



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

Jul-Aug 2022



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The San Antonio Chapter has come roaring back after months of enforced inactivity. As you will see in this edition, we have participated in several activities during this period. Most notably our “command performance” at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort on July 3rd, placement of our Chapter Wreath at the Independence Day memorial held at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery where I was honored to provide the Benediction, representation at the Battle of Medina Memorial Ceremony (where we were joined by Compatriots from the Peter Sides Chapter (formerly Waco Chapter) and the Freedom Chapter.



Compatriot Grave Marking Ceremonies will resume now that temperatures have returned to “normal”. Our contingent of Color Guard members have braved the heat, humidity, and a small amount of rain to represent the San Antonio Chapter and SAR and we are always looking for more members to assist in this recognition of our Compatriots that have passed before us.

We have successfully located a new JROTC Chair. We would like to welcome one of our “newer” members, John Bell who as agreed to “pick up the gauntlet” when Paul Reynolds moved to Ohio (although he remains a loyal member of our Chapter). John would welcome more members to assist him in this very important activity.

Another reminder, if you are aware of a person or business that consistently displays the American Flag appropriately, please reach out to our Flag Committee Chair, John Booth to arrange for a Flag Certificate to be presented to your nominee.

In the next Chapter Newsletter, we will be starting a new feature. We’ve been remiss in recognizing the length of service of our members. To remedy that, I asked Membership Chair, Bob Watson to come up with a method to call out our members upon reaching a Service Milestone. I’m hopeful that going forward, we will be able to continue publishing this “Anniversary List”.

This summer’s Board of Manager Meeting was held virtually on August 6th with 7 of our members attending.

The Fall Board of Managers Meeting will be held in Plano, October 21 – 23. I strongly encourage anyone who has an interest in becoming more active at the Chapter and State level to attend our Board of Managers Meetings.

Please make sure and review the “Coming Events” as we have no intention of slowing down as we close out the year. 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 later this 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.**

CHAPTER CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY

At the Invitation of the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa in San Antonio, the San Antonio Chapter conducted its **11th Educational and Historical Independence Day Event** for hotel guests visiting the resort on July 3, 2022. The event was held at 10:30 A.M. in the Luckenbach Pavilion near the golf course. This was the 245th anniversary of our nations Declaration of Independence from England.

(Photo Right) The Chapter Color Guard included Guardsmen Peter Baron and Frank Kebelman and Flag Bearers Stephen Rohrbough (US Flag) and Jason Bourgeois (Texas Flag). They opened the event with the Posting of Colors and closed the event



with the Retirement of Colors. Twelve members participated in this year's event. This photo from 2021 includes three members (Bob Hancock, Paul Reynolds and James Taylor) who were unable to join us this year.

Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, Past Chapter President served as the Master of Ceremonies. He welcomed approximately 125 hotel guests to the event to celebrate the founding of our country. Chapter President Kevin Kanter spoke on "What SAR Is" and does. Chapter Historian Compatriot Larry Loop gave the overview on "Why We Celebrate Independence Day". He noted that as British subjects, the British Parliament had placed heavy taxes on them and increasingly denied them the freedoms they expected and self-rule they wanted.



(Photo Left) Compatriot Peter Baron explained the evolution of the Patriot Uniforms during the Revolution starting with the Minutemen of Massachusetts and Virginia and Mountain Men of the Carolinas and the Regimental Uniforms that were approved by the Continental Congress in 1778. He explained the various Battle Flags of the Revolution highlighting the "Star Spangled Banner" and what it means, to patriots. **(Photo Right)** Baron showed the Flag that was

flown over the Serapis that Captain John Paul Jones had captured from the British and claimed it to be a US Flag. He explained that it unified resistance to oppression of liberties: oppression both by one's own government and by foreign powers. It began as an early symbol of defiance to the tyrannical King George and the British government during the American Revolution. To the Continental soldiers, most specifically the Continental Marines, it represented what they were fighting for.



