



# The Texas Compatriot



Official Publication of the Texas Society  
Sons of the American Revolution

SUMMER 2017

## Dallas area chapters honor the flag



On June 10, 2017, the SAR chapters from Dallas, Plano and East Fork Trinity gathered at the First Methodist Church in Plano to perform a joint ceremony of flag retirements. Boy Scouts and their leaders, along with the Paralyzed Soldiers Honor Guard, performed the flag ceremony honoring the flag. Among those present were Tom Whitelock, Dan Reed, Don Sielert, John Ray, Larry Melton, Paul Ridenour, T.L. Holden, Ted Wilson, Alan Johnson, John Greer and a member each from the Dallas Chapter and the Paralyzed Soldiers Honor Guard.

### FROM THE PRESIDENT: *John Beard*

My fellow compatriots, it is truly an honor for me to serve as your president of the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution for the term 2017–2018.



Because I don't know each and every one of you, I would like to share with you some of my background as a member of Texas SAR and the National

Society Sons of the American Revolution:

- As is probably the case with many of you compatriots out there, my/your mother enrolled me/you in the SAR. Mine did in 1976 in the Florida Society, hence my low National Number 111712.
- In 2009, I decided that I now had the time and inclination to get actively involved with SAR, which I did. I am a firm believer that you get out of an organization what you're willing to put into that organization.
- I have served in various chapter positions: secretary, treasurer and

president. All of these were rewarding.

- I served on the Texas SAR Audit Committee, which led to my serving four terms as your state treasurer. During this time, we implemented many changes to how the treasury job is performed, such as electronic deposits and a new fund accounting QuickBooks system.
- I have served at the national level on the Independent and Internal Audit Committees, Finance Committee, Information Technology Committee and as chief compliance officer.

**Continued on back cover**

# Washington kin grave markers restored

On the morning of April 29, 2017, a rededication ceremony for the restored grave markers for Lawrence Augustine Washington and his wife, Martha Ann Dickinson Shrewsbury Washington, was staged by Edmund Terrill Chapter No. 34.

Lawrence Augustine Washington (1814–1882) and Martha Ann Dickinson Shrewsbury (1820–1891) were married Nov. 21, 1839. Research reveals that Lawrence A. Washington is a “Junior” and the grand-nephew of George Washington, our first president. He and his wife moved to Texas about 1874 and settled in Denison.

Among those present at the ceremonies were William “Bill” Hurst of Bonham and Dale Rideout of Howe, both cousins of Washington. They had the honor of placing a white and red wreath on the gravesite. Representatives of the Colonial Dames, Daughters of the American Revolution, Denison Genealogical Society and Oakwood Cemetery Association were among those present.

Dr. Wade Graves, president of Edmund Terrill Chapter, served as master of ceremonies for the event. Colors were presented by Bill Watts, state commander of the Texas Sons of the American Revolution, along with David Davidson, John Greer and Tom Whitelock. Taylor Turcan, a member of Boy Scout Troop 605, led the pledge of allegiance to the U.S. flag after which John Hunt Sr., vice president of Edmund Terrill Chapter, led the SAR pledge.

Dr. Graves presented Donna Hunt the Sons of the American Revolution Bronze Good Citizen Medal and a framed certificate “in recognition of notable services in behalf of our American principles.”

Mrs. Hunt told how she had a copy of a 1987 *Texas Magazine* that led her to uncover the location of graves of the Washingtons. Eventually, a Texas historical marker was placed on the graves.

The weather and other elements had damaged both headstones, leaving them in pieces on the ground. Newspaper articles written by Donna Hunt in the *Herald Democrat*, on



May 1, 2016, alerted Dr. Graves to the situation. By contacting Mrs. Hunt, he found that the city of Denison oversaw the upkeep of the cemetery.

The restoration project was presented to chapter members and approved. T.L. Holden and Dr. Graves met with the city-approved monument restoration company.

The repaired stones were returned to their original foundation and once again marked the graves of the Washingtons. The Texas historical marker was refurbished by chapter member T.L. Holden of Sherman, a retired U.S. Army brigadier general. This work took four days and was done on site so as not to disturb the site any more than necessary.

