



The Texas WEB Compatriot

Official Publication of the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution



FROM THE PRESIDENT:
MICHAEL J. RADCLIFF

FALL, 2016



To every Texas
Compatriot,
SAR Officer
and
Chapter President:

Thank you for your outstanding support of your time, talent and gifts to the Texas Society and continue our forefathers' legacy as men who made a difference.

Beginning my term in office. I hope to accomplish three main goals.

First, a newsletter to each Compatriot showing what is happening within the state what the state has been doing. I am happy to report that Texas now has a new newsletter editor, Compatriot Jim Dougherty. He is member of Patrick Henry Chapter in Austin and a sixth-generation Texan.

Second, we need each and every Compatriot's assistance to make certain that his dues are promptly paid before Dec. 25, 2016. We need each chapter officer to see each member is contacted for their dues and for the District VP's to be involved

Third, for each chapter to have some form of new member ship mentorship program and for the sponsor's to be more involved with the new applicant.

Texas well represented at South Central Meeting

Provided by courtesy of Compatriot Frank Rohrbough Editor, SASAR Chapter Newsletter

Texas members were well represented during the South Central District meeting in Overland Park, KS, Aug. 26-27. Attending were current Texas SAR President Michael Radcliff, immediate Past President Larry Stevens and several Texas SAR officers including President-Elect John Beard and Staff Secretary Tom Jackson.

Other NSSAR Officers attending the meeting included: President-General Mike Tomme, Secretary General Larry Guzy (Candidate for President-General), Treasurer-General Warren Alter (Candidate for Secretary-General), Member SAR Foundation Board Rick Hollis (Candidate for Registrar-General), Chancellor-General Davis Wright, Esq., Librarian-General Bruce Pickette (Candidate for Registrar-General). All candidates were there to seek indorsement from the SCD for advancement to higher offices when the election of officers takes place at the 127th Annual Congress next year.



(Above) Former Chapter President and Texas Society SAR President, Stephen Rohrbough (left) finished out his term of as Vice President General of the South Central District (SCD) for the Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas during the 126th Annual Congress of the National Society in Boston, MA, July 9 - 13, 2016.

(Below) Commander Frank Rohrbough relinquished his Command at the banquet of Friday night. Compatriot Corey Burns, President of Arkansas Society accepted Command from VPG Lester Magee.



Meet the new *Keep the Date* *Compatriot* Editor



Jim Dougherty

[UPDATED] James G. “Jim” Dougherty has been appointed Editor of the *Texas Compatriot* magazine. Dougherty graduated from the University of Texas at Austin School of Journalism with a Bachelor of Journalism degree in 1971 and worked in photography and copy editing at the *Austin American Statesman* for 13 years, he freelanced photography and conducted travel photo workshops.

His interest in genealogy prompted the late Congressman and Texas State Supreme Court Justice Jack Hightower, to encourage him to pursue his desire to become a “Son” when Jim found that his Patriot ancestor, Thomas Connell Sr., fought in the Revolutionary War. Since then, he has found at least one other Patriot in his family tree. Jim’s son, James William Dougherty, a Marine Corps veteran serving three tours in Iraq, joined him in membership in Patrick Henry Chapter in Austin.

Dougherty is a Past Master of two Texas Masonic Lodges and a 33rd-

These are just a few SAR events that you might want to honor with your presence.

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| December 17, 2016 | Help place wreaths on the graves at DFW National Cemetery at noon. This is a North Texas Chapter event. A ceremony preceded the wreath laying at 11 am. Parking is extremely limited. (National Event.) |
| February 18, 2017 | George Washington Birthday Parade in Laredo. (National Event.) |
| March 2 - 4, 2017 | Spring Leadership/Trustee Meeting in Louisville, KY |
| March 30 - April 2, 2017 | 123rd Annual Texas Convention - El Tropicana Hotel, San Antonio |
| July 7 - 12, 2017 | 127th NSSAR Congress - Knoxville, TN |

WE TRULY HOPE EVERY
CHAPTER WILL REPORT CHAPTER AND
PUBLIC ACTIVITIES, WITH PHOTOS, TO
THE EDITOR AT: jimdougherty47@gmail.com.

