



THE SAN ANTONIO COMPATRIOT

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

Compatriot Kevin Kanter, President — Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, Editor

May-Jun 2021



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Compatriots: I'm so pleased that we are quickly re-turning to "normalcy" in both the Country and the Chapter. We have two in-person meetings under our belts, and they were both interesting and well attended. My sincere thanks to 1st Vice President Dick Weitzel for stepping in for the June meeting while I was on vacation. Your Executive Committee has arranged to offer a couple of "alternative" meetings in July and August to help us gauge interest in different venues and meals, as well as playing a little "catch-up" from our months of isolation. We hope that you can attend the breakfast meeting on July 17th, 8am to 10am at Paesano's at 555 E. Basse in Alamo Heights. As Saturday, for many of us, is a day filled with family obligations, we encourage you to bring your family and make it your first stop of the day. Also, Compatriot Bob Hancock has graciously extended an invitation to the Chapter to attend a BBQ at his ranch in Castroville on August 28th @ 2PM. More information will be forthcoming.



If you are on our Standing Reservations List, and will not be attending the monthly meeting, please be sure and RSVP to the txsarch4reservations@gmail.com to tell us that you won't be attending. We are obligated to advise the Petroleum Club of the number of attendees by noon on the Monday before the monthly meeting and by not cancelling your reservation we run the risk of being charged.

I ask that you continue to look for opportunities to make presentations of Flag Certificates to those businesses and neighbors that appropriately display the flag so they can be recognized for their love of country and their patriotism. I also ask that we continue to look for suitable candidates for the SAR Heroism Medal. Watch for any mentions in the news media where Good Samaritans have placed their safety on the line to help their fellow man.

One last reminder, as our State President, Drake Peddie shared through the "DADA" mail system, please avoid any alignment with any political organization while representing SAR. This could seriously jeopardize not only our state, but also National 501(c)3 status. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to a member of the Executive Committee. Bottom line is if you're concerned about representing SAR while participating in any political activity, you probably should avoid that activity.

By the time this "goes to press", we will have participated in two major activities for Independence Day at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort celebration and the Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery Memorial hosted by the Order of Granaderos y Damas de Galvez. Both activities were well represented and the response by the attendees were quite positive. Look for more information and pictures in the July/August 2021 Newsletter. Respectfully, *Kevin Kanter*

DONATIONS TO SERVE VETERANS AT AUDIE MURPHY VETERANS MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER

Because of the Coronavirus Pandemic, 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. Our Chapter had provided a two-person team to operate the Popcorn Concession each Friday where we receive donations for each bag of popcorn we "sell".

Because of the loss of these revenues for the past year, several of our chapter members have made donations to the VAVS so they can continue to meet the needs of hospitalized patients. All chapter members are invited to make donations until our Popcorn Concession can be reactivated – possibly in the Fall. Any amount will help – maybe \$10 to \$20. Send your check to VAVS addressed to **Voluntary Services, Audie Murphy VA Hospital, Attn: Scott Traeger, 7400 Merton Minter Blvd., San Antonio, TX 78221.**

INDUCTION OF LESLIE LAWRENCE LENTZ, JR.

Compatriot Larry Lentz was inducted to the Sons of the American Revolution by Vice President Richard Weitzel on May 19, 2021 at the Petroleum Club. His application was approved by NSSAR on October 16, 2020 but due to COVID Pandemic Restrictions we could not induct him into the San Antonio Chapter until we could hold an In-Person Meeting. **(Photo at Right)** President Kevin Kanter presented Compatriot Lentz his Membership Certificate at our June 16, 2021 Chapter Meeting.

Lentz's Patriot Ancestor is Levi Colby. He resided in Henniker, Hills-borough Co., New Hampshire and joined the NH Militia in September 26, 1777. He served as a Private in the Company of Jonas Bowman, Regiment of Colonel Thomas Stickney and General Stark's Brigade.

The Brigade marched from Hopkinton NH in July 1777 to join the Northern Continental Army to fight the British at Bennington, Vermont. The British Commander General Burgoyne sought to gain supplies for his troops.

On August 16th General Stark advanced his 1450 troops against British Commander Lt. Colonel Baume's force of 550 troops. General Stark's Brigade won the battle taking 600 prisoners which included Tories, but incurred 84 casualties. Colonel Baume's force suffered 207 casualties.

Private Colby was discharged from the NH Militia on September 22, 1778.

