



July-August 2025
Editor: Compatriot Bob Watson
beaglebud@satx.rr.com

Compatriot Frank Kebelman, President
kebelman@gmail.com

Issue #4



President's Message

SAR Mission Statement
The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.

Dear Fellow Compatriots,

This has been a summer to remember. The devastating flash flooding taking the lives of over one hundred men, women and children in the hill country is fresh in our minds. Please keep those who are suffering in your thoughts and prayers.

The chapter continues to be active. Larry Luckett has led the charge recruiting and supporting potential applicants wanting to join SAR. Larry, is an outstanding registrar/genealogist the chapter would sorely miss.

Through Greg Surovic and his wife, Laura's efforts, the chapter has been able to serve as the color guard for the Federal Naturalization Ceremonies conducted at the district courthouse in San Antonio. These ceremonies are overflowing with about 400 excited and happy new citizens that are officially welcomed monthly. Our color guard members get treated like "rock stars" and your participation is welcomed and encouraged.

Among the summer activities, was the chapter support of DAR in Floresville for their unveiling of a patriotic marker recognizing the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Very successful Flag Day and Independence Day ceremonies were also conducted. Past Chapter President Frank Rohrbough led the team performing at the Hyatt Hill Country Retreat. There is no way to repay Frank for his many years of leadership organizing and conducting the Independence Day presentation. Colonially-attired compatriots supported the Battle of Medina event in nearby Leming, TX. This ceremony is one everyone should attend at least once. The Atascosa County citizens work hard to recognize the importance of the battle, which should be on your calendar at least once. It's usually held on the third Saturday in August



Cont. Pg. 11



Chapter Meetings

Executive Committee Meetings:

2nd Wed. 11:30 AM

Sept. 10th - Oct 8th

La Fonda Restaurant

8633 Crownhill Blvd

(Reservations not needed)

Chapter Meetings:

3rd Wed. 11:30 AM,

Sept. 17th & Oct. 15th

Petroleum Club

8620 N. New Braunfels

Reservations are required:

txsarch4reservations@gmail.com

In This Issue

Member's Corner:

Luther Soules - 2

Suttlers - 3

Mentorship - 3

Chapter News:

Independence Day- 4

Hyatt Regency

Resort - 5

Naturalization

Ceremony - 7

America 250th - 8

Wreaths Across

America - 9

Battle of Medina - 10

Miscellaneous Pgs.

Colonial Muskets - 11

Board of Managers

Meeting - 12

Milestones - Att. 1

Birthdays - Att. 2

Coming Events - Att. 3



Member's Corner



The Legacy of Luther "Luke" Soules

This member summary is inspired by an article published in the July/August 2025 edition of the San Antonio Lawyer magazine written by Mr. Steve Peirce about one of our chapters members, Luther "Luke" Soules, who became a SAR member in 1972. This summary is a paraphrase from the original article and even though some details have been omitted for space requirements, it presents an accurate picture of this remarkable man.

Luther H. "Luke" Soules III is a distinguished Texas lawyer known for his unparalleled legal career spanning over fifty-seven years. Much of it representing clients in high-stakes litigation. He graduated from Texas A&M University with degrees in Economics and Mathematics. Initially after graduation, he worked in his father's business, Luke Soules, Inc., selling Ranch Style Beans. However, his passion for law led him to enroll at the University of Texas Law School, where he excelled in moot court competitions earning him many accolades. A pivotal moment for him was his clerkship with Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Calvert, who became his mentor and opened doors that led him to a distinguished legal career.

After a long law career, Luke was declared legally blind in 2005. However, this would not deter him from continuing to help people as he transitioned to using specialized computer equipment and software, which he learned through training at the Lighthouse for the Blind.

Despite his vision impairment, his dedication to the legal profession and use of the specialized equipment, allowed him to continue practicing law. Now, despite nearing 90 years old and with total blindness, his dedication to helping underserved individuals remains unwavering and, he continues to take on challenging cases pro bono such as representing an elderly blind woman trying to save her homestead.

Luke has contributed over \$7 million through his foundation and continues to push for equal access to justice. He remains a vital figure in the Texas legal community and is one of the most successful courtroom lawyers in Texas history.



Luke Soules

Photo by Mewborne Photography at Lagos Ranch



Member's Corner



Colonial Attire: It is not required, but members who wish to participate in chapter activities are urged to obtain some combination of colonial attire. Wearing colonial attire makes a statement and promotes SAR to the community and the attendees of the various events where the chapter participates.

The last newsletter issue, contained a partial list of popular suttlers for those that may be interested in purchasing a uniform or uniform pieces. Below is a list of additional suppliers. As previously stated, there is no requirement to purchase colonial attire unless you want to participate in the color guard where it is required. Some just purchase various uniform pieces over time.