Degree Scottish Rite Mason. He is also a member of other Masonic organizations and non-Masonic Knights Templar philanthropic orders. He and his wife Jane are long-time members of First Baptist Church in downtown Austin and are Deacons in the church.

He is well known for his editorships of *The Texas Mason* magazine, *The Occasional Bulletin* of the Texas Lodge of Research and other fraternal publications. He was recently appointed an honorary Admiral in the Texas Navy by the governor.

“I am truly honored to have been named editor of the Texas SAR newsletter and look forward to working with chapters and state officers to produce a

great publication for all of our Compatriots,” Dougherty said.

[The print version of the *Texas Compatriot* was distributed in color, instead of black on white paper as was previously announced, thanks to our printer. They are working with us to provide the highest quality publication, within our budget for a quarterly magazine.

I urge Compatriots, especially those with client waiting rooms, to share our publication with those who might find the magazine and its contents of interest. Maybe there is a future member of SAR or DAR out there simply needing a gentle nudge.]

Immediate Past Vice President General's Report for the Annual SCD Meeting Aug. 26 - 27, 2016

*128th National Congress
coming to Houston*

During the 126th Annual National Congress in Boston, MA, July 9 - 13, 2016, the South Central District (SCD) held the SCD Breakfast on Tuesday July 12, 2016 and attended the Minuteman Awards and Awards to State Societies, Chapters and Individuals on Tuesday evening, July 12, 2016.

Two SCD members were inducted with the Minuteman Class of 2016 - Compatriots Russell F. DeVeney Jr. (Missouri Society) and James T. Jones Jr. (Texas Society). Congratulations to goes to both of these outstanding compatriots for their long and faithful service to the National Society SAR and representing the South Central District so well.

We had 20 compatriots that attended the South Central District Breakfast including President General Tom Lawrence (TX Society), Registrar General Russell DeVeney, Jr. (MO Society), Chaplain General Reverend James Taylor (TX Society), Kansas Society State President T. Brookes Lyles, and VPG Nominee Leslie Magee (AR Society). Please see attached agenda and attendees listing for this meeting.

President General Thomas Lawrence gave an overview of the state of the National Society in a report on the status of his six PG Initiatives that he has been working on over his term of office. WE are appreciative that he was able to share his tight schedule with us at the SCD breakfast.

I recognized VPG Leslie Magee and presented him with his VPG Sash and VPG Pin. Reverend James Taylor gave a special blessing to the outgoing and incoming VPG's.

During the Awards to State So-

cieties, Chapters and Individuals Awards Program, the SCD and State Societies did a great job receiving awards and being recognized for their participation in National SAR Programs, Contests and Activities. Collectively, the SCD can be very proud and stand tall for the 50 awards received during this program.

The Kansas Society was recognized as the only State Society to have met PG Tom Lawrence's challenge of \$250 to participate in All National CAR Youth Contests.

In additional to the two new Minuteman Awards, we received 48 awards for CAR Activities, Youth Contest, Membership, Best Web Site (TX Society), Officers Attendance Streamers Awards (KS, OK, and TX Societies), President Generals State and Chapter Activities Competition Award (MO, KS, and TX Societies) and Dallas Chapter for 200+ members). In summary the SCD received awards as follows: Arkansas Society - 2; Missouri Society - 9; Kansas Society - 7; Oklahoma Society - 8; Texas Society - 22; Total - 48.

At the General Session during the Vice President Generals Reports segment of the 126th Congress, I gave a report on the SCD Lapel Pin Initiative. It supports SAR Branding and SAR Outreach Education and Foundation Fund Raising initiatives. We sold 100 lapel pins and VPG Leslie Magee has approved continuation of this Initiative for another year. On behalf of the South Central District, I presented a check for \$814,34.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen W. Rohrbough,
Immediate Past VPG

The 128th National Congress will be held in Houston July 11 through July 19 in beautiful Western Memorial City located near the intersection of Gessner Road and Interstate 10. Effectively the only guests at the hotel will be compatriots, their spouses and invited guests.

