



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

May-Jun 2015



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Compatriots: The Chapter has been very active the past two months. On May 20th, we honored **SGT Joe Rios as our Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.** (See Page 2) On May

23rd, we presented the National Colors for the Opening of the Annual Scouting Flag Placement Program that resulted in over 100,000 US Flags being placed in front of the Tombstones of veterans at Ft. Sam Houston Cemetery.

Compatriot Frank Rohrbough and I have been busy visiting selected Hotels in San Antonio to recommend a site our Chapter will host for the 2017 TXSSAR Conference. We are coordinating our finding with the State Planning Committee and State Officers; we should have a decision shortly on which site was selected.

We really had a great Chapter SAR meeting on June 17th. We had as one of our special guest, **Ms Ilanna Villagran**, winner of our Chapter's Knight Essay Contest. She read her Essay and received a check for \$250.00. (See Pages 5-6)

We also, honored **Mr. Eric James as our Chapter's Teacher of the Year.** Mr. James was awarded a check for \$250.00. Mr. James related to us a few lessons he has had in life and how he has used them in teaching. He has done very well installing a genuine interest in History to his students at Frank Tejada Middle School. (See Page 3)

Compatriot Edward F. Butler, Former NSSAR President-General (2009-10) and member of this Chapter was our Guest Speaker at our June Meeting. PG Butler spoke on his new book that has just been published - **Galvez/Spain - Our Forgotten Alley in the American Revolution War: A Concise Summary of Spain's Assistance.** (See Page 6 for related remarks).

We have two Independence Day Events that I ask for those who live in the San Antonio area support. They are Independence Day Historical Program at Hyatt Regency Hill Country and the Wreath Laying Ceremony at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery on July 4th. Our biggest annual program will be on **July 3rd at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort at 2:00 P.M.** All compatriots (in Revolutionary Period dress or appropriate dress of the day) are invited to attend and share their stories of their Patriot Ancestor with the 100 plus Hotel Guests who will attend the event. I ask that if you are not out of town, **please join us.**

We had five members of our Chapter attend the **125th NSSAR Annual Congress** in Louisville, KY. James Taylor our Chapter Chaplain was elected NSSAR Chaplain-General for the second time! Congratulations James, we are all very proud of you. You have really been of great service to SAR - from our Chapter, the Texas Society and NSSAR.

On July 25th, we will conduct another **Tool Box Event** at Operation Homefront Village where more Tool Boxes will be donated to Purple Heart Wounded Warriors and other Warriors who have experienced traumatic brain injuries. This time we will have Compatriots Sam Powell and Bud Shepherd from the National Society participate in the distribution of Tool Boxes. Due to James Taylor's superb leadership, we have delivered a total of 99 Tool Boxes to warriors.

We will recess from our Regular Chapter Meetings in July or August. However, we will continue to hold our Executive Committee Meetings on the second Thursday of each of those summer months.

We are making plans for our **Chapter Gala Banquet on Saturday, October 17th at 6:00 P.M. at the Petroleum Club.** I want to make this a very special event, so please **reserve the date and plan to attend.** More details will be sent out in a News Release shortly. Have an enjoyable and safe summer; hope to see you at our next Chapter Meeting on September 16th at the Petroleum Club. *Respectfully, Robert Hancock*

CHAPTER PLANS 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. It is not a "fund-raiser" for our Youth Awards Programs.

We want members in the greater San Antonio area and their spouses or best friends, to join us for a social gathering and share in some camaraderie. See **"Save the Date"** at right.



LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD



(Above) Shown from Right to Left are: Detective Tina Baron, President Bob Hancock, Mrs. Rios, Sgt Rios, Lt Martinez, Compatriot Peter Baron and Chaplain Worley.

Each year our Chapter presents

SAR's Law Enforcement Award to a deserving Law Officer. For his dedicated service over 31 years, Chapter President Bob Hancock presented Sergeant Joe A. Rios with SAR's Law Enforcement Commendation Medal at our May 20th Chapter Meeting. Lt. Frank Martinez, Commander of the Repeat Offenders Unit, was our Guest Speaker

Sergeant Joe A. Rios is a thirty-one year veteran of the San Antonio Police Department and is a Supervisor in the Repeat Offender Program.