(Photo Left) Additionally, Compatriot Baron provided an overview of the guns used



by soldiers in the Militia and the Continental Line Army during the Revolution, notably the 75-caliber flintlock musket and a 50-caliber flintlock rifle. He noted that a well-seasoned soldier could load and fire a musket four times in one minute. He stated that the musket was not very accurate beyond 50 yards and thus during a battle, muskets were fired in volleys in succession at the enemy standing in formation over 50 yards away. Comparatively, a rifleman could load and fire only once every 90 seconds. However, Compatriot Baron conceded that the rifle is a more accurate weapon used for targets up to 250 yards away. Baron described the firing positions of soldiers in formation — shoulder to shoulder and standing 3 rows deep — when engaging the enemy on the field of battle. Following several volleys, the command was given to fix bayonets and advance against the enemy.

Compatriot Rohrbough then called for the Ringing of the Bell as a salute to each of the Original Thirteen Colonies on the date they became a colony as they were announced. We closed the Program with the playing of the song composed by Country Artist Lee Greenwood "God Bless the USA". The guest joined in the singing of the song and standing, to honor our great country.

To allow greater interaction for the hotel guests, demonstration tables were set up where guests could visit each table to learn more about the various aspects of the Revolutionary War. These included: Weapons and Accouterments, Revolutionary Period Uniforms, Making a Powder Horn, Flags of the Revolution, Currencies of the Colonies, Patriot Ancestor Stories, Family Genealogy Charts, Camp Followers of the Revolution, and Coloring Book Sketches depicting events of the Revolution.

INDEPEDENCE DAY (CON'TD)

(Photo Right) Compatriot



Fred Soupiset explained how powder horns were made for holding black powder and demonstrated the tools used to make them. Some were highly decorated with symbols of battles in which the maker fought.



(Photo Left) Lady Diane Rohrbough, a member of the George W. Kendall Chapter DAR, and Jean Kanter, Green Mountain Boys Chapter DAR, spoke about camp followers explaining what they did in support of the Continental Army as it moved about the colonies fighting the British Army. Many of these camp followers were family members of a soldier, usually a husband, father or son, who were granted “sponsored status”. Rohrbough described the benefits they received such as food and shelter and the tasks they preformed for their

sponsoring soldier while in camp and the service they provided to other soldiers.

(Photo Left) Compatriot Jason Bourgeois told guests about his 70 caliber flint lock pistol explaining that it was used by officers as a self defense against an enemy at close range. In those times it might also be used to settle a dispute where one’s honor had been challenged. These were carried out under the protocol of “duels”.



(Photo Right) Compatriot Larry Loop and Mike Bowles staffed a demonstration table addressing the currencies used in the colonies during the American Revolution. Revolutionary money was referred to as 'Continental' - the paper money issued by the Continental Congress. They provided each guest with a handout which explained the types of currencies used in colonial times.



(Photo Left) At the conclusion of the event Compatriot Baron gave instructions to young recruits among hotel guests on the sequencing of loading and firing the 75 caliber musket. Each guest wore the regimental coat and tri-corner hat to fire the weapon. Over 30 guests took turns shooting the “Big Gun”.



Granaderos Y Damas De Galvez Celebrate Independence Day

On July 4th, we participated in the “37th Annual Fourth of July Patriotic Ceremony” conducted by the Order of Granad-

eros y Damas de Galvez. The event was held at the National Cemetery at Ft. Sam Houston and included many of the local Patriotic, Historical, and Military organizations including the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Memorial Services Detachment Honor Guard.

(Photo Right) Shown right to left are President Kevin Kanter, Campbell Baron, Kenneth McAnear, Bob Watson and Frank Rohrbough. President Kanter gave the Benediction. Other members attending but not in the photo were Compatriots Peter Baron (Color Guardsman serving with the Granaderos Musket Detail) and Frank Keelman (Memorial Detachment Detail).



BATTLE OF MEDINA REVISITED

The 209th Anniversary of the Battle of Medina Memorial Ceremony was held on Saturday morning, August 20, 2022 at the Old Leming Elementary School located

5 miles north of Pleasanton, TX in remembrance of those Texians who fought the Spanish Army on August 18, 1813. According to writings of Judge Robert H. Thonhoff, author, historian and former Karnes County Judge, the Battle of Medina was fought between approximately 1,800 men in the Royal Spanish Army and approximately 1,400 men in the Republican Army of the North, which included about 400 Spaniards, 400 Tejanos, 200 Native Americans, and about 400 men from the Eastern States of the newly established United States of America. In fact only 5 men have been identified who previously fought in the American Revolution and were involved in some way in the Gutierrez-Magee Expedition. Only Peter Sides has been proven to have fought in both the American Revolution and also fought in the Battle of Medina where he died.