There is a convenient skywalk to Memorial City Mall for nearby shopping. All three ballrooms are allocated to the SAR for the entire stay. The last National Congress in Texas was 2006 Dallas and the only time it was held in Houston was in 1952.

This is the best opportunity for Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma compatriots to attend a National Congress. Some of the committee chairs have been identified in this information can be found on the state website. Leading the planning of this event is Chair Tom Jackson and Vice Chair Larry Stevens.

Special guests

It is the responsibility of the host society to invite local and state level dignitaries to bring greetings at the opening of the National Congress. In recognition of the contributions of both the Spanish and the French for the American Revolution coupled with 2018 being the tricentennial of the founding of both San Antonio and New Orleans special

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French Republic confers Légion d'Honneur on World War II liberating veterans

SAN JACINTO STATE PARK - Nineteen World War II veterans received the medal of Knight in the French Order of the Legion of Honor aboard the Battleship Texas on July 4, 2016. During the ceremony, The Honorable Sujiro Seam, Consul General of France, presented the veterans with France's highest decoration, the Légion d'Honneur, for their role in liberating France during the Second World War.

The ceremony began with the color guard by Sea Cadets, followed by national anthems of U.S and France. Remarks were presented by the Honorable Louis Rigby, Mayor of La Porte, who thanked the veterans for their courageous efforts.

The ceremony ended with "God Bless America" performed by SAR Compatriot Tom Green, former National Color Guardsmen of the year. Assisting him was Compatriot Carl Hill, President of Alexander Hodge Chapter.

Consul General Seam presented the veterans with their medals and praised them for their demonstrated devotion to freedom and democracy. He further added, "Today's ceremony is one of many, recognizing the contribution of our American allies during WWII and I have to say: I am really proud that my country decided, after all these years, to present US veterans with the French Legion of Honor. Not surprisingly, a very significant number of these veterans were identified here, in Texas;



Tom Green (left), joins the Honorable Sujiro Seam, Consul General of France, along with a Légion d'Honneur WWII veterans and Carl Hill aboard the Battleship Texas in a champagne toast.

because Texas has a long tradition of fighting for freedom and standing against tyranny; because this State paid a very heavy toll, during WWII; but, also, because the roots of French - Texan friendship go a long way back in history."

WWII veterans who received the medal of Knight in the French Order of the Legion of Honor were William Baker, Harding Boeker, Grayson Cocharo, Arthur Collins, Everett Cost, Jack Dodson, James Doyle, Lewis Gammon, Birney Havey, Jerry Jones Jr., John Lemons, Fred Machol, Johnnie Marino, Elmer Michel, Robert Reese, Jack Rude, Jack Thomas, Melton Wright and Charles Wheelwright. The

Consulate General of France arranges the ceremonies on behalf of the French Government.

The Battleship Texas took part in some of the most significant naval battles of the 20th century during both world wars. Now docked along the Houston Ship Channel in San Jacinto Battleground State Park, she serves as a memorial to those turbulent times.

This is not the first time the Sons have been invited to participate in legation-sponsored events. The color guard participated in grave marking ceremonies two years ago, Bastille Day events and another ceremony on the deck of the Battleship Texas.

A few lines from William Hightower Chapter #35 *

Fall is upon us and although the weather is still warm, it is much cooler for Texans. The Fall BOM for TXSSAR was held in Austin this year, so we took advantage of the close proximity of its time and date. We invited Michael J. Radcliff, our state President to visit us for our October meeting, accompanied by his wife Carol. He shared his goals for SAR and a short story on how our National Anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner," almost didn't happen. It seems that Francis Scott Key and John Stuart Skinner were sent by President Monroe to negotiate a prisoner exchange with the British, namely one Dr. Wm. Beanes. They were detained over night because they overheard the plans to attack Baltimore.

