



San Antonio Chapter  
Texas

Mar-Apr 2026

Editor: Compatriot Bob Watson  
beaglebud@outlook.com

# The San Antonio Compatriot

TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Issue #2

Compatriot Ron Finch, President  
ronfinch.sat@gmail.com



## President's SAR Mission Statement Message

*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.*

Greeting Compatriots,

The San Antonio Chapter has had a productive last two months. We added four new members to the Chapter with more to come as there are several applications pending approval at National. Thank you to our Registrar, Larry Luckett, for doing an amazing job of assisting and processing these applications.

Two milestone events occurred during this time frame. The first was the Medal of Honor Pilgrimage at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. The event was also designated a Massing of the Colors, a National Color Guard Event, thanks to First VP, Frank Keelman, for organizing this moving celebration honoring 15 Medal of Honor recipients who are laid to rest at the cemetery.

Our second milestone event was the America 250 Monument Patriot Dedication at the Texas State Cemetery. This took place when the Texas Society of SAR held its State Meeting in Austin, which was attended by 10 members from our Chapter. At the meeting, the Chapter was honored to receive four Texas SAR State Awards: 1) Ross Shipman Award - Outstanding Electronic Chapter Newsletter, thank you Compatriot and Editor Bob Watson, you certainly are deserving of this 1st Place honor. 2) Texas SAR Americanism Award, for outstanding patriotic activities, education, and citizenship. I cannot say enough to recognize Compatriot Mike Bowles for undertaking this huge task. 3) Texas Flag Presentation Award. Many thanks to Compatriot John Bell for Leading this Program. 4) Texas SAR Outstanding Public Service Award. Hats off and congratulations to Compatriot Peter Baron for his dedication to this program. Several chapter compatriots received individual awards for their service to NSSAR, the State, and San Antonio Chapter. Thanks to all for your outstanding dedication and service to the chapter.

Judge Ed Butler kicked off the founding meeting of the International and Genealogical and Historical College (IGHC). For more information, please visit the website- <https://internationalgenealogicalcollege.com/>

Remember, "Success is not measured by wealth or fame, but by the impact we have on others." Martha Dandridge Custis Washington  
Ron

## Chapter Meetings

### Executive Committee Meetings:

2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. 11:30 AM

May 13th - June 10th

La Fonda Restaurant

8633 Crownhill Blvd

(Reservations not needed)

### Chapter Meetings:

3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. 11:30 AM,

May 20th - June 17th

Petroleum Club

8620 N. New Braunfels

Reservations are required:

[txsarch4reservations@gmail.com](mailto:txsarch4reservations@gmail.com)

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## Member's Corner

**New Members:** Daniel Surovic, Robert Moore, and David Rubio were inducted into the chapter during the April 15 General Meeting. Congratulations to all and welcome to the chapter. Hope to see you taking interest in one or more of the many chapter activities and join the fun.



**L-R: Capt. Daniel Surovic  
Robert Moore  
David Rubio**

**Awards:** Debbie Werner, DAR Regent, San Antonio de Bexar Chapter, presented Stephen Rohrbough the Hannah White Arnett medal for unselfish devotion, tireless efforts, and assistance to the DAR; and who has dedicated his time, energy, talents, and/or resources to the organization in support of the DAR mission of historic preservation, education and patriotism. Congratulations Stephen

**Chapter's Birthday:** The chapter was formed in 1929 and celebrated its 97<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Compatriot Walt Scull presented all those in attendance a new, mint Revolutionary War Washington Quarter to honor the occasion. Thank you Walt!