As mentioned, Dr. Washington was a “Junior” born at Red House, Putnam County, WV, in 1814. He was the son of Lawrence Augustine Washington (1774–1824) and Mary Dorcas Wood Washington (1781–1835.) This Lawrence was the son of Col. Samuel Washington (1734–1781) and Anne Eskridge Steptoe Washington (1737–1777). Samuel was the brother of George Wash-

ington.

Dr. Washington and his wife had four children. Decendants of the Washington family can still be found in Texas today.

Concluding the ceremonies, the Color Guard fired three volley rounds in salute. It was commanded by Ted Wilson, northern commander of the Texas Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard, made up of Drake Peddie, state secretary, Alan Johnson, Jerry Cope, and William “Bill” Covington. Both the invocation and closing prayer were done by Charles Hilbert, chapter chaplain.

Both members of the TXSSAR Color Guard and attendees were made up of members from North Texas chapters Edmund Terrill, East Fork Trinity, Dallas, Plano, Arlington, and Fort Worth.

The nearby grave of Emma Tell Washington Patrick (1848–1907) was marked by a large American flag. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution #691 and a daughter to those who were honored.

— Tom Wilson

*The Texas Patriot*

# Patrick Henry honors Texas' 181st birthday

**AUSTIN:** Under the beautiful trees of the Texas State Cemetery (the "Arlington of Texas"), uniformed members of Patrick Henry Chapter led Texas Independence Day ceremonies on March 2. Local television and newspaper coverage was extensive.



## Arlington marks 23rd anniversary



In attendance for the 23rd anniversary of the Texas SAR Arlington Chapter meeting of Jan. 14, 2017, were compatriots Dennis Walton, Nicolas Hamilton, Grant Hamilton, Ned Myers, Kevin Jorrey, Richard Coffey, Levi Walker, John Anderson, David Friels, Jerry Cope, Roger Wehr, Dick Lee and Ron Carter.

## Houston Congress logo selected



The 2018 Houston National Congress logo winner was announced in late June and only awaits national approval. Jakob Sogan's entry was selected and will receive a \$200 award from Patrick Henry Chapter. Second place award of \$50 goes to Evie Rew-Hunter.

*The Texas Compatriot*

*A Happy  
241st  
United States  
Independence Day*

**From your Texas SAR officers**



## Washington's Birthday: a Laredo tradition

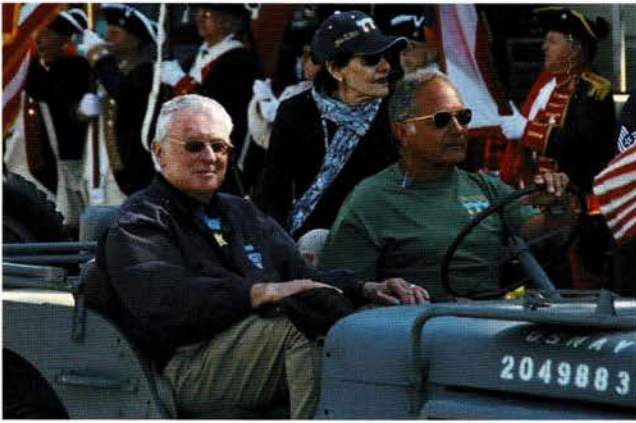


Compatriots from across the state of Texas participated in the annual parade and celebration.



## Dec. 7th casualty returns to Texas

A Sailor Honor Detail joins SAR Color Guards at the burial of Seaman 1st Class George Coke on June 23. Coke, who was previously buried in Hawaii with other "unknowns" from the sinking of the Battleship Oklahoma, was identified by DNA and returned to his family in Arlington. Photo courtesy of Jerry Cope.



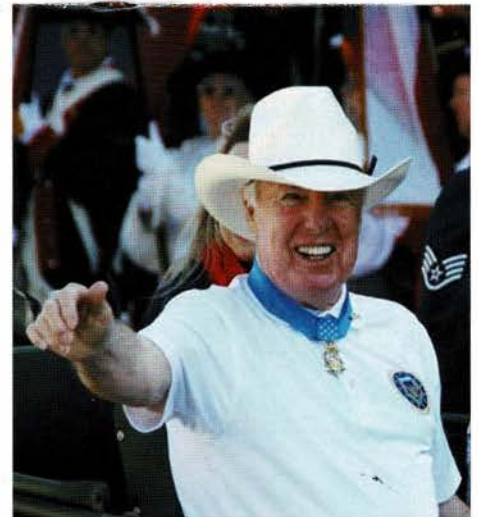
## Medal of Honor recipients recognized with parade

**GAINESVILLE:** April 8, 2017, was a great day for a parade. The Texas Sons of the America Revolution Color Guard was 31st out of approximately 80 unit entries, each one paying respect to these great heroes and numerous other veterans and organizations. There were 20 Color Guardsmen from the Northern Region and one from the Southern Region.