Compatriot Lentz served in the Vietnam War in Thailand with the Army Corps of Engineers. He re-tired from the US Army Reserves on September 15, 2004 as a Lieutenant Colonel.



GUEST SPEAKER FOR MAY CHAPTER MEETING WAS DR. JAMES JOHNSON



In the absence of our Chapter President Kevin Kanter, Vice President Richard (Dick) Weitzel presided at the May 19th Chapter Meeting. After welcoming those in attendance for this first In-Person/Virtual Chapter Meeting, Weitzel then requested Second Vice President Jason Bourgeois to introduce our Speaker Dr. James (Jim) J. Johnson who gave his presentation via Virtual source.

Dr. Johnson's topic was about George Washington's **"The Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior."** This topic was timely considering the current political climate we are facing in our nation today.

Compatriot Johnson's remarks were taken from the book re-published by John T. Phillips, II. He noted that George Washington's manuscript version circa 1745 is emphasized. It is was written to retain the sense of colonial

American origin.

The first Rule cited by Johnson reads: "Every action done in company ought to be with some sign of respect to those that are present." Restated it would read: "Let all actions performed in public show some sign of respectful sentiment to the entire company." The second Rule reads: "When in company, put not your hands to any part of the body that is not usually discovered." Restated it would read: "When in the presence of others, refrain from touching any part of the body that is not usually within view. The hands and face are ordinarily visible. In order to form the habit in this point of etiquette, practice it when you are with your intimate friends."

Reading all 110 Rules is most entertaining.

Johnson is a member of the Denton SAR Chapter and was inducted into SAR on June 15, 1995. He was instrumental in establishing the Texas SAR Color Guard and served as its Commander in 2006- 2008. Compatriot Johnson received his a doctorate in Education from Pennsylvania State University and has focused on lifetime of artwork that was featured in the Summer 2020 issue of the SAR Magazine. (Example Sketch Above).

DR. AMY PORTER WAS OUR GUEST SPEAKER AT OUR JUNE CHAPTER MEETING

Our Guest Speaker at our June 16th Chapter Meeting at the Petroleum Club was Dr. Amy Porter, Professor of History at Texas A&M University at San Antonio. Her topic was “**The Impact of the American Revolution on Slavery**”. Her research examined slavery in the British Thirteen Colonies and early United States during and after the American Revolution and assessed the changes to slavery inspired by the Revolution.

For example, the American Revolution motivated northern states to abolish slavery or begin gradual emancipation. In the upper South, there were increased numbers of owners who manumitted (freed) slaves. Conversely, in the lower South, there were very few efforts to change slavery. The political writings of the Revolution, though certainly not initially intended to question chattel slavery, would inspire some Americans to re-evaluate the system. The creation of the U.S. Constitution also raised concerns about slavery, but the need to create a strong and stable government led many of the framers to agree to compromises that would postpone debates about slavery.

Dr. Porter took several questions from members which enhanced discussions and focused on the issues of slavery over the years that eventually resulted in the Civil War in the 1860s.

For her presentation President Kanter presented Dr. Porter a book entitled “**They were Good Soldiers - African-Americans Serving in the Continental Army 1775 -1783**” by John U. Rees.



CHAPTER SET TO MARK GRAVE SITES OF DECEASED CHAPTER MEMBERS



As a Rifleman with the **San Antonio Memorial Services Detachment** at the National Cemetery Fort Sam Houston, Texas Lt. Colonel Keelman, USMC (Retired) has gained experience in committal services of veterans interred at Ft. Sam Houston Cemetery. Compatriot Keelman proposed a Grave Marking Program to recognize forty-five Chapter Compatriots who have passed and are interred in local San Antonio area cemeteries. The primary purpose of this program is to honor the memories of those who did so much of SAR and our Chapter.

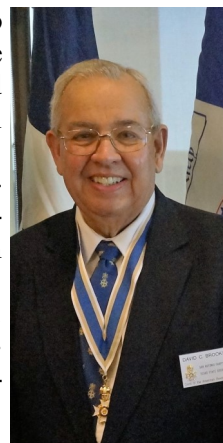
President Kanter stated “We are looking for volunteers to participate in Patriot Grave Marking ceremonies beginning soon. This activity is an excellent way to honor our patriots and compatriots that have passed.” This program does not require that you attend in uniform and is open to everyone. Frank Keelman has prepared an excellent program that has been approved by the Executive Committee.

