



May - June
2026



The San Antonio Compatriot

TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



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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,

We are coming to the midpoint of 2026 with the 250th Celebration of the Declaration of Independence right around the corner. Numerous activities are planned throughout the surrounding area, state and the nation as we celebrate the monumental occasion.

The Chapter continues to grow. During May and June, several new members were inducted into the chapter (articles in the newsletter).

May concluded an extremely active ROTC awards season. Thank you to John Bell and all the compatriots who assisted in presenting to the various high school and university cadets in the area.

The Naturalization Ceremonies are continuing throughout the year but have scaled back in the number of presentations from 2 a day to a single ceremony in the mornings. June 10th was very special as it took place outdoors at Mission San Jose with various dignitaries from Federal Agencies and the National Park Service in attendance.

Celebrations for the Fourth of July will kick off at the Army Residence Center on the 29th of June. Other events surrounding this historic day are also planned.

Reminder to all: There are no monthly meetings, including the EC meetings, in July and August. The next scheduled meetings are September 9th followed by the general membership meeting September 16th.

A quote to 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:

2nd Wed. 11:30 AM

Sept. 9th-Oct 14th

La Fonda Restaurant

8633 Crownhill Blvd

(Reservations not needed)

Chapter Meetings:

3rd Wed. 11:30 AM,

Sept. 16th-Oct 21st

Petroleum Club

8620 N. New Braunfels

Reservations are required:

txsarch4reservations@gmail.com

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Member's Corner



Awards

Several individuals received awards at the May General Meeting to recognize their outstanding service and dedication to the chapter and SAR in general. Some were chapter awards and others were state awards presented at the State Conference in April. Congratulations to everyone recognized and thank you for such dedication and sacrifice of time. Both the chapter and state awards are listed below.



Pres. Ron Finch (L) presenting Peter Baron a Certificate of Appreciation for his work as the on the State Veterans program



Pres. Ron Finch (L) presenting John Bell a flag presentation certificate for his work with the state flag program



Pres. Ron Finch (R) presenting Campbell Baron the following state and chapter awards. Silver State Color Guard medal, State CAR Essay, Chapter Youth Essay, Joseph Plumber Martin Video contest. Each of these awards earned various monetary scholarship amounts.

Awards Cont.



Member's Corner



Awards Cont. from p2

There are five category awards given by the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) for Public Service and Heroism. These awards are presented to recognize outstanding citizens, police officers, firefighters, and EMS personnel for exceptional service, community contributions, and life-saving acts. There are five categories individuals can earn this award for: Law Enforcement, Fire Safety, Emergency Medical Services, Heroism, and Life Saving. The chapter earned a Public Service Award for presenting medals and recognizing individuals in all five categories.



It was announced at the state conference in April, that the chapter won 1st place for large chapters in the state for outstanding electronic chapter newsletter for 2025. This is the second consecutive year and could only be achieved by chapter member's continual contributions of photographs and information. Thanks to all.



Awards Cont.



Member's Corner



Awards Cont. from p3

Past Pres. Blair Rudy is the State Compliance Officer and for his outstanding work to ensure no conflicts of interest among our officers, he was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the State President at the State Conference.



**Pres. Ron Finch (L)
 with Blair Rudy**

State President Mell Oller presented Frank Rohrbough a certificate honoring his over 20 years of service as the color guard commander. Frank served at the chapter, state, and national levels with distinction.



**Frank Rohrbough (L)
 with Pres. Ron Finch**

Pres. Ron Finch presented Mike Skiles and Joe Weathersby the Bronze America 250 Medal for their dedication and service to the America 250 Committee.



**L-R: Pres. Ron Finch
 Joe Weathersby
 Mike Skiles**

Frank Kebelman, Medal of Honor Pilgrimage chairman, presented Raul Hinojosa and Joe Weathersby a Certificate of Appreciation for their support and dedication to the Medal of Honor pilgrimage



Raul Hinojosa



Joe Weathersby

Awards Cont.



