



# 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

Nov-Dec 2015



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Compatriots: Season's Greetings to you all! I hope everyone had a great and safe Christmas with family and friends.

As the year ends, so does my two terms as your Chapter President. I have really enjoyed the time and have met some of the best and truest friends that I have had the privilege to have ever been associated with! I set eight goals for the Chapter, when I was first elected and all were accomplished. I especially want to thank the Chapters Executive Council for supporting me and working as a team for the betterment of our Chapter. The Chapter, received many awards, both State and National and I expect to see that continue. **For Chapter Service Awards, see Pages 6 and 7.** As one final note, **on December 16th we conducted our election of Officers to 2016. They were elected by the members present by acclamation. See Page 6.**

We are going to welcome our State SAR President Larry Stevens and his First Lady Barbra and honor them at a Reception the evening of January 19, 2016. I encourage a big turnout and let President Stevens know what an outstanding President he has been. He will be our guest speaker at our January 20, 2016 Chapter Meeting and will install our new Officers for 2016.

I wish to publicly congratulate Compatriot Tom Small as our new Chapter President. I know with your support, he will be wonderful leader and do Great! In closing, I wish you and yours a Happy New Year!

*Respectfully, Robert Hancock*

## PRESIDENT RECOGNIZES LOCAL HEROES

At our Chapter Meeting on November 16th, President Hancock recognized a local family in presenting each of them the SAR Heroism Medal and Certificate.

Shown below are Shawn, Angela and son Tyler who put themselves at great risk to recover three children from a overturned and burning car on February 16, 2015 in the Boerne TX area. The Citation for the Award reads in part: "Mr Hudson acted with bravery when he observed that two girls ( age 8 and 3) were at the scene and had been thrown out of the vehicle. He asked for his wife to call 911 for help. Mr. Hudson quickly observed that an older girl (aged 14 year) was trapped inside the vehicle. Without concern for their own safety, Mr. Hudson and his son Tyler worked to rescue the girl from inside the car.

Moments later, Mr. Hudson focused on the 3 year old girl who was pinned beneath the front of the car. Mr. Hudson, his wife Angela and son Tyler tried to lift the car to remove the young girl from under the car. Unable to do so, Mr. Hudson ran to the highway to flag down another motorist to assist in rescuing the girl. Although the car was now on fire, the four rescuers, without hesitation or consideration for their own safety, miraculously lifted the vehicle to the extent that Angela was able to remove the girl from the danger to safety. Mr. Hudson, Angela and Tyler continued to give aid to the three girls until medical personnel arrived."

Shawn's reason for accepting the Heroism Award was to invite others to "not be afraid to help others when others are in need of help."



## SALUTE TO VETERANS ON VETERANS DAY

On November 11th, several members of the Chapter attended Veterans Day Events in our community.

- Compatriot Frank Rohrbough attended the Veterans Day Program at the Boerne Middle School where all veterans were publically recognized for their service to the country.
- Compatriot Gerald Ball attended the Veterans Day Commemoration at Veterans Park in Boerne. The Keynote Speaker was U.S. Representative Lamar Smith who introduced legislation in U.S. Congress to honor PFC Milton A. Lee, Medal of Honor Recipient. Public Law 114-49, enacted on August 7, 2015 specifies that "The segment of Interstate Route 10 between milepost 535

and milepost 545 at Kendall County, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "PFC Milton A. Lee Medal of Honor Memorial Highway". For more information about PFC Lee, go to: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milton\\_A.\\_Lee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milton_A._Lee).

- Compatriot Joe Ware attended an event at the Towers on Park Lane (formerly USAA Towers) where veterans of all services were recognized and thanked for their service. Speaker was Bruce Cowee who spoke on the Air War in Vietnam. Compatriot Dave Brooks attended a Veteran's Day Celebration at the Good Samaritan Center, in San Antonio on Tuesday, November 10, 2015.
- Former President-General Ed Butler was the Featured Speaker

at the Aue Elementary School (NISD) Veterans' Day Program. His granddaughter Kennedy Ivory (below) is student at Aue. Following the Program they led a parade of military parents & siblings thru the school.



## GUEST SPEAKER FOR NOVEMBER CHAPTER MEETING



At our November 16th Chapter Meeting, we were honored to have Chief Christopher Steele from the San Antonio Fire Department. He stated that "that every day the department responds to life-threatening events that requires the response of the Fire Department which frequently results in the saving of human lives." He noted that there were over 51 Fire Stations covering Bexar County and its residents. He spoke of the challenges facing the Fire Department to include arson investigation and the efforts taken to determine the cause of building fires. Following his presentation President Hancock presented Chief Steele the SAR Bronze Commendation Medal and

Certificate.