Our “walk-through” will be held on **Saturday, July 10th at 9:00 A.M.** at the Administration Building located on Harry Wurzbach at the entrance to the National Cemetery at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio. If you are interested in participating, **please contact him at keelman@gmail.com.**

FAREWELL TO COMPATRIOT DAVID BROOKS

President Kanter gave special recognition to Past Chapter President David Brooks at the June 16th Chapter Meeting for his service to the San Antonio Chapter since he transferred to our Chapter from Ohio in May 2015. For health reasons he and his wife Amelia will move to West Virginia to be closer to their daughter in early July.

Brooks served as Chapter President in 2016 and as the SAR Representative to the Veterans Affairs Volunteers Service Office at the South Texas Health Care System in San Antonio where he worked at the Information Desk every Friday for several years until health issues precluded his voluntary services. His many hours of service contributed greatly to our Annual USS Stark Report which led to frequent Awards from the National Society. We will greatly miss David and his many notable contributions he has made to our Chapter Events like “Salute of Veterans Week” at the Shavano Park VA Clinic and Annual Independence Day Program at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort in San Antonio.



THIS DAY IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

First American Flag is officially adopted.

On this day in history, June 14, 1777, the first American flag is officially adopted by Congress. The Flag Act of 1777 specified that the new American flag would have "thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation."

There is much controversy about who actually designed the flag. The two main candidates are Francis Hopkinson, a New Jersey signer of the Declaration of Independence, who was on the Naval Board at the time, and Betsy Ross. Both stories are unconfirmed though and have points that speak for their truth and against them.

Hopkinson submitted a bill to Congress for "creating the new US flag." The bill, however, was denied by Congress. Later Hopkinson changed the bill and asked for payment for creating the new US Navy flag. Were there two separate flags, one for the Navy and one for the Army? Some evidence suggests this. Hopkinson was also an artist and an expert in heraldry (flag design). In spite of this, there is no evidence of any drawings Hopkinson submitted to Congress.

The Betsy Ross flag story is more well-known. Again, though, there is no contemporary evidence for the story. The story comes entirely from Betsy's grandson William Canby, and a few other relatives, all of whom stated many years after her death that they heard Betsy tell the story from her own mouth.

This legend goes that George Washington, George Ross (Betsy's late husband's uncle) and Robert Morris approached her secretly in May or June of 1776 and asked her to make the flag. Circumstantial evidence supports the story. Betsy and George Washington sat in pews next to each other at church and Washington was known to visit Betsy socially and professionally, using her tailoring services. George Ross was a family member who had been in Congress. Due to lack of concrete evidence, however, we will never know for sure who designed the first American flag.

The Flag Act of 1777 did not specify the pattern for the stars, the number of points on the stars, the width of the stripes or the canton (the blue field) or whether a white or red stripe should be first. This caused a proliferation of flag designs with the stars especially being in many different patterns.

The Flag Act of 1794 added two stars and stripes for the new states of Vermont and Kentucky. This was the only official United States flag to ever have 15 stripes. The Star Spangled Banner Flag of Francis Scott Key fame was made in this design, but again, the 1794 act did not specify the pattern of the stars.

The Flag Act of 1818 finally determined that the stripes would remain at 13 for the original colonies. It also added five stars, bringing them to 20, for recently inducted states. This act also set the rule that a new star would be added for each new state to be added. The new star would be added on the July 4th after the state was added to the Union. The last time the US Flag was changed was with the addition of Alaska, the 50th state, in 1960.

June 14th is celebrated across America as Flag Day in honor of the adoption of the first official US Flag.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

- **Annual Independence Day Historical Program:** July 3, 2021 Hyatt Hill Country Resort at 10:00 A.M. in the Luckenbach Pavilion (Frank Rohrbough)
- **Next Chapter Executive Committee Meetings:** July 14, 2021, 11:30 A.M. La Fonda Mexican Restaurant. (Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday each month 11:30 A.M.)
- **First Special Summer Chapter Meeting:** Scheduled for Saturday, July 17, 2021 (**In-Person**), Breakfast at 8:00 A.M. Paesano's Restaurant, Lincoln Heights, 555 E Basse Rd, San Antonio, TX 78209. **Families are Invited. \$25/PP.** Reservations are required via to txsarch4reservations@gmail.com.
- **Second Special Summer Chapter Meeting:** Saturday, August 21, 2021 In-Person at 11:30 A.M. Paesano's Restaurant, 555 E. Basse Rd, San Antonio, TX.

For more information, please go to our Chapter Website at: <https://www.txssar.org/sanantonio/>.