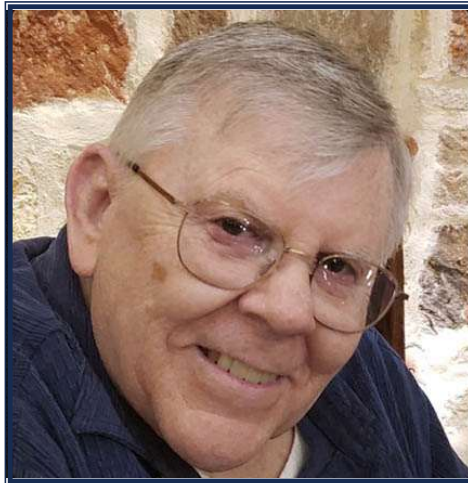
**L-R: Debbie Werner  
Stephen Rohrbough**

## Member's Corner

**Obituary:** It is sad to announce that Compatriot Joe Pope passed away peacefully on March 1, 2026 after years of battling Post Polio Syndrome. He was diagnosed with polio at the age of six. Polio took its toll physically, but he had a great sense of humor, spirit, and will to overcome any obstacle. The funeral was March 11 at Porter Loring Mortuary.

Joe has been a member of the chapter for over 40 years and will surely be missed. He was born November 17, 1947 at the San Antonio Santa Rosa Hospital. Joe is a Jefferson High School graduate with the class of 1965. He married his high school sweet heart and enjoyed 62 years of wedded bliss. He graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in finance and eventually earned a Master's degree in counseling from St. Mary's University.

Joe loved hunting and had a passion for guns. Additionally, he took special interest and pride in his family research to discover his "tree" contained several families on the Mayflower, with the most notable being William Bradford. He had several occupations, which included teaching high school math, serving as a Texas Rehabilitation Commission Vocational Counselor, providing counseling services for a time, was the principal of Antonian High School and finally retired from the Bexar County Probation Office. Joe will surely be missed.



Rest in Peace Compatriot



## Member's Corner



**Roger Sherman Medal:** Compatriot John Bell is the JROTC committee chairman and over the past several years, has completely overhauled the chapter's entire program to organizing and managing it like no other in the state and possibly in the national organization. Other chapters throughout the state seek his guidance on how to get the most from the program.

The chapter supports 46 high school and four college JROTC programs by presenting the outstanding cadet award to each program. This effort requires an immense amount of coordination with the schools and chapter members to present the medals in March and April. For his outstanding efforts, John was awarded the Roger Sherman Medal by past president Frank Kebelman during the March EC meeting since John was not able to attend the February membership meeting. Congratulations John for a job well done.



L-R: John Bell  
Frank Kebelman





## Chapter News



**George Washington Proclamation:** On February 18<sup>th</sup>, Blanco Mayor Candy Cargill read and presented a George Washinton proclamation to Compatriot Blair Rudy to honor our first president and recognize his birthday,



L-R: Blair Rudy  
Mayor Candy Cargill  
Candy Rudy



**Notice:** The monthly events calendar has been dropped from the newsletter as it was woefully out of date by the time the newsletter was released. Instead, there has been a “real time” events calendar placed on the chapter web site. This calendar is kept up-to-date (hopefully) as events are added/changed. Glance at it occasionally to stay abreast of the chapter’s many events. There are times, details, and other comments associated with the event visible by hovering your mouse over the date.

Chapter web site: <https://www.texassar.org/SanAntonio/events.htm>

There are new items on the web site so while looking at the events calendar, browse around. It contains a host of information about local, state, and national SAR activities. Of course, comments and/or suggestions on the web site are welcome.



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## Chapter News



**Naturalization Ceremonies:** The chapter color guard is fortunate enough to present the colors for the monthly naturalization ceremonies. These are scheduled based on the availability of a federal judge, but are usually held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month. They are open to the public and if you have not ever attended, it is recommended you do so as they are very moving and emotional ceremonies with varying numbers, but usually about 200-300 new citizens. Check the web site calendar, but the ceremony is usually held at the Federal Courthouse.



February ceremony with Color Guard and DAR Members



## Chapter News



**March Guest Speaker:** The chapter was honored to have Mr. Justin Simmons, the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Texas as the guest speaker for the March 18<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting. Mr. Simmons described the organization and makeup of the District Court system highlighting the fact that the Western District has the highest case load of all other districts. Citing examples of highly publicized, recent civil and felony cases. The extent and complexity of the District Court system was a surprise to most in attendance. He also pointed out that the District Court has a 98% conviction rate due to extensive case development and dedication by the attorneys.

Mr. Simmons was presented with a certificate of appreciation by President Finch at the conclusion of his presentation.