Member's Corner



Awards Cont. from p4

The National SAR Americanism Report is a comprehensive activity report and score sheet used by the National Society Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR). Chapters and state societies use it to track annual achievements, promote patriotic traditions, and compete for prestigious awards. Most every event and activity done throughout the year by the chapter earns points. The chapter is very active and usually scores very high in comparison to other chapters. This year, the chapter won State Award for Chapter Americanism Report. Compatriot Mike Bowles is responsible for collecting and completing the annual Americanism Report Score Sheet submitted to the State Committee. This is a very labor-intensive effort and one that requires great organizational skills and dedication to succeed. For his extraordinary efforts, Mike was presented with the Americanism Report Certificate of Appreciation. Congratulations and a job well done

New Members: The chapter inducted Dr. Kelly Smith and George Clark during the May general meeting. We look forward to their participation in chapter activities. Please welcome them to the chapter when you see them.



L-R:
George Clark
Dr. Kelly Smith
Blair Rudy
Pres. Ron Finch



L-R: Pres. Ron Finch Juanita
Clark (George's Mother)
George Clark



Dr. Kelly Smith



Member's Corner



Awards Cont. from p5

Special Award: Compatriot George Harcourt was awarded the Texas Patriot Award by the Alamo Mission Chapter DRT on June 9th. The award is given to an individual or group who has made outstanding contributions to the community while actively supporting the DRT's mission of preserving and promoting Texas history. George has certainly done that with over 15 years of support and research. It was George's research that proved one of the Alamo heroes who had been listed as being Welsh was, in fact, from Virginia which resulted in changes to the displays inside the shrine. Congratulations George. An award well deserved.



New Member: Below right, President Ron Finch (L) presents Compatriot Bill Milnor he chapter membership certificate as he was inducted into the chapter during the June General Membership. Bill will be the last new member before the summer break as there are no meetings in July and August. Welcome aboard Bill. The chapter looks forward to your involvement in support of chapter activities.





Chapter News



First Responders: Each year in May, the chapter honors first responders. This year we chose to recognize the outstanding achievements of two exceptional police officers.

Officer Ethaniel Valdez, a 5-year veteran of the San Antonio Police Department, is currently assigned the San Antonio Fear Free Environment (SAFFE) unit at the West Patrol Substation to work directly with the community to prevent crime.

On the morning of October 15, 2025, Officer Valdez responded with another officer and two SAPD cadets to a hotel for a female in need. On arrival, he contacted a male suspect who became aggressive. Shortly, the suspect drew a firearm and Officer Valdez attempted to disarm the violent suspect. The suspect began firing. SAPD officers returned fire and ended the attack. Officer Valdez and another officer were struck by gunfire.

We recognize Officer Valdez for his sacrifice, honor and commitment to duty to this community

Officer Luis Cordova is a 9-year veteran of the San Antonio Police Department and is currently a Patrol Officer assigned to the West Patrol Substation and on special assignment with the Gang Unit.

On the morning of October 15, 2025, Officer Luis Cordova responded with another officer and two SAPD cadets to a hotel for a female in need. On arrival, he contacted a male suspect who became aggressive. Shortly, the suspect drew a firearm and Officer Valdez attempted to disarm the violent suspect. The suspect began firing. SAPD officers returned fire and ended the attack. Officer Cordova and another officer were struck by gunfire.

We recognize Officer Cordova for his sacrifice, honor and commitment to duty to this community





Chapter News



Huzzah!



Good Citizenship Medal: As part of honoring first responders, President Ron Finch presented Detective Harold Anderson the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal. The medal recognizes individuals for noteworthy community, school, or local achievements and is presented to peers, community leaders, educators, and volunteers who actively demonstrate the principles of dependability, leadership, service, and patriotism. Detective Anderson was recognized for his exceptional dedication to the San Antonio Police Department. Congratulations Detective Anderson and thank you for your dedication and devotion to the community.





Chapter News



Memorial Day Event: American Legion Post #38, located in Floresville, TX, asked the chapter to provide color guard services for their annual Memorial Day pilgrimage and program. Compatriots Peter Baron, Bob Watson, Colt Buckaloo, and Campbell Baron, dressed in colonial attire, attended and led the pilgrimage through a downtown area with flags ahead of a flag draped coffin symbolizing those who gave their lives in combat. Afterwards, we enjoyed a good, old-fashioned BBQ with those in attendance. The towns folks expressed their appreciation for our attendance and support for their program.



