



# THE SAN ANTONIO COMPATRIOT

SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER #4 • TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Compatriot Robert Hancock, President — Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, Editor

Sep-Oct 2014



## PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Compatriots: At the invitation of the Executive Committee, I have agreed to serve as your Chapter President for another year. I trust that you will support the Nominating Committee's Slate of Officers for 2015 when the Election of Officers is held at the December 19th Chapter Meeting. I look forward to another year as your President and ask for your continued support.

We had a great Gala this year (see page two) and I thank everyone who helped make it possible. A special "thanks" to Compatriot's Joe Ware and Jim Massingill who planned and organized the event and selected our Guest Speaker. We also appreciate the efforts of Compatriot George Harcourt for the beautiful Wine Basket and its collection of fine wines. The raffle was very successful replenishing our funds for our Youth Awards Programs.

I plan on doing things differently next year to make it even better. For example, we will ask the San Antonio de Bexar DAR Chapter to Co-Host the Gala with our Chapter. I will get invitations out much earlier next year to the various other genealogical based organizations.

Our Chapter is growing and we are doing a lot of great things. I have been particularly pleased with the way our Chapter has been working with our youth. Plans are being made to expand our Youth Programs outside the San Antonio area. Also, the work we have done in support of our veterans and those that have disabilities returning from Afghanistan. We have a Great Chapter - Lets Stay Number One!

Respectfully, *Robert Hancock*

## GUEST SPEAKER ADDRESSES "ON MAKING A CONSTITUTION"

Our Guest Speaker for the September 17th Chapter Meeting was Law Professor Michael Ariens from St. Mary's University. He was introduced by Compatriot Bill Clanton. Professor Ariens' topic of "On Making a Constitution" challenges the imagination on just how did the Founding Father's decide to write a "Constitution" for our new country following the War of Independence from Great Britain in the fall of 1781. The question Professor Ariens laid before us was - "Where did the ideas come from that should be included in a Constitution?" No other nation on earth had ever written one based on the idea of freedoms of independent peoples. More importantly, "how was the process to be completed?" to start the process, the Articles of Confederation were ratified by the state in July 1781. In the end, it took almost six years for the new states to convene a Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia on May 14, 1787; it concluded its work on September 17th of that year. There was considerable debate about the roles and duties of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, states rights versus national law and the need for a Bill of Rights guaranteeing certain freedoms not addressed in the Constitution. It took effect in 1789 after it was ratified by the 10 of the 12 States and fully ratified by the remaining two states in May 1790. To say the least, Professor Ariens' presentation was thought-provoking and informative. **(Photo At Right)** President Hancock presents Professor Ariens with the Chapter's Certificate of Appreciation and a "must read" book titled "Washington—A Life" by Ron Chernow.



## **SASAR Celebrates Gala Remembering Victory at the Battle of Yorktown and Honoring Our Vietnam War Veterans**

The Chapter celebrated its Gala Banquet on Saturday, October 18th at the Petroleum Club at 6:00 P.M. The primary purpose of this social event was fulfilled

by remembering the events of the Battle of Yorktown when Lt General Charles Cornwallis surrendered to General George Washington on October 17, 1781. This historic victory led to the founding of our Nation and our Independence from King George III of England.

Compatriot (Colonel) Joseph Ware gave an impressive and inspiring presentation commemorating the Victory of the Battle of Yorktown on October 17, 1781 by General George Washington's American Combined Forces over the British Army Commanded by General Lord Cornwallis.

To add to the celebration, we raffled a Collection of Fine Wines and Chocolates Basket (valued at \$250); The winner was our Guest Dorothy Perez, sister of Compatriot Reuben Perez.

One of the featured events of this Gala was to honor members and their families who served during the Vietnam War Era. As a matter of background, on May 28, 2012, President Barack Obama inaugurated the "Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War" and called upon Federal, State and local officials to honor our Vietnam veterans, our fallen, our wounded, those unaccounted for, our former prisoners of war, their families and all who served with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities." President General Joe Dooley, National Society of SAR announced its Partnership in the Program at the 124th Congress in Greenville, SC in July 2014. The Texas Society became a Partner Organization in early October of this year and President Robert Cohen has asked all Texas SAR Chapters to become a Partner Organizations.

We conducted our Chapter's first event celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration Program where our members who served during the Vietnam War Era were recognized and honored. Veterans were asked to assemble under the DOD Commemorative Flag. Each of the

twenty veterans present were announced individually and presented the 50th Anniversary Commemorative "Veterans" Pin by President Hancock. Two of these veterans were wives who served as nurses during the Vietnam War Era.

Our Special Guest was Colonel (USAF Ret) Donald Spoon, who was an F-4 pilot during the Vietnam War who was shot down on January 21, 1967 and was a Prisoner of War for six years.

Other events held during the Gala include inductions and some Awards.

For more photos and details, go to Page 3.