Thus they were in the harbor that next morning as the sun rose on the fifteen star flag over Ft. William McHenry.

We also want to honor those who display our flag properly. Do you know someone in your area? We plan to perform a ceremony with the San Marcos Civil Air Patrol at their flag raising. The date is not yet set.

I have invited a special guest to speak at our December meeting. His name is Abraham Clarke, who signed the Declaration of Independence.

Stu Hoyt, Pres. WH#35, TXSSAR, NBSAR.net

* Apologies to Hightower Chapter #35 for misidentifying them in print version headline.

Color Guard marks Memorial Day at Texas State Cemetery in Austin



Front row from left: Jeff Wise, Emzy Barker, Tom Jackson, James Clements, Quincy Baker, Ron Moulton. Back row from left: Gary Chapel, Robert Hites, Jim Scott, Alex Smith, Jim Nelson, Stu Hoyt, Nathan Smith, Ray DeVries, Kevin Miller, Wayne Courreges, Bob Jordan, Henry Shoenfelt, Christian Nelson.

AUSTIN - The color guard of Patrick Henry Chapter, along with compatriots of Alexander Hamilton, Robert Rankin, and William Hightower Chapters of the Texas SAR, joined with Thankful Hubbard Chapter of the DAR to sponsor the Memorial Day service at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin on Monday, May 30th. This sponsorship marks the 35th consecutive year the chapters have come together to recognize and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. The event was covered by the local television news.

Lt. Col. (ret.) Alanna Cook, the first female keynote speaker in the 35-year history of the Memorial Day service, provided a moving speech detailing the sacrifices of those she knew during her tours of duty. Lt. Col. Cook graduated from West Point with honors. She served two tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. She retired in Jan. 2014 as the Division West, First Army assistant chief of staff, logistics, at Fort Hood.

In addition to honoring all who sacrificed their lives for our country, the service specifically recognized and honored Lt. Robert Rankin and Sgt. Stephen Williams, who fought in the American Revolutionary War. (Sgt. Williams also fought in the War of 1812 and the Texas War of Independence.) Descendants of both men attended the ceremony.

HAPPY IS THE MAN WHO RECALLS HIS ANCESTORS WITH PRIDE, WHO TREASURES THE STORY OF THEIR GREATNESS, TELLS THE TALES OF THEIR HEROIC LIVES, AND WITH JOY TOO FULL FOR SPEECH, REALIZES THAT FATE HAS LINKED HIM WITH A RACE OF GOODLY MEN.
-GOETHE

Trustees take up weighty issues during Louisville session

Five recommendations from the EXCOM were presented to the Trustees for their consideration and approval at the Spring 2016 Trustee session in Louisville, KY.

(1) The ECOM recommended implementing the electronic module of the new data base system on Jan. 1, 2017. This would mean all applications would have to use the electronic application on the NS-SAR website. Members made presentation for and against this recommendation. Those for implementing the electronic module argued that the old data system was constantly crashing and it was not known how long it would last. Those arguing against stated the members were not ready to use the NSSAR electronic application due lack of training or technical know-how. This recommendation was NOT approved by a majority of Officers and Trustees.

(2) The ExCom recommended that the money paid for the Contract between Kings College and NSSAR be paid this year due to the lower exchange rate between the Pound and Dollars which could be a savings of \$6,000. This recommendation was approved.

(3) The EXCOM recommended that the budget that passed out. The budget was

approved. Included in the report was that \$107,000 from the Alexander Hamilton fund would be allocated to the general budget, and \$20,000 appropriated to Outreach Education.

(4) The EXCOM recommended that \$7,000 be approved to study building out a part of the entry of the new building in the Solid Light building proposal to make it more attractive. The space is being utilized as function area for outside groups to rent for events. PG Nathan White point out his proposal was never presented to his committee for review and that his committee oversees the Building Project. Further, he stated that this proposal was not a part of the building plan approved in the Spring 2015 Trustees Meeting; and this proposal deviates from the plan. After some discussion, the recommendation was NOT approved.

