



# 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

Jul-Aug 2015



## PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Compatriots: On the morning of July 3<sup>rd</sup> we conducted our **“Independence Day Celebration”** at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort. This was our 4th year to make this presentation to over 100 Hotel Guests. Our Program was very well-received. We had 14 members (7 in revolutionary uniforms or period clothing) participate in the various activities to include Flag Presentation, Show and Tell Table Demonstrations, a Fife and Drum Demonstration, Firing of Muskets, a Bell Ringing Salute to the Original Colonies and Telling of Patriot Stories. For our presentation, the Hyatt Staff gave us a \$500 donation to fund our Knight Essay Contest — a very welcomed gift. The Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort has agreed to be our **Sponsor of the Essay Contest**. For more details and photos, go to **Pages 2 & 3**. Compatriot James Taylor conducted our **5th Tool Box Distribution** on Saturday, July 25th at 11:00 A.M. at the Operation Homefront Village which is located on FM 78 (Seguin Hwy). Our Special Guest Speakers for this event were Chairman of the SAR Board Samuel Powell and Project Founder Bud Sheppard, a World War II Veteran. Each speaker spoke of their appreciation for the Wounded Warriors and their families for their military service and “Thank Them” for their dedication and service our country. Tool Boxes worth \$800 to \$1,000 were given to the 20 Wounded Warriors who are living at the Village. For more details, see **Page 4**. I attended the **Battle of Medina** Memorial Event on August 15th. Compatriot Tom Green was the moderator; he was outstanding as usual! I have gone to these events the past 7 years, and I rate this year as the best ever. Remember, we will resume our monthly chapter meetings on **September 16th** at the Petroleum Club. Remember to make your reservations, if you are not on the Standing Reservations List, with our Treasurer Jim Massingill at [reservations@sarsat.org](mailto:reservations@sarsat.org). Save the date of **Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> for our Gala Banquet** which will be held at the Petroleum Club starting at 6:00 PM. This event will take the place of our normal monthly meeting. **A Special News Release will be sent out in early September asking members to make their reservations to attend the Gala Banquet. See “Chapter Gala Banquet” below.** For other Coming Events, go to **Page 5**. Finally, we mourn the passing of our **Former Chapter President (2000-2001) John R. Wilmeth, Sr.** on August 1, 2015. We are grateful for his many contributions to our Chapter and the Texas Society SAR. More information is provided in Compatriot Wilmeth’s Memorial Resolution which is provided on **Pages 6-7**. Hope you had an enjoyable summer that included some travel for sightseeing, visit friends or family. Hope to see you at our **next Chapter Meeting on September 16th** at the Petroleum Club.

*Respectfully, Robert Hancock*

## CHAPTER'S GALA BANQUET

The Chapter's 2015 Gala Banquet will be on Saturday, October 17th at the Petroleum Club at 6:00 P.M. Like last year our primary purpose is to have fun and share in fellowship with many of our members who usually cannot attend our monthly Chapter Meetings during the work week.

Our Keynote Speaker will be **Professor Jeffery F. Addicott**, Director, Center for Terrorism Law, Professor of Law at St. Mary’s University. As an 20 year active duty Army officer in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps, Professor Addicott spent a quarter of his career as the senior legal advisor to the United States Army’s Special Forces. Given his background and current World Events, please save the date.

**A Chapter News Release will be sent shortly calling for Reservations!**

## Save the Date!

San Antonio SAR GALA

**Saturday, October 17th  
6:00 PM**

Petroleum Club

## CHAPTER CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY AT THE HYATT REGENCY HILL COUNTRY RESORT



This year we celebrated the 239th anniversary of our nation's Declaration of Independence from England. For the fifth time, our chapter was invited by Ms Nicole Gravelle, Marketing Manager for the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa, to conduct our **educational and historical event** for hotel guests visiting the resort on July 3rd. The Master of Ceremonies was Compatriot Frank Rohrbough. Chapter President Bob Hancock opened the Program welcoming of the guest and explaining what "SAR" is and does.

**(Photo at Left)** For the second time we had our musician friends Kate Bolcar (Fifer) and her husband Gerard Cortese (Drummer) give their demonstration on the Role of a Fifer and Drummer in the Revolutionary War. This event, together with Compatriot Peter Baron's overview of the Revolutionary Period Uniforms and the use of Period Muskets and Rifles added greatly to our one hour program that proved very entertaining to over 100 hotel guests and staff.

Fourteen chapter members participated in the morning event. They included Bob Hancock, Stephen Rohrbough (Vice-President-General for NSSAR's South Central District), Compatriots Tom Small, Paul Reynolds, Jim Massingill, James Taylor, Fred Soupiset, Peter Baron and his young son Campbell, Frank Rohrbough, Schuylar Crist, Bud Davenport, Larry Luckett and Roy Leonard.