**(Photo Above)** President Robert N. Hancock presents Colonel Spoon with the DOD Program POW Lapel Pin, a SAR Certificate of Appreciation and bust of Washington for his remarks and participation.



## Gala Events (Cont'd)

One of the highlights of the evening was the induction of three members to the San Antonio Chapter, Texas SAR. They were James Griffin, Harris Leonard and his son Jett. Compatriot Griffin's patriot ancestor was Joseph Culpepper, 1<sup>st</sup> LT in the First South Carolina Regiment of State Dragoons. The Leonard's came into the SAR under their patriot ancestor Lazarus Reeves who was a Sergeant with Francis Marion, the Swamp Fox. On June 21, 1775, Marion was commissioned Captain in the 2nd South Carolina Regiment under General William Moultrie. In Sept 1776, the Continental Congress commissioned Marion as a Lieutenant Colonel. Marion was known for his guerrilla tactics in fighting the British.



(Above) President Hancock (left front) gives the SAR Oath to Compatriots (Right to Left) Harris Leonard and his son Jett Leonard. The two Leonard's are the son and grandson of Roy Leonard (back left) On the right is Compatriot James Griffin.



(At Left)

Former Texas SAR President Stephen Rohrbough recognized Compatriot George Harcourt for his numerous services to the Texas Society with the award of the Silver Roger Sherman Medal and Certificate. The Award was one of many that were presented at the Texas SAR Annual Meeting last March and at earlier Chapter Meetings for those members in the San Antonio Chapter who worked so hard to make it a very successful state meeting.

(At Right) President Hancock recognized the support that Dorothy Perez has given the Chapter to recruit new members into SAR. She also won the drawing for the Wine and Chocolate Basket that was valued at more than \$250.



(Below) Corrine Staacke, sister of Compatriot Jack Cowan, was recognized by President Hancock for her long-standing support of

the SAR. For her support, Corrine was awarded the Martha Washington Medal and Certificate. Corrine is a member and Past Regent of the San Antonio de Bexar Chapter.



(Photo Above) President Hancock presented Dorothy Perez the Martha Washington Medal and Certificate for her valued assistance in recruiting members to SAR. At far left is Dorothy's brother Compatriot Rueben Perez.

## Induction of New Members

At the September 17th Chapter Meeting, President Robert Hancock inducted Compatriots Bradford Hornbuckle and Dustin Whittenburg into the San Antonio Chapter and the Texas SAR.

Compatriot Hornbuckle's patriot ancestor was Richard Fletcher of Virginia.

Compatriot Whittenburg's patriot ancestor is Lewis Holloway who was a Sergeant in Georgia Regiment of the Continental Army. He fought and was taken as a prisoner in the Siege of Charleston (March 29th to May 12, 1780).

The **Battle of Charleston** was one of the major battles of the Revolution where Major General Benjamin Lincoln surrendered Continental Forces numbering about 5,000 to the British. Later as Second in Command to General Washington, General Lincoln accepted the Surrender of Gen Lord Cornwallis after the Battle of Yorktown which led to the Treaty of Paris in 1783.



(Photo Above) Shown from Left to Right are President Hancock, Compatriot Hornbuckle and Compatriot Whittenburg.

## REFLECTIONS FROM A FOUNDING FATHER

At the conclusion of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia on September 17, 1787 founding Father Benjamin Franklin was asked, "What have you wrought?" He answered — "a Republic, if you can keep it."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

**Next Chapter Executive Committee Meetings:** Lion & Rose Pub, Blanco at Loop 410, 2nd Thursday of the month (November 13th and December 11th) at 11:30 A.M.

**Next Chapter Meetings:** Our next regularly scheduled Chapter Meeting will be held on November 19th and December 17th at the Petroleum Club at 11:30 A.M.

**Operation Ancestry Research:** Tuesday, November 18th and Monday, December 8th at 1:00 P.M.. **All Members are invited to participate.)**

**TXSSAR's Board of Managers**

**Meeting:** The next BOM Meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel in Temple, TX on November 7-9, 2014. For details, go to the TXSSAR's Public Webpage and click on the Events Tab:

<http://www.txssar.org>

**George Washington Prayer Breakfast:** Saturday, November 29th, Eisenhower Park, 19399 NW Military Hwy (near entrance to Camp Bullis) at 10:30 A.M.

**Joint DAR/SAR Holiday Luncheon:** San Antonio Country Club, Saturday, December 6, 2014 at 11:30 AM. (Must Make Reserva-

tions NLT Nov 28<sup>th</sup>)

**Put Up Christmas Decorations at the VA Medical Center:** Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 to 11:00 AM (Decorate VAVS Office and Recreation Center)

**George Washington Parade in Laredo, TX:** Saturday, February 21, 2015 at 9:00 AM (Mail in Participants Release Form NLT Jan 7<sup>th</sup>)

To learn more about our many Chapter events, go to our **SASAR Chapter Website:**

<http://www.sarsat.org>