(5) The EXCOM recommended a co-existence agreement between the Sons of the Revolution and the Sons of the America Revolution concerning SAR Brands and Logo explain using a handout. After review the recommendation was approved.



National Congress,

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guests will be invited representing these two countries.

The Texas Board of Managers approved a resolution authorizing this idea to be presented to the National SAR Executive Committee for approval. Not only was approval granted, but the Texas Society was encouraged to invite other countries particularly those representing the Caribbean. This important committee will be chaired by Judge Nathan White, a past Texas President and also a Past PG.

Congress tours

Currently we plan to offer all attendees a choice of the Saturday tour to either tour the George Herbert Walker Bush Presidential Library* in College Station, or NASA's Johnson Space Flight Center located in Clear Lake. The tour Chairs are Bob Cohen and John Hamlin, respectively. The search is underway for short videos to be shown on the bus in addition to special speakers at each location. Clearly retired or current astronauts are an option.

Volunteers needed

Larry Blackburn and Allan Greene are in charge of lining up the approximate 75 volunteers necessary to staff the Congress in four hour shifts. Registration is a key area as a four person presence is needed for the early part of the Congress. Bus docents are needed for the tours who are able to use the microphone to both educate and amuse our attendees.

*PLEASE NOTE CLARIFICATION FOR BUSH LIBRARY LOCATION IN COLLEGE STATION.

Board of Managers meeting



Above photo: General Session of the Board of Managers meeting this past month in Austin. Left photo: President Michael Radcliff (left) and Secretary Thomas Jackson confer during the meeting. Below photo: Receiving Partners in Patriotism Awards were Ron Walcik, Ron Carter, Larry Blackburn, Bill Watts, Terry Holden, David Temple, Michael Connelly, Al Gibson, Allen Greene, Robert Hites and Drake Peddie. More pictures on back page.



Board of Messengers meeting, continued.



Left photo: President Radcliff with Tristen Ferguson of Tyler, winner of the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration Contest for 2016. Above photo: Texas SAR Officers Tom Lawrence PPG, Michael Radcliff Texas SAR President, Senator Donna Campbell, Edward Butler PPG, Larry Guzy SAR VPG, Jim Clements, Patrick Henry Chapter President-Elect John Beard Texas SAR President Elect, Les Magee Texas VP.

THE RUMBAUGH ORATION FOR 2016

By Triston Ferguson
John Tyler High School

A.J. Langguth, author of the book: *Patriots*, once stated, "Patriotism is voluntary; it is a feeling of loyalty and allegiance that is shown through a person's actions and will never be forgotten." As young children we began to learn about the events and the people that helped form the great country of America. Washington crossed the Delaware, the famous Paul Revere and "the British are coming," Patrick Henry, "give me liberty or give me death," the constitution, and there are many more that I know are coming to mind as I am speaking. Rich in historical fact and patriotism these men and events have been taught and treasured by gen-

erations. While all these specific individuals and events were and are still valuable and essential to our independence as a nation, there are others whose influence, bravery, and passion have been forgotten or simply "lost in text." One such man who has not received the amount of "press" of the great men I named before was James Armistead. During the war, this individual was behind the scenes; and though he doesn't fit the historical narrative, he was by definition a true patriot. As we begin to analyze the past in regards to contributions of James Armistead and his relationship with General Lafayette, I would be amiss to not show the comparison to this patriot's passion to build a strong American, his ability to build relationships and our

present day desperate need for consensus and collaboration.