L-R: Colt Buckaloo, Peter Baron,
 Campbell Baron, Bob Watson



L-R: Bob Watson,
 Peter Baron,
 Campbell Baron,
 Colt Buckaloo





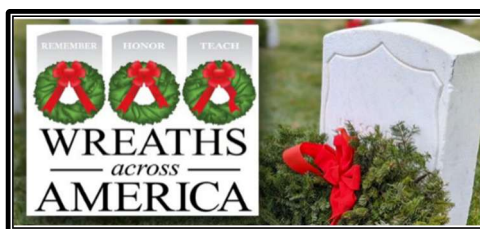
Chapter News



Commendation Certificate: The chapter presented the Calvary Hilla Baptist Church the SAR Commendation Certificate for their daily display of the U.S. Flag.



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. Kevin Kanter will be the new State President Elect and wishes to step down from this chairmanship. He is seeking a volunteer to head the program. This would be a very good job for a new member to learn the ins and outs of one of the chapter's significant programs. If interested, please contact Kevin, above email to learn about the job.



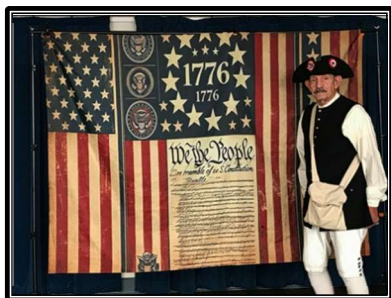


Chapter News



America 250 Program

District 8 DAR sponsored an America 250 event for the tenants at the Army Residence Community (ARC) on May 21st. This event included a traveling display about the Revolutionary War and a patriotic skit. The Chapter participated in both the color guard and the skit. There were about 100 in attendance who all seemed to enjoy the event. All participants were in colonial attire, which drew many pictures and comments. The traveling display was moved to Bulverde, TX then on to Dallas.



Bob Watson with program backdrop



L-R: Frank Rohrbough, Greg Surovic, Bob Watson, Kevin Kanter, Dewev Owens



Color guard and Honey Bees Singers



Greg Surovic as Patrick Henry



Chapter News



DAR Awards

President Ron Finch presented the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Green Mountain Boys chapter Regent, Cindy Watson and the past Regent and TXDAR State Chair, DAR/SAR/S.R. Relations Committee, Jean Kanter special awards for completing over eight SAR applications. This outstanding effort was recognized by both the chapter and the state society. Congratulations for a job well done and greatly appreciated.



L-R: Jean Kanter, Cindy Watson Ron Finch



L-R: Cindy Watson, Jean Kanter
 Ron Finch



Chapter News



Past president Frank Kebelman, presented DAR member Rita Shempff a certificate of appreciation for her support of the Medal of Honor Pilgrimage held during the Memorial Day ceremonies. Thank you Rita for your attendance. The certificate was present during the June meeting as Rita was not able to attend the May meeting.



The chapter Color Guard presented the colors for the June 26th Naturalization Ceremony. This was a special event as members of the Army band and several DAR ladies were also in attendance making it a very patriotic ceremony.





Chapter News



Butlers Move American flag

For many years the American Flag flew over the garage of judge and Mrs. Edward F. Butler. Unfortunately, their flag was not visible from the road, as their home sits on wooded acres. In anticipation of July fourth, on this our nation's 250th birthday, the Butlers have moved their flag so that it may be seen easily.

On Father's Day, the Butler's dedicated a new flagpole adjacent to the front gate to their property. In addition to the illumination from the two bright lights atop his gate posts, the Butlers have attached two pen lights to illuminate the flag at night. Now, every person traveling on Cross Mountain Trail, day or night, can't miss the large illuminated American flag at the Butler's gate.



Blanco Market Days: Blair and Candy Rudy along with Greg and Laura Surovic and President Ron Finch hosted a table at the Blanco Market Day event on June 21st. The chapter's table had SAR information as well as our Fiesta Medals for sale. The event was a big success and appreciated by the organizers for our participation. There was considerable interest shown for SAR and membership.