Sergeant Rios entered the San Antonio Police Department in January of 1984.

In his 31 years; his service has included the Patrol division, the Homicide unit, the Special Operations unit, the Night Criminal Investigative Unit, and several Task Forces.

During his years of service Sergeant Rios noticed a need for his fellow Officer. Sergeant Rios is an integral leader in the SAPD Family Assistance Officers team (FAO) and Peer Support team. The FAO team aids Officers in family tragedy situations, including the death of Officers

Sergeant Rios is a pillar in the Community. He is an Air Force Veteran. He serves as leader for *Shields of Christ*, he teaches Religious Education classes, he prepares teenagers for the Sacraments, and has a leadership role in the Ministry of the Third Cross. Sergeant Rios has exemplified a life of service by his dedication to God, his Community and his Family exhibits the traits of our Founding Fathers.

Accordingly, we recognized Sergeant Rios as our Law Enforcement Officer of the Year which reflects great credit upon himself, his family, the San Antonio Police Department and the Citizens of San Antonio.



(Above) Lt. Frank Martinez, a 25 year veteran of the San Antonio Police Department, spoke about the Program and the many achievements of Sgt Rios.

CHAPTER MEMBERS SELECTED FOR TEXAS SAR PERFORMANCE AWARDS

Two of our stalwart Compatriots were presented performance Awards at the May 20th Chapter Meeting for their service to the Texas Society. The Awards were given by Texas SAR President Bob Cohen at the Annual State Conference in Houston, TX in late March. In their absence, Chapter President Bob Hancock accepted the Awards for Compatriots James Taylor and Peter Baron who in turn presented them their awards at our May Chapter Meeting. Compatriot Taylor was given the Certificate of Appreciation for his service to the State President as State Chaplain during the 125th Anniversary of the Sons of the American Revolution. Compatriot Baron was given a Certificate of Appreciation for his service to the State President during the 125th Anniversary of the Sons of the American Revolution. Compatriot Baron also received the SAR Silver Service Award for his service as Chairman, Medals and Awards Committee. Our compatriots continue to make our chapter look good within the Texas Society.



CHAPTER CELEBRATES MEMORIAL DAY WITH AREA SCOUTS

On May 23rd 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 provided small US flags for the scouts from the San Antonio Area to place in front of all 100,000 Veterans' Grave Markers in the cemetery. The event honors all veterans who have served our country throughout previous and current wars. **(At Right)** Color Guardsmen were: (R to L) Past SASAR Presidents Peter Baron, James Taylor, Stephen Rohrbough, Frank Rohrbough, and Compatriot Paul Reynolds. Also attending is Compatriot Bud Davenport.



INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBER

President Bob Hancock inducted Robert Leonard, son of Compatriot Roy Leonard who was inducted at our Chapter Meeting on May 21, 2014, during our Chapter Meeting on June 17th. Robert Leonard was inducted using his Patriot Ancestor Lazarus Reeves, the same ancestor that was used by his father, Roy Leonard. Patriot Reeves served as a sergeant under the command of Francis Marion, the Swamp Fox. Patriot Reeves' service took him to many sites in South Carolina, but also in Virginia.

(Photo at Left) From R-L. President Bob Hancock, Compatriot Robert Leonard, Mrs. Robert Leonard, Compatriot Roy Leonard (father of Robert) and Mrs. Roy Leonard.



CHAPTER RECOGNIZES HISTORY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

At the June 17th Chapter Meeting, President Bob Hancock presented the Chapter's History Teacher of the Year to Mr. Eric James, Principal at Frank Tejada Middle School, San Antonio Northeast Independent School District. Mr. James was awarded a check for \$250.00. Mr. James spoke about some lessons he has had in life and how he has used them in teaching. He has done a remarkable job to instill a genuine interest in Early American History for his 8th Grade students.

(Photo at Right) From right to left are: President Hancock, Chairman, SAR Education Committee, Jay Lewallen. Mr. James and his wife.



