



THE SAN ANTONIO COMPATRIOT

San Antonio Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

Compatriot Edward A. Heath, President — Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, Editor May-June 2012



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. There are many stories as to its actual beginnings, with over two dozen cities and towns laying claim to being the birthplace of Memorial Day. It is now celebrated in almost every State on the last Monday in May (passed by Congress with the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90 - 363) to ensure a three day weekend for Federal holidays).

As I reflect on the events coming up starting with Memorial Day, I think of those who have sacrificed in so many ways for this country and the price it takes for our freedom. At Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery we have over 100,000 service members who have passed away and are buried there. The Scouts honor them by placing a US Flag beside every tombstone. For more details, see the article below.

We honored two of our local San Antonio Police Officers by recognizing them for their singularly distinctive accomplishments. Sergeant Valente Garcia was awarded National Society Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR), Law Enforcement Commendation Medal, with Bar, and Certificate. (See page 2). Also during our Chapter Meeting on May 16th, I was pleased to present the NSSAR Heroism Medal and Certificate to Officer Alice Torres for her service to the local community (see page 2). We were honored to have the San Antonio Chief of Police accompany both of these outstanding officers as part of our program. He has been a recurring visitor to our Chapter for over 5 years.

I hope you can join us for Independence Day as noted on page 4. Respectfully, *Edward A. Heath*



CHAPTER CELEBRATES MEMORIAL DAY

On May 25th our chapter participated in the Opening Ceremony of the Scouts Annual Flag Placement Event at the National Cemetery at Ft. Sam Houston, TX. The VA had provided small US flags for the scouts from the San Antonio Area to place beside all 100,000 Veterans' Grave Markers in the cemetery.

The event honors all veterans who have served our country throughout previous and current wars. Shown at the right is our Chapter's Color Guard.

The Color Guardsmen include from left to right: Compatriots James Taylor (Past President SASAR), Ed Heath (President SASAR), Stephen Rohrbough (Past President SASAR), Frank Rohrbough (Past President and Color Guard Commander SASAR) and Bud Davenport (Vice President for Programs).



Law Enforcement Award for SAPD Policeman

Sergeant Valente Garcia distinguished himself as Field Supervisor with the San Antonio Police Department. With over 18 year, Sergeant Garcia spear-headed four independent investigations into the organized criminal activities of San Antonio's most violent organized prison/street gangs. Those undertakings incorporated undercover operations, field surveillance teams, commercial narcotic and weapons purchases requiring related enforcement actions, a dedicated commitment and use of his field experience, and exceptional supervisory capabilities.

Sergeant Garcia was directly responsible for the significant results of three major SAPD Gang *Operations* which led to significant gang arrests and convictions. Sergeant Valente Garcia dedicated service brought great credit to himself, the San Antonio Police Department, and the City of San Antonio.

On May 16th the San Antonio Chapter, Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution recognized Sergeant Valente Garcia for his community service and proudly awarded him the National Society Sons of the American Revolution, Law Enforcement Commendation Medal, with Bar, and Certificate.



(Above) President Edward Heath presents the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal to Sergeant Garcia during a Chapter Meeting on May 16th. Chief William McManus, San Antonio Police Department, was on hand for this Awards Ceremony.

Heroism Award Goes to Local Hero



(Above) President Edward Heath presents the NSSAR Heroism Medal and Certificate to Officer Alice Torres during our Chapter Meeting on May 16th. Again, Chief William McManus, San Antonio Police Department, was on hand for this Awards Ceremony.

Officer Alice Torres was awakened the occupants and assigned to the South Patrol thus got them safely out of the Service Area on the T-shift for house just before it was the two and a half years with engulfed in flames. If it were the SAPD. Officer Torres was not for Officer Torres's quick response and prompt actions Deerfield subdivision when beyond the call of duty, the lightning struck a nearby house homeowners would have on early morning of January perished in the fire.

25, 2012. The strike ignited a On May 16, 2012, the San fire in the attic. A neighbor Antonio Chapter, Texas witnessed this and called the Society Sons of the American SAPD duty phone. Officer Revolution recognized Officer Torres responded and was Alice Torres with the award of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution, Heroism Medal, with Bar and Certificate. Officer Torres, unable to open the front door, broke down the door which



President Ed Heath inducted Compatriot Joseph L. Berkley, Sr. into the National Society and Texas Society SAR during the May 16th Chapter Meeting. His Patriot Ancestor is Timothy Jones.