**Mr. Justin Simmons**  
U.S Attorney  
Western District of Texas



**L-R: Mr. Justin Simmons**  
Greg Surovic  
President Ron Finch



## Chapter News



**April Guest Speaker:** Ms. Salina B. Baker, Revolutionary War Historical novel author was the guest speaker for the April meeting. She gave an excellent synopsis of her most recent book, “The Line of Splendor”, that is the historical facts of Maj. General Nathanael Greene, a famous general of the War. Her interesting presentation was a detailed story of General Greene’s life from his birth on August 7, 1742 to his death on June 19, 1786. General Greene’s troops were instrumental in wining the southern battles of the war even though he lost over 1100 men. General Greene is considered one of the heroes of the war and the city of Greensboro, North Carolina, is named in his honor.



**Ms. Salina Baker,  
Author: “The Line of Splendor**



**Ms. Salina Baker  
Pres. Ron Finch**



## Chapter News



**Flag Certificate:** The SAR Flag Certificate is presented to individuals, companies, and government agencies that fly the United States flag for patriotic purposes only. It is not to be given to any commercial enterprise that obviously flies the flag for advertising purposes. Recipients do not have to be SAR members and the award can be presented by any SAR member

Compatriot Mike Bowles recognized a neighbor, Mr. Paul Press, U.S. Army retired and Vietnam Purple Heart recipient, by presenting him with the flag certificate and a Good Citizenship Medal for his daily display of the flag at his residence in Emerald Forest subdivision. There were 10-15 of his neighbors and friends in attendance. Among the attendees were several DAR members.

The SAR Good Citizenship Medal recognizes individuals for outstanding patriotic achievement, service, and leadership in their communities, often highlighting their achievements in education, government, and the military. Congratulations Mr. Press and thanks to Mike Bowles for taking the initiative to recognize an outstanding member of the community.

As a reminder, any SAR member may recognize an individual or organization to their patriotic display of the flag. Contact any chapter officer for more information.



L-R: Mike Bowles  
Mr. Paul Press



## Chapter News



**Black Powder Training:** Several chapter members own and fire black powder weapons. Compatriot Peter Baron is a certified black powder instructor. The color guard often fires their weapons as part of a program or demonstration and to ensure safety, Peter conducted a black powder firing training class at his place in March. On the color guard or not, all members were invited to attend. Several did attend and enjoyed a day of classroom and hands-on shooting of their weapons.



**DAR State Conference:** Several of our chapter members attended the annual DAR State Conference in March. Most were accompanying their wives as HODARs (Husbands of DAR), but Greg Surovic also participated as a member of the State Color Guard,



State Color Guard



Candy and Blair Rudy



## Chapter News



**Medal of Honor Pilgrimage (MOH):** National Medal of Honor Day is observed on March 25 to recognize the recipients of the highest U.S. military award for valor. The first Medal of Honor was awarded in 1863. The date of recognition was established by Congress in 1990. To observe National Medal of Honor Day, members of the Texas Society SAR conducted a Medal of Honor massing of the Colors and pilgrimage to visit the graves of the fifteen Medal of Honor recipients interred at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery.

San Antonio Chapter #4, hosted over forty men and women to include Past President General, Honorable Edward Butler, the Texas State Color Guard Commander, David Hamaker, members of Texas SAR, Texas DAR, General Society War of 1812, Granaderos & Damas, Sons of the Republic of Texas, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The pilgrimage is planned to be an annual event that is recognized by the National Society.





## Chapter News



**Awards:** There were nine chapter members that participated in the Medal of Honor Pilgrimage. Since this is a new event and not yet approved as a national color guard event, there are no medals for the participants. In lieu of other award options, all participants were presented with Certificates of Appreciation. Thanks to all for your support and since this is planned to be an annual event with national recognition, larger attendance is anticipated for next year. Chapter members receiving certificates were:

President Ron Finch  
Greg Surovic  
Frank Kebelman  
Jose Hernandez

Mike Giglio and wife Rosy  
Joe Weathersby and wife Vedia  
Blair Rudy  
Frank Rohrbough  
Judge Edward Butler