L-R: Blair Rudy, Candy Rudy, Ron Finch, Laura Surovic, Greg Surovic



Chapter News



Chapter Events: The chapter is very busy this year due to the America 250 celebrations throughout the area. The following events are scheduled and there will most likely be more to come before year's end. All of these are open to chapter members and their families. Some are educational for the kids as well as adults. We ask you get involved and contact any of the officers to express interest in helping or just show up if you want to attend. Also, watch the event calendar on the chapter web site for updates and additions. Yes, the chapter has a web site for those that are not aware of it. A considerable amount of information and interesting items and pictures on the web site. Check it out during your spare time.

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

Upcoming events:

July 2nd: Special Naturalization Ceremony

July 4th: Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery Independence Day salute to America. Hosted by the Granaderos with live musket firing and the Granaderos Fife & Drum Corps.

July 4th: Independence Day Program and Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort (9800 Hyatt Resort Drive). Color guard, demonstration tables, musket firing, and flags through history presentation.

July 4th: Terril Hills Independence Day Parade.

July 4th: Roseheart Subdivision annual Independence Day celebration.

July 24th: Naturalization Ceremony

August 15th: Battle of Medina annual symposium in Leming, Texas

August 15th: Military Order of World Wars National Convention

Check out the events calendar on the web site for details of the events to include times and addresses.



Chapter News



Special Events

Due to the America 250 celebrations occurring around the area, the chapter color guard and individuals are in high demand. These are some special events that have occurred during May and June.

Compatriot Larry Loop gave a presentation about the significance of the America 250 year and the meaning of Memorial Day at the Overture Residential Community. The presentation was well received by the many residents, guests, and the 28 veterans who live at the Overture.

Compatriots (L-R) Colt Buckaloo (CAR member), Peter Baron, Campbell Baron (CAR), Joe Weathersby, and Mike Skiles provided color guard service and made presentations during the Medina Heritage Day celebration. The event was held at the Medina County Museum in Hondo Texas. A live musket firing demonstration by Peter Baron was a big hit with the attendees.





Chapter News



Naturalization Ceremony: The chapter provided color guard services to the special Naturalization Ceremony on June 10th at the Mission San Jose, one of the missions that make up the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Federal District Judge Xavier Rodriguez presided over the ceremony for 30 new citizens from 14 different countries. In attendance were Acting Deputy Regional Director for the National Park Service Intermountain Region and is the Superintendent of the San Antonio Missions National Historical park in San Antonio, Christine Jacobs. From the United States Citizenship & Immigration Services, Acting Field Office Director Alex Nerdin along with his staff USCIS District Director Jesse Mendez, USCIS Section Chief Gilberto Rodriguez and USCIS Section Chief Sarah Hollemans.

The color guard members were Commander – Greg Surovic with Mike Skiles, Blair Rudy, Frank Rohrbough, Robert Ducksworth (Hightower Chapter), and Mike Giglio. Also in attendance were DAR members of the San Antonio de Bexar Chapter.



L-R: Greg Surovic, Mike Giglio, Blair Rudy,
Judge Xavier Rodriguez, Robert Duckworth,
Mike Skiles, Frank Rohrbough



Miscellaneous



Gaspee Affair



The Gaspee Affair was perhaps one of the most important pre-Revolutionary incidents. This event took place on June 9–10, 1772, near Rhode Island. Many historians see it as one of the events that helped push the American colonies toward revolution.

The event happened because the British customs ship, HMS *Gaspee*, patrolled Narragansett Bay to stop smuggling and enforce British trade laws. Colonists strongly disliked the ship because its crew frequently searched vessels and interfered with local commerce.

On June 9, 1772, the HMS *Gaspee* chased a colonial packet ship called the *Hannah*. During the pursuit, the *Gaspee* ran aground on a sandbar. During the night, a group of Rhode Island colonists, led by John Brown, boarded the stranded ship. During the confrontation, the British commander, Lieutenant William Dudingston was badly wounded. The colonists proceeded to burn the *Gaspee*.

As one would expect, the British government severely reacted threatening to send the colonists who participated in the burning to England to stand trial. This angered the colonists because they believed it violated their rights. The end result was that the incident increased anti-British sentiment, united the colonies against British authority, and inspired the creation of Committees of Correspondence, which improved communication between colonies.

The “Gaspee Affair” happened before other famous events like the Boston Tea Party, but is recognized as one of the first violent acts of resistance which led to the American Revolutionary War.



Source:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaspee_affair