Compatriot Jim Massingill, Past President and Chapter Historian, shares a vignette with the members relating an historical perspective or event during the American Revolution. This is a routine short story that Jim gives at each of our Chapter Meetings throughout the year.



San Antonio Chief of Police William McManus spoke at the May 16th Chapter Meeting addressing the work to safeguard the city and witness the awards given to two of his officers.

Chapter Recognizes Local Student Hero

On May 28th, the San Antonio Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) recognized and awarded the SAR Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate to Jasiah Rubalcava, a kindergarten student at West Avenue Elementary School. Earlier this year, Josiah, 6 years old, noticed that his best friend, Nicholas Carvajal, was choking in the school cafeteria and he immediately, instinctively and successfully performed the Heimlich maneuver to restore his friend's breathing. When asked how he knew to do this, he said he had seen this done on the Disney Channel. Jasiah was also given a gift card to a local toy store. The ceremony was arranged by Jay Lewallen and the school Principal, Belinda Gonzales.



The picture above includes (left to right) Nicholas Carvajal and his mother; Jay Lewallen, SAR member; and Jasiah Rubalcava and his mother.



Students at Double Eagle Middle School in Albuquerque NM participate in Colonial Village as part of their Early American History Week. Fifth Grade students assume the roles of American Revolution Patriots, their persona and clothing.

(At Left) Compatriot Frank Rohrbough and his wife Diane speak to students on Washington's Spies and Camp Life in the American Revolution.

E. C. Snyder SAR Scholarship

The E. C. Snyder SAR Scholarship is presently available to students enrolled in the JROTC program at San Antonio area high schools. This currently encompasses forty schools.

Twenty cadets applied for the E. C. Snyder SAR Scholarship. The Scholarship Committee reviewed the eight applications that met all of our requirements. Miss San Juanita Rodriguez, Lanier High School

was selected to receive our Third Annual Scholarship.

The E. C. Snyder SAR Scholarship is funded for several years, but is looking to expand to additional annual scholarships. Tax Deductible contributions to the Scholarship Fund are encouraged and welcomed.

For further information Contact Compatriot Courtland Snyder (210-877-2032).

OTHER AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



On May 16th at our Chapter Meeting, Compatriot Jay Lewallen, Chair of the SASAR's Education Program, presents SAR's Teacher Award to Claire Damarodas (left). On hand is Dr. Joanne Cox (right), Social Studies Chairman. Both were recognized for their dedication to student education at Saint Mary's Hall School which emphasizes Early American History.



(Above) On April 3rd, the San Antonio Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) recognized and awarded the SAR Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate to three teachers at Saint Mary's Hall. Shown above (left to right) are: Claire Damarodas, Deborah McInerney and Michele Smisek, — all of whom are elementary level history teachers. Compatriot Mark Remington (far left) is Director of Annual Giving at Saint Mary's Hall and (at far right) Compatriot Jay M. Lewallen, Chair of the Education Programs.



(At Left) Our Color Guard opened the Pioneer Historic and Patriotic Ball in La Villita on April 21st. Members participating were: Compatriots Jay Lewallen, Hal Atkinson, Peter Baron, Stephen Rohrbough and Ed Heath..

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

Chapter Business Meetings: Lion & Rose Pub, Sonterra Blvd 410, usually held on the 2nd Thursday each month at 11:30 A.M (next Meetings are on July 12th and August 9th.)

Chapter General Meeting: Petroleum Club on 3rd Wednesday each month at 11:30 A.M to 1 P.M. (No Meetings will be held in July or August; the next Meeting will be held on September 19th.)

Special Events:

- **July 3rd:** At 4 PM our Chapter will conduct an Independence Day and Historical Educational Event at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort for the guests of the Resort. All members are invited to participate in this event and tell their story to the children about their Patriot ancestor.
- **July 4th:** At 10 AM our Chapter will participate in a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the New Pavil-

ion at the National Cemetery at Ft. Sam Houston. **All members are welcome.**

For more information, contact Compatriot Frank Rohrbough at frankr@gvtc.com.

To learn more about our many Chapter events, go to our Chapter Webpage :

<http://www.sarsat.org>.