

Celebrating 134th NSSAR Congress

By – ace reporter Tom Jackson

The 134th National Congress of the Sons of the American Revolution was held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania from July 10 through July 16, 2024. The principal purpose of the Congress is twofold: elect and induct national officers and carry out the business of SAR, which requires a vote of delegates or trustees. Mixed around the business meetings were social gatherings centered around tours and mealtime.

Congress opened on Wednesday with the National Executive Committee which was led by President General John Dodd. However, most of the five hundred Compatriots and guests traveled on Wednesday to attend one of the opening tours, either a tour of Valley Forge or of York.

The Color Guard breakfast heralds the Memorial Service as color guard members are given the orders of the day. National recognitions such as the Von Steuben or Molly Pitcher Medals are presented here as well. Normally, this occurs on a Sunday, but church availability dictated events be moved to Friday. The Color Guard are issued flags and are inspected by the President General Dodd. Rankin Compatriot Jackson carries the Texas flag. We marched a few blocks to the church for the Memorial Service as we remembered those who passed on during the prior year and we remembered Rankin Compatriot Michael Bierman.



The SAR Color Guard Marched down King Street in downtown Lancaster, PA

The Mission of the SAR

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

Chapter Officers

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Vice-President

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Chip Spivy

Secretary

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Chaplain

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Editor-in-Chief

Jerry Martin

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Newsletter.rankin.sar@gmail.com

CHAPTER EVENTS

Monthly Meeting
 Spring Branch (BBQ)
 Sept. 11, 6:30

Elisha Roberts DAR
 Location TBA
 Sept. 19th

Houston Honor Flight #32
 Hobby Airport
 Sept. 21st

Fall BOM
 Austin
 Nov. 1-3, 2024

Saturday, Jul 13 opened with the Council of State Presidents Breakfast which is open to all. The Texas voting members included President Tracy Pounders, Immediate Past President Sam Massey, and President-elect Mel Oller. Rankin Compatriot Tom Jackson is a permanent member of the COSP. The opening session of Congress saw a spirited discussion of the need to raise application fees. The proposal passed by a handful of votes.



Following the opening session was the Youth Luncheon, always a highlight featuring the National Youth winners; the second year in a row the Eagle Scout winner was from Texas. Texas was among a handful of states with a candidate in each of the categories. That evening after dinner was the recognition of Minutemen Texans Larry Stevens and Bob Cohen which ended a five-year drought. State and chapter recognitions were announced and although the Rankin Chapter did not score - both Freedom of Houston, and the San Antonio Chapter were recognized.



The District breakfast led off Sunday morning; Texas is in the South-Central District known as MOKAT, a moniker applied by Texan Tom Whitelock of Dallas. MOKAT is Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, and Texas. The second session of Congress followed the district breakfast and in turn the George Washington Endowment Fund/Vice President General Breakfast. Balloting is that afternoon and the evening is the PGs Banquet.

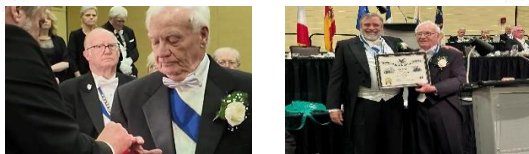


Tom Jackson receiving the Silver Liberty Medal for Recruiting 100-199 new members.

Texans Tom Jackson and Jim Kuykendall were both recognized with the Gold Meritorious Service Medal! Alan Greenly is elected Treasurer General in a hotly contested race with Floridian Lee Popham. Brooks Lyle of North Carolina and Kansas is easily elected as Registrar General.



National officers are installed at the black-tie banquet and the mysterious George Washington ring is slipped momentarily on the hand of PG Daryl Addington as he announces the focus for the coming year is Membership, Membership, Membership!



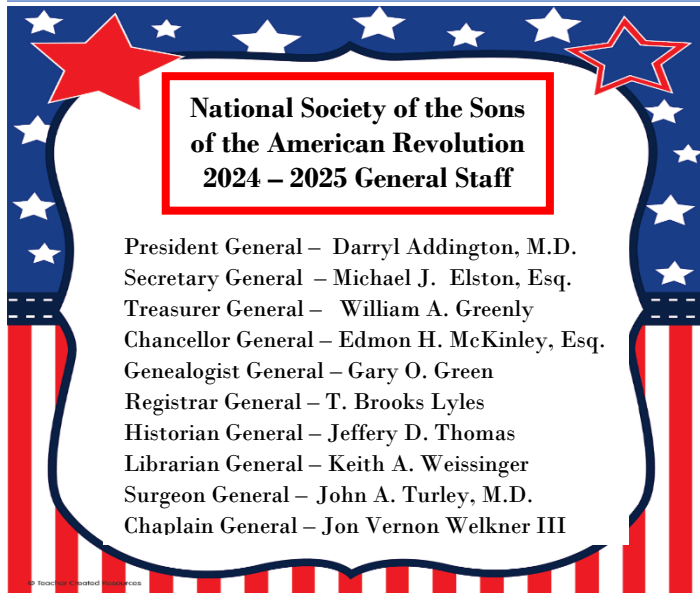
National officers are installed at the black-tie banquet and the mysterious George Washington ring is slipped momentarily on the hand of PG Daryl Addington



Tom Jackson and Jim Kuykendall receiving the Gold Meritorious Service Medal.