The National Colors and SAR Flags were presented by Acting Command Color Commander Peter Baron, Compatriots Stephen Rohrbough, Fred Soupiset and Paul Reynolds. Participating with the Color Guard were our Fifer and Drummer as noted above.

**(Photo Below)** Compatriot Peter Baron told the audience the evolution of the Patriot Uniforms during the



Revolution starting with the Minutemen of Massachusetts and Mountain Men of Virginia and the Carolinas to the Regimental Uniforms that were approved by the Continentals Congress in 1778. Shown from left to right in early militia uniforms are Compatriots Hancock, Stephen Rohrbough and Fred Soupiset. In a Pastor's Attire at far right is Compatriot Paul Reynolds and in a Officers First Virginia Regimental Continental

Line Uniform (second from far left) is Compatriot Frank Rohrbough. Compatriot Baron continued describing the guns used by Foot Soldiers in the Militia and the Continental Line Army, a 75 caliber flintlock musket and a 50 caliber flintlock rifle. More specifically, he noted that a good soldier could load and fire a musket three times in one minute while a rifleman could load and fire once every 90 seconds. However, he conceded that the rifle is more accurate. Compatriot Baron described the position of soldiers when engaged in field battles. **More on Page 3.**



**(Above)** Compatriot Peter Baron demonstrates to a young Patriot the loading and firing of a Revolutionary Period exact replica of a 75 caliber Musket.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY EVENT AT FORT SAM HOUSTON

On the morning of July 4th, we joined the Granaderos Y Dames de Galvez at the National Cemetery at Ft. Sam Houston to pay tribute to veterans who served our great country and have been laid to rest.

**(Photo at Right)** Attending were 8 Chapter Members who participated with other Patriotic Organizations during to Wreath



Laying Procession. Shown Left to Right are Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, President-Elect Tom Small, Compatriot Larry Loop, President Bob Hancock,

Compatriot Bud Davenport, Former Chapter President Jack Cowan, Former Texas Society President Stephen Rohrbough (2013-2014), and Compatriot Rueben Perez. **(Photo at Left)** Compatriot Bob Hancock participated in the ceremonies by giving the Benediction to close the Event.

## HYATT REGENCY HILL COUNTRY RESORT (CONT'D)

To help the guest better understand our member's connection to the Revolution, two of our Compatriots told their Patriot Ancestor Stories. **(Photo at Right)** Compatriot James Taylor spoke of his Patriot Ancestor Lt Jonathan Farrar, Commander of the Concord Militia for the Defense of the North and South Bridge on April 19, 1775 when the Redcoats marched on the Village Green at Lexington, MA. Compatriot Taylor's remarks



addressed the initial confrontation on Lexington Common

between 77 militiamen and nearly ten times that number of British Regulars which resulted in the death of eight Lexington Minutemen. The Redcoats moved on to Concord to roundup the Stockpile of weapons and gun powder thought to be stored in the local Armory. When they got there, several thousand farmer-soldiers were assembled at the South Bridge and already knew of the bloodshed at Lexington. With their nerves steeled, the Americans drove the Redcoats out of Concord and back to Boston and placed the city under siege. The Revolution had begun.

**Compatriot Larry Luckett** spoke of his Patriot Ancestor Andrew Broga, 2nd Connecticut Regiment (later 22nd Continental Line), of his service at the Battle of Bunker Hill and the Siege of Boston, the Battle of Long Island and Washington's night time escape from Brooklyn Heights to Manhattan Island and later the evacuation of the Continental Army from New York City to New Jersey.

**(Above)** For their participation the last two years, President Hancock presented Kate Bolcar and Gerard Cortese the SAR Bronze Good Citizen Medal and Certificate. Looking on is Compatriot Frank Rohrbough.

## TOOL BOX DISTRIBUTION EVENT

Compatriot Reverend James Taylor was the Master of Ceremonies of our 5th **Tool Box Distribution** on Saturday, July 25th at 11:00 A.M. at the Operation Homefront Village located on FM 78 (Seguin Hwy). Our Special Guest Speakers for this event were **Chairman of the SAR Board Samuel Powell (Photo at Right)** and **“Project Operation Tool Box” Founder Bud Sheppard, a World War II Veteran, (Photo Below)**. Each speaker spoke of their appreciation of the Warriors and their families for their military service and “Thank Them” for their dedication and service our country. **“Project Operation Tool Box”** was established in 2013 and organized the Resource Exchange Association in North Carolina.