<http://sampsonhistorical.com>

<http://www.militaryclothing.com/Revolutionary-War.aspx#>

<https://ebay/fortlaramietradingpost/>

<http://fugawee.com/>

<http://www.hamiltondrygoods.com/>

<http://www.lepierreleathers.com/>

<http://www.thequartermastergeneral.com>



Create Success Through Mentorship



The chapter needs a few mentors for our prospective and new members. Doesn't take an inordinate amount of time. Perhaps a text or email occasionally or maybe a phone call to see how an application is progressing. Basically, a mentor is someone to answer questions and offer encouragement. Please help us out and volunteer. If interested, contact Bob Watson, beaglebud@satx.rr.com to get more information or to volunteer. Any help you can provide to get new and prospective members started in SAR will be greatly appreciated. by the chapter.



Chapter News



Independence Day Events

Each year the chapter is involved with two major events on July 4th. This year was no different. One is at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort putting on an event to celebrate American Independence. This event consists of Color Guard flag presentation, demonstration tables, and some narrations to describe battle field medicine, weapons and flag history.

The other event at the National Cemetery at Ft. Sam Houston is hosted by The Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez to recognize the significant contributions that Spain played in the American Revolution. The chapter deployed teams to support these two great events.

National Cemetery: Several organizations gathered at the amphitheater to lay wreaths and to recognize the many contributions of Spain and the American Colonists to secure the freedoms we enjoy today. Photos below depict some of the activities.



L-R: Frank Kebelman
Larry Loop



L-R-Back Row: Jose Gonzales Larry Loop,
Ron Finch, Joe Weathersby
Front Row: Valerie Finch, Frank Kebelman



Invocation
Larry Loop



Chapter News



Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort:

For the past 14 years, the Hyatt Regency has asked the chapter to host an American Revolution event for their hotel guests to enjoy on July 4th. In return, they are generous enough to provide a \$500 honorarium to the chapter's education fund to assist with scholarships and the youth contests. The event is normally held outdoors in the Luckenbach Pavilion to allow firing of the muskets, which has been a fan favorite, especially for the youth. This year, threatening weather forced the event inside in one of their ballrooms and initially, it was felt the muskets could not be fired, however, as it turned out, the rain stopped long enough for the musket firing on the back patio. Once again, the youngsters, thoroughly enjoy the activity.

In addition to the musket firing, the Color Guard provided flag support. There were numerous demonstration tables and several oral presentations on life during the revolution. Once again, the chapter's program was warmly received. If you have not ever participated, it would be a good event to get involved with a chapter event. Below and on the next page, is a picture summary of the event.





San Antonio Chapter
Texas

The San Antonio Compatriot

TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Chapter News

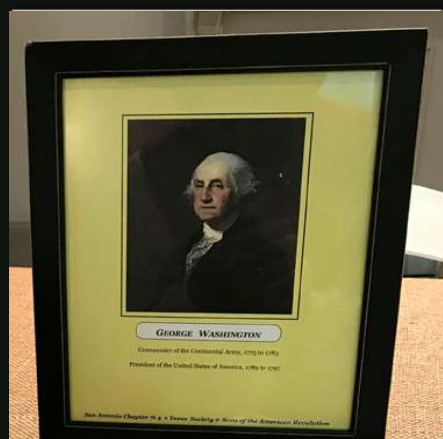
Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort



SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



San Antonio Chapter
Texas





Chapter News



Naturalization Ceremony: The chapter Color Guard is often called upon to present the colors at the monthly Naturalization Ceremony. On July 3, the Color Guard was asked to serve at the Independence Day naturalization ceremonies held jointly between the United States Courts for the Western District of Texas and the City of San Antonio. The ceremony, held in the San Antonio City Council chamber was presided over by the Honorable United States Magistrate Judge Henry Bemporad. The 50 applicants for citizenship were welcomed by San Antonio mayor Gina Ortiz-Jones and sworn in as new citizens by Judge Bemporad. The new citizens arrived in the United States from a variety of countries ranging from Afghanistan to Zambia. Also in attendance were members of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, San Antonio de Bexar Chapter, who gave each new citizen a flag pin to commemorate the event.



L-R: Ron Finch, Greg Surovic
 Frank Kebelman, Blair Rudy



L-R: Frank Rohrbough, Greg Surovic, Ron Finch, Mayor Jones, New Citizen, Judge Bemporad, Bob Duckworth (Wm. Hightower) Joe Weathersby



L-R: Frank Kebelman
 Greg Surovic
 New Citizens, Ron Finch
 Blair Rudy



Chapter News



America 250th Event: A historical marker was unveiled July 12 at the Wilson County Courthouse to honor 17 patriots who lived in what is now Wilson County. These 17 heroes fought in the American Revolution to support the American cause for liberty.

