenues. With the approval of the Executive Committee a donation of \$200 from our operating budget, our chapter has contributed a total of \$1,750.00 to the Fund to date. If you have not done so, I encourage you to make a contribution to the Fund. To do so, follow the instructions noted below.

For details about our coming events, go to **Page 3** or go to our Chapter Website at <http://www.sarsat.org>. Again, I thank all of you 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 Virtual Chapter meetings in November and December.



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. 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 their patients. To date, over \$1,750.00 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 Spring of 2021. 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 PRESENTS NSSAR'S PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE AWARD PRESENTED TO ENGINEER EDDIE MARTINEZ

On October 22nd during our Virtual Chapter Meeting President George Whittenburg asked Compatriot Peter Baron to announce the Chapter Public Service

Awards for 2020. He announced the selectees and provided some personal remarks on each awardee.

The Citation reads: "Engineer Eddie Martinez has distinguished himself and the San Antonio Fire Department through his professionalism, his expertise, his commitment to training, and his desire to provide the best emergency response capabilities to the citizens of San Antonio.

Engineer Martinez entered the San Antonio Fire Department on 5 October 1998. He has served the citizens of San Antonio for over 22 years in the Fire Suppression and Emergency Medical Services Divisions. He is currently a field Paramedic on Medic 38.

Engineer Martinez exemplifies the attributes of a true healer. His demeanor and compassion are uplifting to all who meet him. Couple his joyful charisma with an excellent skill set, and Eddie has directly

impacted survivability and eased the recovery of the patients he treats.

It is this commitment and dedication to Service that resonates from Engineer Martinez and those he comes into contact with. His actions reflect great credit on Himself, the San Antonio Fire Department and the Citizens of San Antonio.

Recognized this 22nd Day of October 2020 by the San Antonio Chapter, of the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution."

FIRE SAFETY AWARD PRESENTED TO BATTALION CHIEF STEPHEN REUTHINGER III

The Citation reads: "Battalion Chief Stephen Reuthinger III has distinguished himself and the San Antonio Fire Department through his professionalism, his expertise, his ardent commitment to training, and his desire to provide the best firefighting capabilities to the citizens of San Antonio.

Chief Reuthinger entered the San Antonio Fire Department on 21 March 1988. He has served the citizens of San Antonio for over 32 years in the Fire Suppression and EMS Divisions. He is currently assigned as Battalion Chief for District 7 on the A shift.

Chief Reuthinger has been influential in every major disaster since Katrina. His leadership and direct involvement allowed for fluid transfer and mitigation of each incident. He has commanded the fire department response in the Emergency Operation Center since the beginning of the COVID crisis.

It is this dedication to service and self-sacrifice that resonates from Chief Reuthinger and those he leads. His actions reflect great credit on Himself, the San Antonio Fire Department and the Citizens of San Antonio.

Recognized this 22nd Day of October 2020 by the San Antonio Chapter, of the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution."

PASSING OF COMPATRIOT ALLAN O. KOWNSLAR



Just recently we learned of the passing of Compatriot Allan Kownslar on June 24, 2020. He was inducted to the National Society Sons of the American Revolution on January 14, 2000 and became a member of the San Antonio Chapter.

According to his wife Marguerite Allan had accomplished what he wanted in life as noted in his obituary below.

In acknowledgment of his membership in the Texas Society, we recognize his 20 years of honorable service to our Chapter.

His Obituary reads:

“Former history professor Allan O. Kownslar ’57, M’59, died on June 24 at the age of 84. He retired from Trinity in 2015 at the age of 79 after teaching at the University for 45 years.

Born in Wichita Falls, Texas, Kownslar was visited by former Trinity president James Laurie, who often traveled around Texas to recruit students. He received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in history from Trinity, then received a doctorate in the subject at Carnegie-Mellon University. He joined the Trinity faculty in 1971.

Allan found his students to be endlessly interesting,” says his wife Marguerite. “The father of two sons, Allan was sympathetic with those who flailed around, trying to find their academic footing, and the lonely ones who were far from home and struggling to make friends.

“He designed his courses to encourage students to ask the right questions and then try to find their own answers,” she continues. “For years, his former students, some of them now old enough to be retired, wrote him fan letters, telling him that they had stolen many of his teaching ideas to use in whatever work they were currently engaged in. Allan took great satisfaction in those letters.

Alongside teaching (especially Texas history, his favorite subject), Kownslar especially enjoyed researching and writing. Kownslar once complained to a textbook salesman that the available textbooks were insufficient for his students’ needs. The salesman replied that if Allan didn’t like the current textbooks, perhaps he should write his own. And so he did. Over the next half century, Kownslar was the author, co-author, or editor of 25 history books, the last one published in January 2020.