(Photo Right) Compatriot Kevin Kanter, President of the San Antonio Chapter SAR, was invited to serve as the chaplain for this event where he provided the Invocation and Benediction. Following the Invocation the Texas Society SAR Color Guard presented the National Colors to Open the Memorial Ceremony. The Color Guard included Commander Frank Rohrbough (San Antonio), Guardsman Blair Rudy (William Hightower), Guardsman Peter Baron (San Antonio), Ed Sellards US Flag Bearer (Freedom), Frank Kebelman Texas Flag Bearer, Stephen Rohrbough and Kevin Kanter (San Antonio), Guardsman Robert Duckworth (William Hightower), Don Hayes and David Hamaker (Freedom Chapter). Others SARSAT members attending the event were Bob Hancock (Planning Committee) and Dick Weitzel.



(Photo Left) Compatriot David Hamaker, a 6th generation descendent of Revolutionary War Patriot Peter Sides, and member of the Freedom Chapter, spoke about how Patriot Peter Sides came to Texas to fight for the Texians Independence from Spain. He stated "Peter Sides, who had fought many battles during his life, was 63 at the time of his death, in the Battle of Medina. The story is told, and records prove that he led his troop into battle with a cry of, **"Come on boys!"** Unfortunately, many of the "boys" turned tail and ran. We can only speculate as to what would motivate a man of his age to take on this fight. It may have been the promise of land or the chance to make another stand for freedom or maybe just a quest for adventure. Whatever it was, I

would like to recognize and honor my grandfather, Peter Sides for his belief in the liberties and freedoms that we have today. The Sons of the American Revolution would like to re-dedicate our SAR Grave Marker to this American Hero!

Following this Memorial Service the Texas SAR Color Guardsmen drove to the Battle of Medina Site on Applewhite Road to conduct a Memorial Service in memory of Patriot Peter Sides and all those who perished in this historic battle — the largest ever fought on Texas soil.



(Photo Left) Shown from left to right 1st Row are Guardsmen Blair Rudy, Frank Rohrbough, Don Hayes, David Hamaker and Thomas Kubow. In 2nd Row Flag Bearers Stephen Rohrbough (US Flag), Kevin Kanter (Texas Flag), Robert Duckworth (Chapter Flag), Frank Kebelman (National SAR Flag) and Ed Sellards (Texas Society SAR Flag).

CHAPTER COLOR GUARD RETIRES COLORS AT SOUTHERN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING



(Photo Left) On August 16, 2022 the Texas Society SAR Color Guard was invited to retire the National Colors at the conclusion of the Southern Economic Development Council's (SEDC) Annual Meeting that was held at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel in downtown San Antonio. Shown from left to right are Incoming Chairman of the SEDC Scott Poag, Compatriot Fred Soupiset (Guardsmen), Commander Frank Rohrbough (US Flag Bearer), Former Texas SAR President Stephen Rohrbough (Texas Flag Bearer) and Council President Matt Tackett.

Tracing their roots to the fall of 1946, the SEDC is the oldest and largest regional economic development association in North America. They have members in 17 states in the American South, including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. SEDC is a non-profit, 501 (c)(6), membership organization governed by a Board of Directors and Executive Committee. One director is elected by each member state to serve with elected officers on the Board of Directors. The SEDC Office is located in Atlanta and managed by a professional staff.

Council President Matt Tackett stated "SEDC members set the global economic development standard as we nurture iconic brands, support emerging technologies that are redefining markets, and develop world-class business environments and opportunities in our communities. Our Board reflects the sophisticated and impactful Council network that has built the world's 3rd largest and best-positioned economy. We thank Chairman McCrady for his leadership throughout 2022 and congratulate incoming Chairman Poag and the newly elected Board team."