**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. The event will be held on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Even though the wreaths are laid at the veterans' graves during December, the account has been activated early in an effort to increase our participation this year. We are requesting you step up and help the chapter with this endeavor. To purchase your wreath, use the link provided on the chapter website [texassar.org/SanAntonio/](http://texassar.org/SanAntonio/). Open the "Docs" tab and select "Society Docs & Forms" in the dropdown. Look for the Wreaths Across America link in the lower left yellow area labeled "Chapter Documents". Once again, the chapter asks that you participate in this very important event. Contact Compatriot Kevin Kanter at [kevinkanter@icloud.com](mailto:kevinkanter@icloud.com) if you have problems or questions.

## Coming Events

May through July are typically busy months for the chapter. Besides the May Executive Committee and General Membership meetings (5/13 & 5/20 respectively), there will be several America 250<sup>th</sup> events planned. The traditional July 4<sup>th</sup> event will also be held at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery. Please look at the web site events calendar to see exact dates and times posted when they are known. Any help you can provide to support one or more of these events will be greatly appreciated. Contact any chapter officer for more information to see how you can participate and help the chapter.



## Chapter News



**High School Honored:** On April 7th, Raul Hinojosa presented the Principal of Central Catholic HS (Dr. Lee Hernandez) an SAR Marker to honor Medal of Honor (MOH) recipient Sgt. Bordelon. He was one of the MOH members recognized and honored at the Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery Medal of Honor Pilgrimage.

Sgt. Bordelon, an alum of Central Catholic High School, will be permanently recognized at his school by SAR and the community from now on. This is a wonderful memorial for a hometown hero and something past and future students can look up to with pride.



L-R: Dr. Lee Hernandez  
Raul Hinojosa



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## Chapter News



### San Antonio Chapter Takes the Lead of TXSSAR

Source: Judge Ed Butler

Austin was a hub of genealogical and historical activity on April 16-19, 2026. Over 100 delegates along with about 50 guests attended the Texas SAR Society annual State Convention. Ten chapter members participated in the jam packed patriotic week-end.

The Texas DAR and SAR societies dedicated a handsome monument at the Texas State Cemetery on Saturday morning to celebrate America 250.





## Chapter News



Texas Governor, Greg Abbott, presented the dedication address, following which, Texas State President, Mel Oller, inducted the Governor into the Austin chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Immediately after his induction, the Governor was awarded the SAR Silver Good Citizenship Medal.



**L-R: President Mel Oller  
Texas Governor Greg Abbott**

Chapter members Dustin Whittenburg and Kevin Kanter, were elected as the Texas Society SAR President and President-Elect, respectively, to serve for 2026-2027.



**L-R: Past President Sam Massey  
Incoming President, Dustin Whittenburg**



## Chapter News




After the 1812 Society breakfast meeting and religious services, approximately 40 people from Texas, Kentucky, Oklahoma, and New Mexico met to organize The International Genealogical and Historical College (IGHC).

The following members were elected to the following offices:

Founding Governor General: Judge Ed Butler  
 Dep. Gov. Gen, East USP.G. Lyndsey Brock (dual member)  
 Chaplain General Rev. James Taylor  
 Editor General Larry Luckett

The IGHC is open to membership to any person who has a direct lineal ancestors who lived in a foreign county at least six generations ago. Details are laid out on this flyer or at:

<https://internationalgenealogicalcollege.com/>



**A New International Fellowship of Scholars**

**The International Genealogical and Historical College**  
 A newly organized scholarly fellowship dedicated to advancing the study of *genealogy*, *historical migration*, and the *preservation of historical truth*.  
 The College brings together experienced genealogists, historians, and leaders of lineage societies in a spirit of scholarship, cooperation, and fellowship.