Marguerite says that Kownslar was deeply influenced by Trinity faculty during his time as a student. She specifically cites three professors Kownslar met during his freshman year: Frances Hendricks, Don Everett, and Robert Hunter.

Everett offered Kownslar the position with the history department, and from there, Kownslar found good friends among the Trinity faculty. Professor Terry Smart phoned Kownslar to welcome him to the faculty before he and Marguerite arrived in town, and from there a lifelong friendship blossomed.

Kownslar kept in touch with Trinity classmates and friends throughout his life, including: Mary Jane and Raymond Judd, Lanelle Waddill Taylor, Charlie Teykl, Charles Harwell, Tom Wilbanks, Kelsay and Kay Meek, Wayne Harveson, Susan Herlin, Bobbie Brawley, L.K. Croft, and Walter Roberts.

Kownslar was a member of several professional organizations, and he ran workshops for history teachers all over the United States and in Department of Defense Schools in Europe. As he grew older, he lectured at Elder Hostels in San Antonio and eventually applied his research skills to his own family, writing an enormous genealogical history in which there was a suspiciously large number of ancestors of royal blood.

Kownslar is survived by his wife of 58 years, Marguerite Hanicak Kownslar; sons, Donald and Edward Kownslar; sister, Nancy Wheeler (Derrick); sisters-in-law, Katherine Waddill, Rosemary Hanicak, Rita Clark (Don); and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

At Kownslar’s request, there will be no funeral or memorial service.”

HISTORICAL REVIEW OF U.S. CONSTITUTION

On September 17, 1787, the US Constitution is adopted by the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. The Constitution

was made to replace the failed Articles of Confederation, America's first governing document. Today, the US Constitution is the oldest functioning constitution of any state in the world.

During the American Revolution, the Continental Congress created the Articles of Confederation as the first governing document of the unified colonies. Over time, the Articles proved to be too weak for the government to function. The Articles gave Congress authority over trade, foreign relations and war, but it did not give Congress sufficient power to compel the states to comply.

Representatives from several states met at Annapolis, Maryland in 1786 to discuss some of the failed aspects of the Articles. They wrote a letter to Congress and the states requesting that a new convention be held to revise the Articles so the government would be strong enough to function.

Delegates converged on the Pennsylvania State House, now called Independence Hall, in Philadelphia, in May of 1787. This was the same place Congress had met during the Revolution and created the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation. The delegates, including such people as Roger Sherman, Elbridge Gerry, Alexander Hamilton, Ben Franklin, James Madison and Gouverneur Morris, chose George Washington to serve as President of the Convention.

Right from the start, the Philadelphia Convention did away with the idea of reforming the Articles of Confederation, instead choosing to write an altogether new constitution. The delegates debated the plan for four months, dealing with such questions as states' rights vs. federal power, slavery, foreign affairs, the scope of presidential powers and the balance between the interests of small states and large states.

In the end, a single executive, the President, was chosen to enforce the laws of Congress, which would be made up of a lower house, the House of Representatives, with delegates apportioned by population, and an upper house, the Senate, where each state was represented equally. A Supreme Court and federal judiciary would judge all matters of controversy.

On September 17, 1787, the Congress adopted its final version of the new Constitution and 39 delegates signed the document. Over the next two years, each state held its own ratification convention and debated the merits and weaknesses of the Constitution. The Constitution required that 9 of the 13 states ratify it in order for it to become law. On June 21, 1788, New Hampshire became the 9th state to ratify and the Constitution became the law of the land.

The first Congress and the new government began meeting on March 4, 1789. George Washington would be inaugurated President in April. By the fall of that year, a bill of rights containing protections for many basic rights, such as freedom of speech, religion, assembly, the right to bear arms, and many others, was proposed for addition to the Constitution. The first ten amendments, known as the Bill of Rights, were added to the Constitution and became law on December 15, 1791.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

Texas Society Board of Managers (BOM): November 13-15, 2020 (**Virtual Zoom Meeting**).
Joint DAR-SAR Christmas Luncheon: December 5, 2020, 11:00 A.M. San Antonio Country Club, **Reservations are required.** (See Chapter News Release dated Friday, 11/6/2020 10:06 AM (Gp#1) or 10:54 AM (Gp #2) for details.)

Wreaths Across America: Purchase and Placement of Wreaths at San Antonio National Cemetery and Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery, as a Salute to Veterans, November 11, 2020.

Next Chapter Executive Committee Meetings: Next meetings will be held **November 11 and December 9, 2020**, La Fonda

Mexican Restaurant, Alamo Heights. (Meetings are scheduled on the 2nd Wednesday each month at 11:30 A.M.)

Chapter Meetings: Thursdays, November 19th and December 17, 2020, at 5:00 P.M. (**Virtual Zoom Meetings**).

For more information, please go to our Chapter Website at:
www.sarsat.org