The Tool Boxes are assembled from donations made by Industry Businesses, to include major suppliers of tool products, as a Community Service Project supporting Warriors and their Families. A Tool Box, valuing up to \$1,000, is gifted to each Purple Heart recipient when they are ready to move to a private home with their family. Until this event, the San Antonio Chapter SAR has presented one hundred (100) Tool Boxes to Warriors in the San Antonio area. This Event provided 20 more Tool Boxes to 20 Wounded Warrior Families who are living at the Village.

Also, attending the event, was Former President-General Edward F. Butler (2009-2010) and member of the San Antonio Chapter.

## WARRIORS AND FAMILIES EXPRESS THEIR APPRECIATION



**(Photo at Left)** Vice President General, South Central District (Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas) of the National Society SAR, extended his greetings to the warriors and their families and thanked them for their service to our country. He praised Bud Sheppard for establishing the Tool Box Project as a means of recognizing today’s Warriors and their families.

Looking on is Compatriot Peter Baron (with musket in hand). **(Photo at Right)**

Compatriot Baron gave the attendees a historical overview of the uniforms worn by chapter members present and a brief overview of the weapons used by soldiers during the Revolution. The children of Warrior Families were allowed to hold an exact replica of a 75 Caliber Flintlock Musket. Shown are some of the families who received Tool Boxes.



## NSSAR CELEBRATES 125TH NATIONAL CONGRESS



The National Society celebrated its 125th Congress in Louisville, KY where its Headquarters is located. Texas Compatriot and Past Texas Society President Thomas Lawrence was inaugurated as the President-General on July 1st during the Congress Banquet. In his address, PG Lawrence stated his Goals for the National Society and all State Societies during his Term of Service (July 2015 - June 2016). Further, he requested that it be sent to all SAR Members. Texas Society President Larry Stevens asked all Chapters to forward PG Lawrence's Address. A Chapter News Release was sent to all San Antonio Chapter Members on August 13, 2015. To access PG Lawrence's Address,

go to: [https://www.sar.org/hq/PresidentGeneral/pg\\_t\\_lawrence\\_installation\\_speech\\_7-1-2015.pdf](https://www.sar.org/hq/PresidentGeneral/pg_t_lawrence_installation_speech_7-1-2015.pdf).



**(Photo at Left)** Past Texas Society President Stephen Rohrbough (center) was inducted as the South Central District Vice President General during the Congress Banquet. Congratulations were given to him by his brothers Frank (left) TX Society and Leonard (right) LA Society.

**(Photo Above)** National Color Guard Commander Michael Radcliff (left) presented the SAR Silver Color Guard Medal and Certificates to twin brothers Stephen (Left) and Frank Rohrbough (Right) at the Annual Color Guard Breakfast. Assisting is Vice Color Guard Commander David Hoover.

"When the people fear the government, there is tyranny. When the government fears the people, there is liberty." ~ Thomas Jefferson

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

**Next Chapter Executive Committee Meetings:** Napa Flats located at 1301 N Loop 1604 W, 2nd Thursday of the month (Sep 10th) at 11:30 A.M.

**Operation Ancestry Research:** September 9th (Wednesday) and 25th (Friday); Wounded Warrior Family Support Ctr., Ft. Sam Houston, TX; Session starts at 1 P.M. (All Members are invited to participate.) (Peter Baron)

**TXS SAR's Board of Managers Meeting:** The next BOM Meeting will be held at the Hilton Galveston Resort, Galveston, TX on **October 9-11, 2015**. For details, go to the TXSSAR's Public Webpage and click on the Events Tab:

<http://www.txssar.org>

**Chapter's Gala Banquet, Saturday, October 17th** at the Petroleum Club at 6 PM. **Reservations are required.**

**San Antonio Genealogical Historical Society Conference,** October 17, 2015, 8102 Midcrown Dr. (Windcrest)

**Lytle History Fair,** November 7<sup>th</sup>

For more information about SAR and our activities, go to **SASAR Chapter Website:**

<http://www.sarsat.org>

**MEMRIAL RESOLUTION RESPECTING  
COMPATRIOT GUNNERY SERGEANT JOHN ROBERT WILMETH, USMC (RET)**

WHEREAS, The hand of death on 1 August 2015 entered our ranks and removed from our midst, COMPATRIOT JOHN ROBERT WILMETH, our venerable and esteemed brother in arms, and

WHEREAS, COMPATRIOT WILMETH was born on 1 August 1921 in Dallas, Dallas County, Texas. He was the son of John Marion Wilmeth and Mabel Marie Green, whose ancestors were influential in the founding of the American Colonies. During much of his lifetime COMPATRIOT WILMET served in the United States Marine Corps. At the time of his death he resided in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas. A memorial service was held for him on 6 August 2015 at Sunset Memorial Park in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, where his earthly remains were placed at eternal rest beside his loving wife, and