It had been decided that the Texas SAR Color Guard would march in the parade route and break away at the end in order to salute the Medal of Honor individuals who had come to Gainesville. Before the beginning of the parade, the compatriots were told to assemble at the intersection of Broadway and Denton when word was received that the Medal of Honor personnel would be ahead of us in the parade. However, luck was on our side as they were lined up on Denton Street and would be passing us as they turned onto Broadway. Adjustments were made and we lined up single file down Denton Street on their left and were able to salute them as they passed. We quickly reassembled on Broadway to get into our proper place in the parade. This year, the new northern commander, Ted Wilson, was joined by Marshall Cope, our youngest SAR member, to lead the Texas SAR Color Guard. We were well received and cheered by those who had lined Main Street to watch the parade.

Those who followed the commander: from Edmund Terrill Chapter, T.L. Holden and Ted Wilson; from Arlington Chapter, Jerry Cope and Marshall Cope; from Plano Chapter, Drake Peddie and Alan Johnson; from East Fork Trinity Chapter, Gary Lovell, John Greer, Montie Monzingo; from Brazos Valley Chapter, Ron Wheelen, Bob Mearns, and Charles Gillespie; from Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter, Gerry Gieger and James Alderman; from Dallas Chapter, Michael Petridis, Jerry Pinkerton, George Ramphrey, Bob Kittrell and Tom Whitelock; and from Patrick Henry Chapter, Jim Clements. All followed the leadership of Bill Watts, state commander of the Texas SAR Color Guard, from East Fork Trinity Chapter.

— Tom Wilson



# Audie Murphy Day parade honors hometown hero



T.L. Holden, Howard Roach, John Greer, Don Babbs, Don Seilert, Montie Monzingo, Dennis A. Vierling, Bill Covington, Dan Reed and Ted Wilson participated in the parade.

Audie Murphy Day in Farmersville began in 1999 as a solemn remembrance of Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier of World War II, who came home to a hero's welcome in downtown Farmersville in 1945. Today this Texas Main Street Program event draws thousands and honors our local veterans as well as "hometown hero" Audie Murphy. Popular activities over the years have included a parade, complete with local vets riding in historic vehicles, a brief program giving biographical information about Audie Murphy, a roll call of local veterans, and military exhibits.

This year on June 17, members of the Texas Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard rode and

walked in the parade. They included T.L. Holden and Ted Wilson, Edmund Terrill Chapter; Bill Covington, Arlington Chapter; Montie Monzingo, John Greer, and Dennis A. Vierling, East Fork Trinity Chapter; Don Seilert and wife Ann (DAR), Don Babbs and wife Donna (DAR), Dan Reed and wife Carolyn, Howard Roach and wife Jo Ellen,

Plano Chapter pulled a trailer with an old cannon mounted on it. Numerous flags were flying everywhere in a steady breeze. Both current and past military personnel participated — some walking and others riding in military vehicles of WWII.

Overall there was a wide variety of participants in the parade and lots to see.  
— Tom Wilson



## Compatriot News Hounds:



A few words from Compatriot Editor Jim Dougherty

I truly hope you are enjoying this issue of the *Texas Compatriot*. Since the spring edition, I have been blessed with email submissions from compatriots from across the state. After my "Call for Content" a couple of weeks ago, my inbox was filled with really fine pictures and stories of our Sons chapters making a difference across our great state.

We were able to use almost everything, but if we missed something, please accept my apology and I'll try better next time.

There are a few suggestions I need to make for submissions, especially when photos are involved:

The *Texas Compatriot* is published in two ways, the beautiful four-color print version and the online web version accessible at [www.txssar.org](http://www.txssar.org).

When sending photographs, please keep in mind that we need high resolution (150 – 300 dots-per-inch) photos. It's always best to set your camera to its highest quality setting (see your instruction booklet). Then the easiest way to make and send a high resolution photo is to download the photo from camera to computer; save the image and send it to the *Texas Compatriot* editor's email address ([jimdougherty47@gmail.com](mailto:jimdougherty47@gmail.com)) followed by a separate text message with identification of those in the picture and any other information for captions.