The America 250 Patriot Marker's placement is part of a nationwide NSDAR campaign to recognize those who contributed to the cause of the American Revolution, as the United States prepares to celebrate its semiquincentennial 250th birthday in 2026.

The efforts of the Susanna Dickinson Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) and the Wilson County Historical Commission made this event possible. Several San Antonio SAR chapter members were also in attendance.

The photo below, from the Wilson County News, shows the unveiling of the historical marker in Floresville, TX



SAR Color Guard: Greg Surovic, Ron Finch, Frank Kebelman



L-R: Couple Unknown, Ron Finch, Alex Zamora (drummer), Greg Surovic

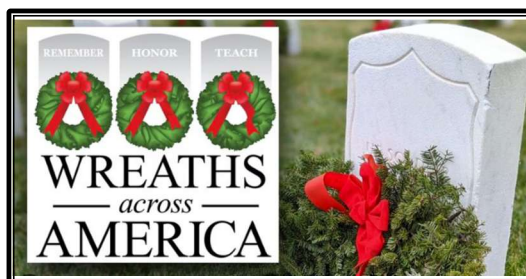


Chapter News



Wreaths Across America

Honoring our fallen heroes is a major goal for the chapter and is an ongoing effort. The chapter has been local sponsors of Wreaths Across America for the past few years. Wreaths are laid at the grave of each veteran who served in defense of our nation. While the wreaths are laid at the veterans' graves during December, we have set up our account early in an effort to increase our participation this year. We are requesting you step up and help us with this endeavor. To purchase your wreath, use the link provided on the chapter website (texassar.org/SanAntonio/) to access our sponsorship page. Select the "Docs" tab then "Society Docs & Forms" in the dropdown and look for the Wreaths Across America link under "Chapter Documents" Again, we ask that you participate with us in this very important event. Contact Compatriot Kevin Kanter at kevinkanter@icloud.com if you have questions.





Chapter News



Battle of Medina Commemoration

On August 16th, in Lemming, TX (Near Poteet), Chapter members from the Freedom Chapter (Houston) and San Antonio as well as other organizations, commemorated the historic Battle of Medina. This annual August event honors the nearly 1400 soldiers who gave their life fighting for Mexican independence from Spanish rule.

Battle History

The **Battle of Medina** was actually fought on August 18, 1813, approximately 20 miles south of modern day San Antonio. It was part of the Mexican War of independence against Spanish authority in Mexico. Spanish troops defeated the Republican Army of the North. This was the deadliest battle in Texas history. The battle lasted for four hours and of the 1400 soldiers, fewer than 100 survived. The location of the Battle of Medina has not been archaeologically determined, however, there are three historical markers in the area indicating the possible battle location.

The Texas SAR Color Guard, led by Commander David Hamaker (Freedom Chapter), presented the Colors to open the Event. SASAR Chapter members attending the event: Frank Kebelman, Frank Rohrbough, Dick Weitzel, and Mike Bowles. SAR members from Freedom Chapter: Ed Sellards, OK "Skipper" Jones, Don Hayes and Matthew Hoffman. Frank Kebelman along with others were Color Guardsmen.

Compatriot David Hamaker, a 6th generation descendent of Revolutionary War Patriot, Peter Sides, and President of the Freedom Chapter, spoke about how Patriot Peter Sides came to Texas to fight for the Republic of Texas of the Northern Army fighting of the 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 troops 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, David wanted to recognize and honor his grandfather, Peter Sides, for his belief in the liberties and freedoms that we have today.



Sons of Texas Republic of Texas monument honoring Peter Sides and Benjamin Allen. The only two of the 1400 soldiers proven to have fought at the Battle of Medina



Miscellaneous



Colonial Muskets



Colonial muskets were introduced to the American colonies by European settlers, primarily from England, France, and Spain. The design of colonial muskets was heavily influenced by “matchlock” and later “flintlock” mechanisms, which became the standard by the 17th century. By the 18th century, the flintlock musket was the most common firearm used in the colonies.

The flintlock mechanism used a piece of flint striking steel to create a spark, which ignited gunpowder to fire. This was more reliable and faster than the earlier matchlock, which used a piece of cord fuse to ignite the gunpowder.

Colonial muskets were smooth bore firearms, meaning the inside of the barrel was not rifled (grooved). The advantage was they were faster to load and to produce, but much less accurate than rifled bored barrels.