WHEREAS, by virtue of the proven patriotic service during the Revolutionary War of his ancestor Second Sergeant James Ferguson of Orange County, Virginia who received a Service Pension for his service, and

WHEREAS, COMPATRIOT WILMETH successfully proved his direct lineage from the above Patriot, and was admitted to membership in the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution on 27 March 1996 as member number 146242 and simultaneously was granted membership in the Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution, member number 7876, and

WHEREAS, COMPATRIOT WILMETH was an active member of the San Antonio Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, and during that time participated in the activities of the chapter, serving as Chapter President in 2000 & 2001 and receiving the SAR War Service Medal, the TXSSAR 2003 Patriot Medal, the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal, and the TXSSAR Silver & Bronze Service Medals, and thereby contributing to the chapter's continued success, and

WHEREAS, COMPATRIOT WILMETH was proud of his distinguished heritage and also recognized his lineage with active memberships in the Sons of the Republic of Texas, The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Hood's Texas Brigade #153, and Austin's Old Three Hundred, and

WHEREAS, COMPATRIOT WILMETH began his life of service by entering the Marine Corp in 1939. He was a drill instructor at the outset of WWII in San Diego before being deployed to the Pacific Theater. In 1947 John left the Marine Corps and married Goldie Mae Col. He returned to the Marine Corps in 1954 and served until retiring in 1968. He also worked for Morris Glass Company for over 30 years, and

WHEREAS, COMPATRIOT WILMETH was a man of GOD, having served the Lord as a deacon of the First Baptist Church, in San Antonio, and

WHEREAS, COMPATRIOT WILMETH left surviving him his loving and devoted family: his Children, Jeannie Wilmeth Best and John Wilmeth, his 5 grandchildren and his 9 great-grandchildren to whom we express our deepest sympathy on their respective loss, and

WHEREAS, upon his death, our country and state lost a loyal citizen and Patriot whose devotion never faltered. He was one of the most zealous and faithful defenders of the principles for which our patriotic ancestors fought in the battle against the British for American Independence. In his quiet and unassuming way he did much to promote the progress and development of his country and the happiness of those around him. He was a good, quiet and modest person and enjoyed the respect, esteem and admiration of all who knew him.

## **John Wilmeth Memorial Resolution (Cont'd)**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the San Antonio Chapter, Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution as follows:

FIRST: That this chapter has lost a loyal and devoted member. To his family and friends we express our thanks for sharing his life with us and extend our profound condolences at his passing from our ranks. That this country and state have lost an honorable, upright and honest citizen, who was always ready to spend his life and give his service for that which he believed to be right and for the best interests of his country and state. To that end we dedicate ourselves anew to the continuance of the service to the country which his lifetime so well performed. We further Resolve that we are pledged again to cherish, maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, to foster true patriotism and love of country, and to aid in Securing for mankind the blessings of Liberty.

SECOND: That this country and state have lost an honorable, upright and honest citizen, who was always ready to spend his life and give his service for that which he believed to be right and for the best interests of his country and state. To that end we dedicate ourselves anew to the continuance of the service to the country which his lifetime so well performed. We further Resolve that we are pledged again to cherish, maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, to foster true patriotism and love of country, and to aid in Securing for mankind the blessings of Liberty.

THIRD: That for the purposes of perpetuating the memory of his life and fidelity to the purposes of the Sons of the American Revolution, and his steady devotion to duty, duplicate copies of this Resolution shall be entered into the minutes of this chapter, which he loved so well, and delivered to his family. The Resolution will also be read to chapter members attending a regular monthly meeting and will be displayed on the chapter Internet web page. The Resolution may also be submitted to the Texas Society for publication in a future edition of The Texas Patriot, it's magazine.

FOURTH: That a duplicate of this Resolution shall be bound together with other similar Memorial Resolutions of the San Antonio Chapter, Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution into a minimum of three books. Copies of this book will be donated to:

1. The San Antonio, Texas Public Library,
2. The National Library of the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution in Louisville, Kentucky, and
3. Chapter Genealogist, San Antonio Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution.

FIFTH: As a token of our love and respect for our Compatriot, we have purchased a suitable book on the American Revolution or about one of its many patriots. That book will be donated to a local Public School Library in San Antonio with an inscription referencing COMPATRIOT JOHN WILMETH.

THIS MEMORIAL RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AT ITS MEETING IN SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS.

THIS THE 13TH DAY OF August 2015.