Arguably, one of the most important Revolutionary War spy's, as well as the kryptonite to Charles Cornwallis, and turncoat soldier Benedict Arnold was a slave named James Armistead. His courageous acts of bravery made him a prominent figure in the winning of our nation's independence. Born a slave in New Kent, Virginia, we can infer that he did not live the average life of a colonist, but that did not change the fact he felt an obligation to decouple the effects of the British control, and in the wake of the war in 1781 he seized this opportunity. After gaining consent from his owner, he voluntarily joined the revolutionary

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A word (or a few) from your State Secretary

By now, each Texas SAR member who has a deliverable mailing address should have received their 2017 Dues Notices in your home mailbox. These were sent Bulk Mail in late September to your address of record as of September 1st. Even though we were able to scrub the lists and fix over 100 addresses, we have still had close to 200 returned to us - either with or without a forwarding address. Keep in mind, the post office does NOT forward bulk mail and even though we are non-profit, we still have to pay the post office for those that are returned. So for almost 200 mailings, we had to pay TWICE and the compatriot still did not receive it. So we are updating the database, correcting the ones that we have new addresses for and resending them again - these are hand addressed and should be forwarded if you have moved again.

The reality is that because our members are not keeping us current with their contact info, the Texas Society will lose time and money in correcting the info and catching up which will preclude us from getting ready to provide new updated and correct lists after the first of the year. Bottom line here is to PLEASE check the online lists - new lists went up on NOV 15. Check and confirm that the Texas Society has your correct contact info. This will make sure you get your dues notices in a timely manner next year and other members can find you when needed. Chapter Secretaries should be pushing this as well as they are supposed to be keeping up with contact info for their members. Remember, we have an online form to correct your contact info quickly and easily.

Again, we mailed the dues notices a month early to give you plenty of extra time to get your account paid up before the end of the year

and avoid the reinstatement process and to make sure your chapter gets credit for you as a member in their end of the year counts in addition to reducing the workload on your chapter trying to get everyone paid up after the first of the year. Here are your options.....

US Mail (option 1) - You simply take the bottom section of the form you received in the mail and send a check for the amount indicated with the pre-addressed envelope, stamp it and return it to us by US mail. You will notice this invoice has been totally redesigned and cleaned up this year with some additional information on it - all 3 sections have similar information. What is different is that we now consider this to be your PRIMARY Chapter Dues Statements - it only includes dues for your Primary Chapter, State Dues and National Dues. It no longer includes Dual Chapter Dues - more on that later.

US Mail (option 2) - Use this option if you want to pay by check, but did NOT get a dues notice in the mail. You would need to go to the TXSSAR.org website private site (use this link <http://www.txssar.org/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi/r/memb/835119969347/>) and enter your National SAR # and your dues notice form should come up that should have all the correct dues amounts for chapters loaded in and print it out and mail it back in with a check.

Online/Paypal (option 3) - Use this option if you wish to pay by credit card through Paypal. Note this option you will need to have your pop-up blocker temporarily disabled to process the Paypal pop-up. First go to the TXSSAR.org website private site (use this link <http://www.txssar.org/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi/r/memb/835119969347/>) and enter your National SAR # and your dues notice form should

come up that should have all the correct dues amounts for chapters loaded in. Next click on that page click the words "click here" (or use this link <http://www.txssar.org/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi/r/memb/015665089819/>) then select your primary chapter and any others you like and follow the checkout procedures.

Dual Memberships - There are a total of 65 documented dual memberships in Texas SAR out of our nearly 3000 members - about 2%. Those are ONLY the ones that pay through our State Treasurer. Most walk in to a chapter and pay the chapter directly, these are "undocumented" at the state level. We highly encourage Dual Memberships if interested, and will continue to collect the Dual Chapter Dues for chapter using Online Paypal Payments. But since we cannot track 100% of the dual memberships, we are no longer going to track any of them for Dues Notices purposes that are mailed out. So your dues notices are for your Primary Chapter only. Again, if you want to continue to pay for other chapters, you will need to do so either using Paypal or pay the chapter directly.

Donations - As many of you are aware, our society has many beneficial funds that you can donate to for great purposes. Each year, when you renew your membership is a great time to make a donation to one of several great options. All Donation \$ will be well spent.