More from 2024 National Congress



**National Society of the Sons
of the American Revolution
2024 – 2025 General Staff**

President General – Darryl Addington, M.D.
Secretary General – Michael J. Elston, Esq.
Treasurer General – William A. Greenly
Chancellor General – Edmon H. McKinley, Esq.
Genealogist General – Gary O. Green
Registrar General – T. Brooks Lyles
Historian General – Jeffery D. Thomas
Librarian General – Keith A. Weissinger
Surgeon General – John A. Turley, M.D.
Chaplain General – Jon Vernon Welkner III



Texas SAR Awards

Texas Society NSDAR - Second Place DAR/SAR Membership Award -- to the DAR State Society with the highest number of submitted and approved SAR Members

Texas Society NSDAR – Second Place DAR/SAR Membership Award – to the DAR State Society with the highest percentage of recruiting approved SAR Members when compared to the SAR State Society’s membership.

Eugene McGuire Award – to the State Society enrolling the largest number of sons, grandsons, and nephews of SARs and DARs.

William M. Melone Award – to the State Society which has the largest number of New and Approved Supplemental Memberships

Marian L. Brown Eagle Scout Award – to the State Society sponsoring the winner of the Arthur M. King Eagle Scout Scholarship competition

Len Young Smith Award – to the State Society which enrolled the largest number of new members under 40 years of age.

Arthur J. Tremble – 1776 Trophy Award -to the State Society which reinstated the largest number of dropped and resigned members

Senator Robert A. Taft Award – to the State Society enrolling the largest number of new members in the membership year.

Syracuse Award – to the State Society with the most new chapters.

President General’s Activities Award – Second Place – to the State Society, based upon size, which shows evidence of the most complete practice of implementing SAR programs and resolutions.

Allene Wilson Groves Awards Third Place - to the State Society. Based upon size, which presents evidence of best implementing S.A.R. resolutions and principles.

U.S. Flag Retirement Award – to the State Society where at least 50% of its chapters presented at least one NSSAR U.S. Flag Retirement Certificate to a person or organization who qualified during the previous calendar year.

State Veterans Service Award – to the State Society based upon percentage of their Chapters submitting reports for the USS Stark Memorial Award.

Fifty states of color guards processed down the center of town in the rain on the way to the Memorial service at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster.

Celebrating Constitution Day - September 17th



Twenty years ago, Congress passed a law recognizing September 17 as Constitution Day. On that date in 1787, the delegates at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia put their signatures on the Constitution of the United States. Local celebrations of Constitution Day started over 100 years ago, but it didn't become federal law until 2004.

The state delegates at the Constitutional Convention approved the draft of the new constitution on September 15, 1787. It was then given to Jacob Shallus, assistant clerk for the Pennsylvania assembly, to write the official copy. It took him about 40 hours to recopy the 4543 words of the Constitution, and he was paid \$30 for the work.

After the Constitution was signed, the ratification process began as each state held special conventions as laid out in Article VII. The Constitution states that the new government would go into effect once nine states had ratified it. When Congress was informed that the New Hampshire convention had approved the Constitution, on July 2, 1788, it began preparing for the first presidential and congressional elections.

But what happened with the actual document? Brand new governments don't have archives, so the four page document was given to the State Department for safekeeping. It moved around with the rest of the federal government from New York to Philadelphia to Washington, D.C. While the one page Declaration of Independence was frequently put on display, the four page Constitution was filed away. In 1921, President Harding signed an executive order transferring the Constitution and the Declaration to the Library of Congress. They both went on display there in 1924.



There was discussion of moving them when the National Archives was founded in 1934, but the founding documents were not transferred until 1952 when a military escort took them from the Library to the National Archives building. Since then, they have been on display in the specially designed Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom.

Every year on Constitution Day, the National Archives hosts a naturalization ceremony in the rotunda of the Washington, D.C. building.

At last year's ceremony, Archivist of the United States, Dr. Colleen Shogan, said "These Charters are the bedrock of our democracy; but they are not static relics. They are a testament to the enduring values of freedom, justice, and equality that we are continuously striving to perfect. They are living promises-a covenant between the government and its citizenry."

