

INK & QUILL

Denton Chapter #23, TXSSAR Inc., Newsletter

Minutes of the Meeting Dec. 7, 2000

President James Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The opening prayer was given by Chaplain Tom Bailey. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the SAR Pledge were led by Gerald Brenholtz. Members present were Bill Bell, Tom Bailey, Gerald Brenholtz, William Brenholtz, John Monroe, Chris Casey, and Jim Johnson. Guests were, John Greer, Ron Marcello, Tim and Joya Cover, Betty Bell, Mary Lynn Johnson, Danny Davis and George Burlledge. The program, "Pearl Harbor," was presented by Dr. Ron Marcello. The Business meeting followed wherein President Johnson presented the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal and the North Texas Militia Color Guard Certificate to Past President Bill Bell. The SAR closing followed and the closing prayer was given by Tom Bailey.

per James Johnson, Samuel Haynes

"Pearl Harbor"

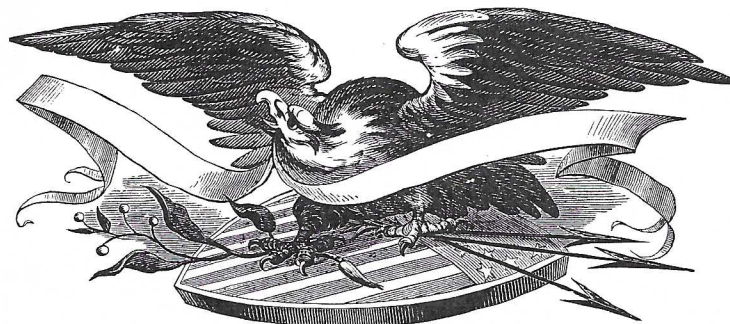
Dr. Ron Marcello, history professor at the University of North Texas is in a race to preserve history. He is interviewing and transcribing the stories of hundreds of veterans of World War II. He was kind enough to share some of his knowledge about Pearl Harbor with us.

Dr. Marcello remarked that the Japanese planning of the attack was superb. The object was economic and expansion of the Empire. Although there was never an intent to invade the west coast of the U. S., the American fleet had to be destroyed. The Japanese navy was the best in the world. The U. S. had three aircraft carriers, the Japanese, ten. Luckily, the three U. S. carriers were gone - two had been sent to the Marshall Islands, the third, to the west coast for repairs. Japanese personnel in Honolulu reported the exact location of the other U. S. ships.

The Japanese fleet sailed to Kurile, then east to arrive north of Honolulu in absolute silence, the radio operators being left behind to give the impression that the fleet was still there. Enroute, they used special fuel to leave no smoke, and no garbage was put overboard. The fleet came in close to release the aircraft then moved back out so that planes in pursuit would run short of fuel. The American military were over confident - having cracked the Japanese message code. Commanders Short and Kimble were notified to take precautions and had the U. S. planes lined up, presumably for quick take-off, but ignored the fact that they could be easily destroyed. Honolulu had six radars with 130 mile range but they were operated only two hours per day, 4AM to 6AM.

The Zero's reached the airfield at 7:45 AM. They were seen coming but were mistaken for B-17's from the U. S. They destroyed 300 or virtually all U. S. aircraft. Torpedoes hit the Oklahoma, turning it over. The California and W. Virginia went straight to the bottom. The powder magazine on the Arizona was hit. 2,400 Americans and 100 Japanese were killed. Yamamoto later said, "We woke the sleeping giant".

George Burlledge, prospective new member, was captured by the Japanese and was scheduled to be executed but was saved when the U. S. dropped the atomic bombs on Japan.



Next Meeting Will Be:

Jan. 4th, 2000

Good Samaritan Village, 7pm

The Speaker Will Be:

Gary Sisson

as

PATRICK HENRY

TXSSAR Chapter #23

Officers

President

James J Johnson

Vice President

Samuel Haynes

Treasurer

William Vaughn

Chaplain

Tom Bailey

Historian

James Baird

Genealogist & Membership

Gerald Brenholtz

2001 AND 2002 Officer Elections

The State and National have requested that our bylaws be amended to change the Nominating date to November, the date of the Election to December with the new officers to take office in January.

This year, nominations will be accepted at the January 4th meeting. The nominating committee has recommended maintaining essentially the same officers for 2001 except for announcements January 4th. Voting will take place in February and the new officers will assume responsibilities in March 2001.



Justin, TX 76247

P. O. Box 702

TXSSAR Inc.

Denton Chapter No. 23

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Happy Holidays