KNIGHT ESSEY CONTEST AWARDEES RECOGNIZED

The San Antonio Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) recognized Ms. Ilanna Villagran, a student at Young Women's Leadership Academy, as our 1st place winner of the Annual George and Stella Knight Essay Contest at the June 17th Chapter Meeting held at the San Antonio Petroleum Club. President Robert Hancock presented her an SAR Certificate of Appreciation and \$250 award. Her essay is entitled "**The American Identity Crisis**". (See Page 5-6) All essays was based on historical accuracy, clarity of thought, organization, grammar and references. Joining Ms. Villagran in the presentation (**Photo at Right from L to R**) are President Hancock, Chairman, SAR Education Committee, Jay Lewallen and Ilanna's step mom, Yvonne Lopez. Our **2nd Place Awardee** was **Caitlin Opp** (**Photo Below Left**) who is a student at Winston Churchill High School. Her essay was entitled "**The Illusion of Freedom**". She was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation and \$150 award at her home earlier this year. Our **3rd Place Awardee** was **Jose Huergo**, (**Photo at Far Right Below**) who is a student at Winston Churchill High School. His essay was entitled "The American Revolution, A David Vs. Goliath of Our Past". He was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation and \$100 award at his home earlier this year.



Other students who participated in the knight Essay Contest included: **Nancy Lee Archer** from Saint Mary's Hall whose essay was titled "Common Sense" and **Aaron Michelle Leyva** also from Winston Churchill High School whose essay was titled "Free Enlightenment". Both students were given Letters of Appreciation. To insure proper recognition of for all these Awards, the Principals at their schools were notified for further public recognition.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

Summer Recess: No Chapter Meetings will be held in July or August. Our **next regularly scheduled Chapter Meeting will be held on September 16th** at the Petroleum Club.

Next Chapter Executive Committee Meetings: Napa Flats located at 1301 N Loop 1604 W, 2nd Thursday of the month (Jul 9th, Aug 13th and Sep 10th) at 11:30 A.M.

Operation Ancestry Research: July 29th, August 18th; Wounded Warrior Family Support Ctr., Ft. Sam Houston, TX; Session starts at 1 P.M. (**All Members are invited to**

participate.) (Peter Baron)

Independence Day Events:

- Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort Educational Program, **July 3rd, 2:00 PM** (Assemble at 1 :15 AM at the Lukenbach Pavilion) (**All members are invited to participate or attend.**)
- Granaderos de Galvez Memorial Service, Ft. San Houston National Cemetery, **July 4th, 10 A.M.** (Assemble 9:15 AM)

Tool Box Distribution Event: July 25 at 11:00 A.M. (**All Members are invited to attend**)

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, Oct 17th at the Petroleum Club at 6 PM.

SASAR Chapter Website:

<http://www.sarsat.org>

KNIGHT ESSAY CONTEST AWARDEE'S ESSAY

The American Identity Crisis: Crafting the Moral Code of the United States with Enlightenment Philosophy By Ilanna Villagran

The concept of revolution was nothing new in Europe during the eighteenth century and neither was the philosophy of the human condition, which was being defined during the Enlightenment. Because it is impossible to look at the U.S. Constitution without analyzing the influence of the ideals emerging in Europe, it shall be analyzed thusly. The Enlightenment was crucial in determining almost every aspect of colonial America. Oppression, natural rights, a new definition of freedom, and emerging ideas of alternative government structures were the fuel feeding the colonial fire. The main philosophy that guided the colonists was the faith in human reason to reject pre-established institutions and thoughts that chained men and defied their natural freedom. However, the defining moment of American history remains how it overcame this identity crisis by crafting a social contract, a moral code if you will, that would guide the country for centuries to come.

The road to crafting the Constitution was not an easy one. The colonists, who had been repeatedly met with injury and oppression, had too independent a mind set to settle for the mercantilist system that bound them to England's absolute rule. Not only had most of the colonists grown up in North America but those coming directly from England were well-versed in the writings of Montesquieu, Rosseau, Beccaria, and Locke, all preaching a new way of looking at the world and the governments that had historically gone unquestioned.