The Mission of the College	Fellowship in the College
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting rigorous genealogical research</li> <li>• Preserving historical truth and documentary evidence</li> <li>• Encouraging collaboration among international genealogical scholars</li> <li>• Publishing and supporting educational research initiatives.</li> <li>• Strengthening fellowship among lineage-based historical societies</li> </ul>	<p>The College will establish a <b>Hall of Fame</b> honoring individuals whose work has made significant contributions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Genealogy</li> <li>• Historical scholarship</li> <li>• Preservation of heritage</li> <li>• Leadership in lineage societies</li> </ul>
<p><b>Become a Founding Fellow</b></p> <p>Those attending at the Southpark Hotel are encouraged to check out prior to the meeting or request a late checkout.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Applications for Fellowship available at the meeting</li> <li>✓ Additional information will be announced during the TXSSAR Convention</li> </ul>	<p><b>Fellowship in the College</b></p> <p>The College will establish a <b>Hall of Fame</b> honoring individuals whose work has made significant contributions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Genealogy</li> <li>• Historical scholarship</li> <li>• Preservation of heritage</li> <li>• Leadership in lineage societies</li> </ul>

✓ Applications for Fellowship available at the meeting  
 ✓ Additional information will be announced during the TXSSAR Convention



## Miscellaneous



### Battle of Ramsour's Mill

It seems that facts become blurred over time, actions are exaggerated, and outcomes are altered concerning a specific event. Each time a story is told, the facts change. The Battle of Ramsour's Mill is one of those events that seem to have developed a life of its own. Truth or fiction, the story of two young brothers, Peter and Thomas Costner, sons of German Colonists, and their involvement on the Revolutionary War battle has become folk lore in North Carolina. The two sons joined the militia, fought in the war, and the only son to survive was Thomas.

Thomas provided a statement as part of his pension application for his service in the war. His statement described his time the militia and the many skirmishes he was involved with, however specific details and names were scant.

Though Thomas's pension statement is the only primary-source of his actions during the war, stories, secondary texts, and oral accounts describe the fate of the two young Costner brothers. Over the years, the details have become so blurred that the objective facts of the Costner brothers' lives are difficult to filter out.

The Germans settled in North Carolina, initially coming in several waves of migration. The Costners, settled first in Pennsylvania where they found work in the coal mines before migrating to other areas. Unlike some earlier German settlers, the Germans of the North Carolina Piedmont often integrated themselves into the largely English and Scots Irish communities around them. When the war broke out, the German immigrants often chose not to remain neutral and didn't always gravitate to the same side of the battle with each other, which is apparently the case of the Costner brothers.

Many German settlers were conservative, holding strong ties to Britain. Some felt they owed allegiance to the government that allowed them to acquire land and fortune. In addition, there were very strong ancestral ties.

Many had ties to the communities that adopted them and joined their English and Scots-Irish neighbors. This varying allegiance often led to friction between families and, in some cases, spilled over onto the battlefield. Such appears to have been the case with Peter Costner who, unlike his brothers, supported the Tories and served in a Loyalist militia. As the stories go, this appears to have cost Peter his life in a small but savage battle.

(continued on next page)



## Miscellaneous



If the story is to be believed, it was Thomas who took his brother's life at what became known as the [Battle of Ramsour's Mill](#). The story goes on to say that Thomas buried his brother under a pile of stones to spare him from being interred in a mass, unmarked grave.

So, what did happen to Peter Costner? There is no historical record pointing to his death at Ramsour's Mill, however, multiple sources state his death as June 20, 1780, the date of the battle. But, if Peter did die at Ramsour's Mill, was it really at the hand of Thomas? The answer is complicated, and somewhat ambiguous. In this battle, neighbors, relatives, and personal friends fought each other. Peter Costner's story is only a secondhand fragment of the battle. The official, unproven story, is simply that Peter died on the battlefield at the hand of his brother, and that Thomas, out of grief and to spare his brother's body from an unmarked grave, committed Peter's body to the ground somewhere in a field, marked by pile of stones. No version tells of how the two met on the field or gives the specific location of the burial site.

Today, there are only four burial markers at the battlefield site. The most notable marker belongs to a mass grave where unidentified dead were buried. Additionally, there are a few individual grave markers on the site, but the location of the pile of stones that marked Peter Costner's final resting place is unknown.



Depiction of the  
Battle of Ramsour's Mill

**Sources:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Ramsour%27s\\_Mill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Ramsour%27s_Mill)  
<http://www.lincolncountyhistory.com/projects/ramsour/ramsour.html>