I was especially happy to see the first-person piece by John Thompson and Mary Elizabeth (on the following page) and the Washington grave markers story on Page 2. Both were so well done and researched. We hope they don't mind the edits due to space restraints.

Keep 'em coming. - Jim D.

## A Memorial Day memory

This Memorial Day, we traveled over to College Station in the early morning to help the Independence Chapter and Bob Cohen (top right) place flags at their local cemetery for all the veterans buried there. It was a good trip and they put together a wonderful team. We completed the task in less than an hour and a half.

Then we traveled back to Conroe and Houston and attempted to place small U.S. flags on the graves of all our Freedom Chapter members who had passed. The cemeteries visited included Cashner's Garden Park Cemetery and Houston National Cemetery. I noted I had forgotten the location of some of our compatriots plus I noted some of the flag placements were not in accordance with general military rules and practices. From my notes: The small U.S. flag should be placed, if possible, on the right shoulder (with the individual facing skyward), on the primary headstone and not the footstone.

Further, I find I did not have an exact location for many of our Freedom Chapter compatriots who have passed. So I began this exercise, and I was able to collect obituaries and have identified, at this time, some 28 individuals and their cemetery burial locations.

Bob Cohen's Independence Chapter makes it a Boy Scout project (bottom right) to recover their flags after a week so that they might be used again in the following year.

John Kenton Thompson  
with Mary Elizabeth



## Sons have presence at annual Boy's State



From left: Retired Army General Joe E. Ramirez, the keynote speaker at the American Legion's Boy's State awaits introduction with John Knox and Wayne Courreges. GEN Ramirez is a Distinguished Military Graduate of Texas A&M and served as Deputy Chief of Staff for U.S. Central Command during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.



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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

continued from front page

Enough history.

Now looking to the future. Last year, President Radcliff in his installation address had many excellent ideas on retention and membership in general. I will continue to the focus on membership expansion and retention.

Times change. We need to have the flexibility to handle change as well. Some of this change involves the new application software and website that our own Compatriot Bill Marrs was instrumental in launching. As with anything new, there's a normal reluctance to stay with the old without trying the new process or system. We are very fortunate in the Texas Society to be blessed with many generous benefactors and hard-working compatriots that have supplied us with time and money to help fulfil the objectives of our organization. For all of our donors, large and small, I would like to say thank you on behalf of Texas SAR. Having served as treasurer, I know that this money is hard to come by, and greatly appreciated. Getting back to our objectives as an organization, these

objectives are spelled out in our Texas SAR Constitution, which I would like to enumerate to refresh our memories:

"The objectives of this society are declared to be patriotic, historical and educational and shall include those intended or designed to perpetuate the memory of those, who by their services or sacrifices during the war of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American people:

- to unite and promote fellowship among their descendants;
- to inspire them and the community at large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers;
- to encourage historical research in relation to the American Revolution;
- to acquire and preserve the records of the individual services of the patriots of the war, as well as the documents, relics, and landmarks;
- to mark the scenes of the Revolution by appropriate memorials;
- to celebrate the anniversaries of the prominent events of the war and of the revolutionary period;
- to foster true patriotism;
- to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom;
- and to carry out the purposes expressed in the Preamble of the Constitution of our

country and the injunctions of Washington in his farewell address to the American People. I would encourage and challenge each and every one of you, my fellow compatriots, to embrace these objectives not just this year but for the years to come. Again, it is my honor to serve my fellow compatriots. Your team of officers and committee personnel are endeavoring to see how we can effectively and efficiently work to fulfil these objectives. We are looking at how we can effectively publicize what we do to the communities in which we live. We need to look at our organizational structure to make sure that it keeps our objectives in focus. We need to try new things in order to accomplish these objectives, grow our membership base, modernize, use new technology, reach out to younger compatriots to get them involved. We need your input and help in order to make this work and here's how:

If any of you have questions or ideas, please contact me and let me know and we will work on answering or implementing. I look forward to meeting more of my fellow compatriots as I make the various chapter meetings around the state. Now to take some words from former Chaplain the Reverend Dr. James Taylor: *God bless Texas and God bless SAR.*