*Constitution Day Naturalization
Ceremony, National Archives*





“Today we gather to honor a true hero and remarkable individual who exemplifies the highest standards of service and commitment in prehospital care. The Cy-Fair Fire Department Life Saver Award, a prestigious recognition within our community, is presented annually to the paramedic who has made a significant impact in saving lives.”

“Delani, for your extraordinary service, your unwavering commitment to saving lives, and your exemplary dedication to our community, we present you with the 2023 Life Saver Award.



Compatriot Tom Jackson (L) presents Honoree Delani Simmons with the EMS Medal and Certificate while State Representative Mike Schofield and Chief Amy Ramon look on.

2024 Public Service Awards

The Rankin Chapter is active with the recognition of outstanding Public Service of individuals. The recognitions that are possible are the following: Law Enforcement, Fire Safety, EMS, Heroism and Life Saving. The standing policy of the Rankin Chapter is we request from the agency an individual to be honored and we present them with the appropriate commendation. The National website handbook has the specific requirements, which are not necessarily what you might think is the standard. Significantly, these recognitions can be given for the line of duty for public service but not for the military. For several years, the Rankin policy has been to present the recognition in concert with the Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce. Any Compatriot may nominate someone for recognition and that recognition is processed through the chapter president and the committee chair. From time to time, public service is also recognized at a Rankin meeting. Tom Jackson is currently Rankin Committee Chair but would welcome a replacement!



Robert Rankin Compatriot Tom Jackson presents Honoree Corporal Michael Bishop with the SAR Law Enforcement Medal and Certificate



2024 Public Service Awards

“Today, it gives me great pleasure to honor Captain Christopher Dedear. Since his inception into our esteemed department in 2007, Captain Dedear has epitomized dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to service. Time and again, he has been the recipient of numerous departmental recognitions, a testament to his outstanding contributions and the respect he commands within our ranks.”



Robert Rankin Compatriot Tom Jackson (R) presents Honoree Captain Christopher Dedear with the SAR Fire Safety Medal and Certificate

For Sale

1 Unused Continental Army Uniform Size 3XL

Coat Shirt
 Vest Pants

Cuff Lace

Neck Lace

Tricorn Hat

Haversack

White Cross Belt

Epaulettes

Boot Leggings

Buckles

\$467.72

Will take payments if needed.

Contact Jerry Martin
 Newsletter.rankin.sar@gmail.com

SAMUEL WHITEMORE

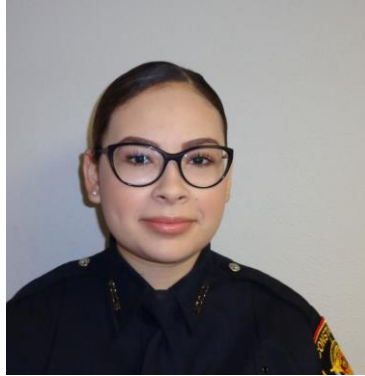
Samuel was in his mid-40s when he enlisted in the Third Massachusetts Regiment and fought the French with the British. He again fought the French during the French and Indian war at the age of 67 and led troops against Chief Pontiac in the Great Lakes region.

After the war, he became active in politics in Cambridge and began his involvement with the colonials against the British.

In 1775, while the British were retreating from Lexington and Concord, Samuel, now 80, grabbed his old weapons and hid behind his stonewall. When the regiment passed by, Samuel shot 3 British regulars. Then he grabbed his sword as the British stormed him. They shot him in the cheek, bayoneted him and beat him with the butts of their rifles and left him for dead.

Somehow he recovered to be 98 year of age.

2024 Public Service Awards



On a daily basis, as Deputy Torres performs her duties, she conducts herself in a manner that sets an example for her peers and continues to be an outstanding representative of Harris County Constable's Office, Precinct 5, always serving with honor and integrity.



Sergeant David Hauer, Honoree Deputy Yaribette Torres, who was awarded the on receipt of the SAR Law Enforcement Medal and Certificate and Certificate of Appreciation for Heroic Covid Service, Deputy Torres' mother and Compatriot Tom Jackson.

**The 250th is here.
 Will You Join Us
 In Celebration?**

**July 4, 2026 will be the 250th
 birthday of our country.**

**It didn't start or stop on that day,
 but was a decade long process:
 1773 - 1783**

america250sar.org

Memorable events

250 years ago...

- 2023 Boston Tea Party
- 2024 The First Continental Congress
- 2025 Battles of Lexington and Concord.
- 2026 Declaration of Independence
- 2027 Battle of Saratoga
- 2028 French Alliance
- 2029 Siege of Vincennes/Kettle Creek
- 2030 Battle of Kings Mountain
- 2031 Siege of Yorktown
- 2032 Battle of Blue Licks
- 2033 Treaty of Paris

New Facebook cover Page