Getting these in on time is important for your chapter. The sooner your dues are in, the sooner, their books are cleared and the funds available to them - and no more reminder calls !!! I appreciate your patience and support !!!

Regards,
Drake Peddie
State Secretary - Texas SAR
please send replies to
sec@txssar.org

RUMBAUGH ORATION

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cause in the Continental Army. During this time the British had devastated Richmond, Virginia and General Lafayette was desperately trying to fight the chaos caused by traitor Benedict Arnold. With his troops gradually diminished by British General Charles Cornwallis, Lafayette needed reliable information on enemy forces and potential troop advances. General Lafayette was quite fond of Armistead and was impressed with his intuition and superior memory so he gave Armistead a position as a spy. Armistead was able to gain the confidence of both Benedict Arnold and General Cornwallis and was then employed as a spy for the British against the Americans. This enabled him to act as one of the very first double agents in the American Revolution. He took advantage of this situation by giving misleading information to the British that further complicated their strategies. Despite sure execution if caught, Alan Steinberg in *Black Profiles in Courage: A Legacy of African American Achievement*, tells us that Armistead remained loyal to Lafayette and continued to supply crucial information he learned while serving the generals in their camps. It is dated on July 31st 1781 Lafayette received reports from Armistead with vital information that he and others provided. General George Washington and General Lafayette were able to trap the British at Hampton, intercept Cornwallis's much-needed naval support, and ultimately defeat and prompt the British to surrender at the Battle of Yorktown on October 19th 1781.

The rest was as you know is history, so now we ask our-

selves, how does this pertain to the status quo. The answer lies in the moral of the story, despite Armistead and Lafayette being completely different people with completely different walks of life, their relationship created a driving force that allowed them to forget why they were different and work together for a common goal. Over 200 years later our generations today, much like these two men seem very different, and we are plagued with issues and division that makes it more difficult for us to develop a relationship and focus on common goals. Passivity, lack of communication, prejudice mind sets, social media and press exploitation are all causing a division in our country that is tearing at the heart of the passion that ignited our freedoms. So what do we do? What do we need? We must remember, despite our status, or the way society labels us that we are all human and we are all Americans. A slave and a general were able to look past the differences evident in their lives and create a consensus that lead to greatness. As Americans we should follow their example, and carry the obligation to continuously fight for freedom, liberty and rights as a collective group of individuals who come together for a specific goal. The Declaration of Independence states "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." General Lafayette was able to look past a person's status and race and see ability, greatness and integrity. James Armistead was able to look past the injustices of his early life so he could focus on creating a better future. As a society we must stop

looking at the injustices of our past and we must stop looking at the outward appearance and status of our fellow citizens. We must continue to fight for equality before the law, the principles of liberty, the ideals of right and wrong behavior, and freedom; as well as the belief that if we work hard we are all able to achieve the American dream. Today let's find the James Armistead or General Lafayette within ourselves. As I leave you today with the memories of this great man who is truly a patriot, the words of Theodore Roosevelt ring true, "this country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in."

Rankin Chapter celebrates Constitution Week

Robert Rankin Chapter No. 62 held its annual Constitution Week Celebration on Sept. 14, 2016 at Willow Fork Country Club in Katy.

The featured speaker was Attorney Stacy Williams, VP U.S. Law, Natural Gas Pipelines, TransCanada/Columbia Pipeline Group, who provided a new insight into the constitution. Compatriot Tom Jackson provided commentary on the allegorical 1936 Constitution mural painted by Barry Faulkner located in the National Archives Museum which he saw on a recent trip to Washington D.C.

Following the public celebration of the Constitution, the chapter held its regular meeting. District 8 Vice President Dr. Larry Blackburn swore in five new members. Included are Michael Bierman, John Costello II, Jason Richards and Jason's two sons. Each new Compatriot provided a sketch of his patriot ancestor.

Alex Thorne concluded with *This Day in History*: "The Battle of Brandywine, PA."