PLANNING FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICA



The National Society SAR has established the America 250 Programs Committee to celebrate the founding of America 250 years ago and "to promote many elements of the American Revolution beginning with the Stamp Act through the Treaty of Paris." All State Societies and Chapters are called to conduct their individual events leading up to July 4, 2026. These activities include:

- Programs that demonstrate how to complete an event that is part of an ongoing program.
- Blast emails sharing news about what other chapters are doing and our new offerings.
- Making 250th Anniversary resources available for Scout Troops and Councils.
- Conduct educational presentations that allow chapters to interact with the community.
- Purchase merchandise related to the celebration of the 250th Anniversary, and
- Use genealogical resources that help preserve valuable patriot records.

For further information, go to <https://america250sar.org/>.

Members who have performed in Chapter and Texas SAR Events beginning in 2014 are eligible to be awarded Bronze, Silver and Gold 250 Medals and Certificates. For more details on the award of these Medals, contact Compatriot Peter Baron at ptbaron@hotmail.com.

NEWPORT JEWISH CONGREGATION ADDRESSES GEORGE WASHINGTON

On this day in history, August 17, 1790, the Newport Jewish congregation addresses George Washington. Washington traveled to all 13 states during his years as President, but he had deliberately skipped Rhode Island when he toured New England because Rhode Island had not yet adopted the US Constitution and, therefore, was not part of the United States.

Once Rhode Island finally ratified in May of 1790, Washington immediately planned a trip to visit the state. Newport, Rhode Island saw much destruction as a result of the Revolutionary War. When the town was occupied by the British, patriots were forced to flee their homes, which were then occupied and wrecked by British soldiers. Later, after the war was won, Loyalist citizens were forced to flee and leave their property. Newport never really recovered its glory days as one of North America's leading cities of commerce.

The first Jewish congregation was founded in Newport in 1658, when 15 Spanish and Portuguese Jewish families arrived from the West Indies. Congregation Yeshuat Israel met in the homes of its members for over a century before building a synagogue in 1763. When Washington arrived in Newport on August 17, he was received by a large throng of people and addresses to him representing several groups were read in a public ceremony.

The warden (a sort of lay leader) of Congregation Yeshuat Israel, Moses Seixas, represented the Jewish congregation at the ceremony and read an address that praised Washington and gave God thanks for protecting him during the war. The letter expressed the congregation's gratefulness for civil and religious liberties in the new United States, precious gifts that Jews in other nations did not enjoy. Washington's response to the congregation's address has come down as one of the great expressions of religious liberty of the Founding Fathers. Washington wrote a reply a few days later in which he expressed thanks for the good wishes from the congregation. He expressed how the government of the United States gave everyone freedom of conscience, as long as they conducted themselves as good citizens. He then affirmed that the Jews had every right to dwell safely in the United States. (Emphasis added)

The Hebrew congregation's original copy of the address was given to Washington and now resides in the Library of Congress. Washington's original reply, written in the hand of his secretary Tobias Lear, resides in the B'nai B'rith headquarters in Washington DC. Congregation Yeshuat Israel still meets in the same synagogue in Newport today. Touro Synagogue, as it is called, is the oldest still standing synagogue building in the United States. Every year, Seixas' and Washington's letters are read in a ceremony celebrating religious toleration at the synagogue.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

Next Chapter Executive Committee Meetings: September 14th and October 14, 2022 at La Fonda Mexican Restaurant, Alamo Heights (Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday each month 11:30 A.M.)

Chapter Meetings: September 21, and October 19, 2022; Petroleum Club (7th Floor), 11:30 A.M. Reservations are required via txsarch4reservations@gmail.com (Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month.)

Chapter Grave Marking Program: Our second event will be held at Mission Burial Park South and San Jose Burial Park on **September 24 at 9:00 A.M.** All members are welcome to attend this event. For more information, contact Compatriot Frank Keberman at Keberman@gmail.com.

Texas SAR Board of Managers Fall Meeting: October 21-23, 2022 at Richardson, TX at the Hilton Dallas/Plano Granite Park.

Hotel Reservations and Registration is posted on the Texas SAR webpage at:

<https://www.txssar.org>. Click on the "Events" Tab and click on "Fall BOM Information".

For more information, please go to our Chapter Website at:

<https://www.txssar.org/SanAntonio/>