These men unknowingly formed the skeleton of an emerging nation and the Founding Fathers would surely take advantage of it. After all, this was an incredibly unique point in history. People never really had the opportunity to create their own government and it would be no small feat to accomplish. Truth be told, the founders of the Constitution feared that if they failed in this, it would be the great misfortune of mankind and prove it was impossible to create an entirely new government. Looking back, it may seem that they did create "little short of a miracle," that the "happy Union of these [United] States is a wonder; [the] Constitution a miracle," but tis more important to remember that while the Constitution itself was unprecedented in nature, it was entirely formulated on the basis of the Enlightenment philosophy.

Tracing the origins of the Constitution must begin with the founding father of political philosophy: Montesquieu. He chartered the idea that laws are freedom but more importantly, the idea of checks and balances. He was haunted by the problem of despotism, much like the colonists, and thus returned to the foundation of political freedom. He came up with the separation of powers that would remedy any abuse of power. Rousseau contributed most to the nature of the Constitution in that all people must enter into a social contract that would require people to recognize a collective "good will," that would represent the common good. An equally obvious contributor to the Constitution was Beccaria who claimed that the criminal justice system needed to be reformed and that punishment should not be a public and brutal affair, but just and logical. Ultimately, Locke set up the moral code that would frame and become the Constitution. He defined every person's natural rights to life, liberty, and property, vehemently claiming that the government should protect these rights. In the event that the government does not, which the colonists used to defend their Revolution, it is the duty of the citizens to overthrow it.

The works of these men established the culture and overall philosophy of the Enlightenment: that humans were inherently endowed with the ability to reason, question, and reject institutionalized government that had failed to embrace and protect man's natural rights. It was this very idea that the founders of the Constitution used to create the American moral code. Yet they would have to go through an identity crisis before they could move forward.

KNIGHT ESSAY (CONT'D)

It is one thing to declare independence vigorously as the Continental Congress did but it is quite another thing to figure out what you are now that independence has been declared. The Continental Congress created the Articles of Confederation that established a very weak central government, so weak that few delegates ever attended the congress. Not surprisingly, they did this in fear of absolute power and tried to create an ideal government focused on quasi-diplomacy among these new independent states. Then, in 1787 farmers in Massachusetts rebelled against the state enforcement of tax collections. The rebellion was a sign that the weak Confederation Congress would have problems if it were to face any serious anarchy. Proponents of constitutional reform used this to justify a replacement of the Articles. The Congress met to discuss what the true social contract of America would be, considering the failure of the Articles and the philosophy they had used to declare independence a decade earlier.

The states reevaluated their system and brought together the ideals of freedom and liberty to create the foundation of the American political system: a social contract founded on the belief that the government only exists to serve the will of the people and that it is the citizens who are the source of all political power enjoyed by that government. The states were to come together on the basis of democracy, the will of the people, the separation of powers, the greatest good, and the separation of church and state.

There is no doubt that the very country America was trying to dissolve bonds with contributed immensely to the ideals that would be used to craft the moral code of the emerging nation. After an identity crisis that sought to answer the question of what should be done with the states' newfound freedom, the United States of America was formed. This new Constitution would be the basis for an entire system of government unprecedented in human history: one founded on the principles of liberty, popular sovereignty, the dignity and free will of the people, and above all the promise to protect every freedom man is born with.

Note: If you want a copy of the Essay with its footnotes and references, please contact the SAR Chapter Newsletter Editor at frankr@gvtc.com.

Why Do We Celebrate Independence Day?

We are here today to celebrate the 235th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence by our founding fathers in Philadelphia. On July 4th each year, we take time to pause and reflect upon the brave founding fathers of our young nation who wagered their fame and fortune upon our new country. Many of them lost their lives to give us freedom.

We would not be here today celebrating our freedom were it not for France and Spain, both of which provided the American colonists with money, arms, ammunition and supplies. The French also gave us Lafayette and Rochambeau, who led French and American troops in the east coast areas. Spain gave us General Bernardo de Galvez, for whom Galveston, TX is named. Galvez quashed the British second front; removed the British from the Mississippi River; kept the supply lines open up the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers; and destroyed the British along the Gulf coast.

In celebrating our independence, we must also take a minute to thank all of those still living who have served our country, whether on active duty, or as reservists or as members of the National Guard.

Source: Address by Judge Edward F. Butler, Sr. (Former NSSAR President-General 2009-10) on July 4, 2011 at Fort Sam Houston Cemetery, San Antonio, TX