There were several different types of muskets, but three stood out. By far, the British made “Brown Bess” was the most iconic musket of the colonial era. It was widely used by British soldiers and colonial militias. It is a .75 caliber musket with an effective range of about 50-100 yards, though accuracy diminishes significantly at the longer distances.

The French made “Charleville Musket” was used by French troops and later supplied to American forces. It is a .69 caliber musket and

lighter and slightly more accurate than the Brown Bess.

American gunsmiths produced their own muskets, often copying European designs.

Early in the Revolutionary War, the American made muskets were used by colonial militias and Continental Army soldiers.

Colonial Warfare tactics were interesting in that the soldiers used muskets in linear formations, firing in volleys to maximize impact. Due to the the musket’s limited accuracy, mass firings was much more effective than aiming at individual targets. The ammunition used was round, lead balls, often accompanied by wadding and gunpowder. Soldiers also used bayonets attached to the musket for close combat. Muskets were slow to reload, about 3–4 shots per minute by trained soldiers. They had limited accuracy at longer distances and were very susceptible to wet weather that would dampen gunpowder.

The musket’s design influenced the development of later firearms and has become the symbol the colonial period, representing both the challenges and innovations of early American military history.

Sources:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musket>
<https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/>



Miscellaneous



Cont. From Pg. 1

President's Message



Immediate past chapter president Blair Rudy deserves special praise for establishing a new Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) Camp here in San Antonio. Several of our members are helping with this effort by serving as camp officers. If you descend from a soldier or sailor who served in the Union forces or have interest, please help the camp as needed. Meetings are monthly at the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society campus. This new camp is a rebirth of a Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Camp that existed in San Antonio approximately one hundred years ago.

Finally, it is dues time once again. Please pay your 2026 dues as soon as possible. You may want to consider becoming a Life Member and not to worry about dues again!

Warmest regards

Frank Keberman, President

Board of Managers Meeting (BOM): The annual BOM meeting is scheduled for October 17-19 in Sugarland, TX. You are encouraged to attend as it will give you great insight into how SAR and our chapter operates as this is sort of “where the sausage is made!”

Additionally, it is a great opportunity to meet other compatriots. Reservations are now being accepted for the Hilton Garden Inn Houston/Sugar Land, 722 Bonaventure Way Sugar Land, TX 77479. Phone: (281) 491-7777. Look at <https://www.texassar.org/> under the events tab for registration information as it becomes available. Watch for email communication with event details.



Membership Milestones

Congratulations and a thank you goes to these members for their many years of continued support of SA.

5_yrs of Service

Joe Weathersby
Harold Black

Gary Moseley

Edward Elmer
Brian McEnery

40_yrs of service

Joe Pope

10_yrs of Service

Edwin Trebesch
Kenneth Watson

25_yrs of service

Gary Neal
Kenneth Parsons

20_yrs of service

Jon Sandidge

30_yrs of service

Joseph Ware



Membership Milestones

Birthdays

July

Edward Butler
Eilert Weitzel
Robert Wilder
Owen Norton
Edward Butler
Robert Clark
Barclay Houston
Wilbur Valentine
Frank Rohrbough
Stephen
Rohrbough
Roger Tietz

Michael Bowles
Daniel Garcia
Bryan Houston
Meyers William
Jerry Jay Higginson
Jay Lewallen
Terry Block
Ronald Stevens
Wetter Alexander
Paul Wagoner

Aaron Roberts
Michael Metts
Kirk Mills
Thomas O'Brien
Kevin Mills
Gregory Surovic
John Bell
Matthew Brady
Jackson Chambers
George Becknell
William Hall
Kevin Kanter

August

David Taylor
Eldon Freeman
James Schellenberg
Steven Tharpe
Jose Hernandez
Stephen Metts
David Richmond
Michael Skiles
John Hinnant
Jack Chisenhall

James Taylor
James Raymond
Frank Kebelman
George
Whittenburg
Gale Ebie
Jon Simms
James Campbell
William Hall
Richard Wilmeth

Francis Giglio
Edward Ritchie
Brian Scott
Ronald Finch
Joseph Bax



Note:
Event Point of Contact
indicated in the
CONTACT boxes

Coming Events

September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Labor Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Executive Committee Meeting*	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Membership Meeting *	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

CONTACT

* Frank Kebelman
**Frank Rohrbough

October

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Executive Committee Meeting	9	10	11
12	13 Columbus Day	14	15 Membership Meeting *	16	17 Board of Managers (BOM) Meeting – Sugarland, TX	18
19 BOM – Sugarland, TX	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

CONTACT

* Frank Kebelman