(Photo at Right) Chief Steele looks on as his men were presented the SAR Fire Safety Awards. Shown from Left to Right are: Chief Christopher Steele, Firefighter Omar Mercado, President Hancock, Captain Christopher Casals, Firefighter Christopher Fink and Firefighter Roland Castro. Continue on **Page 3**.



## PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS PRESENTED TO LOCAL OFFICERS



**(Photo Above)** President Hancock presents the SAR Emergency Medical Service Award to Fire Fighter Omar Mercado.

At the November 18th Chapter Meeting President Hancock presented Three Public Service Awards for Fire Safety, Emergency Medical Service and Heroism Award.

The first two Awards were given to Firefighters of the San Antonio Fire Department. Firefighter Omar E. Mercado was presented the SAR Emergency Medical Service Commendation Medal. The Citation reads:

“Fire Fighter Omar E. Mercado has contributed to the success of the San Antonio Fire Department. His knowledge and work ethic is a positive example to everyone he meets. Fire Fighter Mercado entered the San Antonio Fire Department on 1 October 2007. He has served the citizens of San Antonio as a firefighter in the Fire Suppression Division and is currently assigned to Engine 28A. Fire Fighter Mercado's dedication to duty and service is reflected in his daily actions. On 28 December 2014, Fire Fighter Mercado was initial triage and treatment for victims being removed from the third alarm structure fire at the Wedgewood Apartments. His training and responsive thinking allowed him to prevent death, minimize pain and ensure the safety of those victims he encountered.

Fire Fighter Mercado has brought strong service to the San Antonio Fire Department. His actions saved lives and provided for the welfare of those he treats, this reflects great credit on Himself, the San Antonio Fire Department and the Citizens of San Antonio.” For more Fire Safety Awards see below.



**(Above)** From Left to Right are Engineer Omar Mercado, Fireman Roland Castro, Captain Christopher Casals and Fireman Christopher Fink

**(Photo at Left)** Our second Public Safety Award recipient was the crew of Engine 28 A. The Citation to Accompany the Award reads: “Engine 28 A Shift has distinguished itself and the San Antonio Fire Department through the actions of Captain Christopher M. Casals, Acting Engineer Omar E. Mercado, Fire Fighter Roland G. Castro, and Fire Fighter Christopher M. Fink on 28 December 2014. The Crew of Engine 28A was the first San Antonio Fire Department apparatus on a mutual aid request by Castle Hills Fire Department at the Wedgewood Apartment Complex third alarm structure fire. Engine 28 arrived on the scene to find an 11 story geriatric apartment complex with multiple floors on fire and numerous residents in danger. Engine 28 entered the burning structure and assumed Lobby Sector Command of the structure housing approximately 120 geriatric residents. From the Lobby Engine 28 was able to oversee the extrication of victims from the above floors and initial medical care for residents. Fire Fighters Mercado, Castro and Fink provided the hands on care to both victims and firefighters allowing for safe entry and egress. They controlled the elevator and the alarm panel allowing for an organized and controlled effort. Their professionalism brought order to a chaotic situation allowing for a safe mitigation of the event. It is this commitment and dedication to Service and to Fire Safety that resonates from Engine 28A, Captain Casals and

those he leads. These actions reflect great credit on Himself, the Firemen serving on Engine 28, the San Antonio Fire Department and the Citizens of San Antonio.”

## JOINT SAR-DAR CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



**(Photo L to R Above)** Chapter Color Guard included President Bob Hancock, Commander Frank Rohrbough, Vice President-General South Central District Stephen Rohrbough and Past Chapter President Jack Cowan.



The Joint Meeting of the San Antonio de Bexar DAR and San Antonio SAR Chapters was held on December 5th at the San Antonio Country Club. Regent Sandra Barton was our hostess for the annual event and provided us with wonderful hospitality.

This year the Alamo Heights High School Choir provided our Holiday entertainment. The Choir is directed by Angus McLeod, a retired public school teacher. He believes everyone can sing and said in his 38 years of teaching he's never required any student to audition; every student has a spot in his choir.

While the sounds coming out of his classroom are beautiful, even more exquisite is Angus McLeod's approach as choir director. "Most people I know have graded programs where kids have to audition to get into certain groups. I never thought that was necessarily the way to do it. I feel whoever walks in my door, I'm supposed to teach. If some kids don't come with the same set of talents or gifts, I'm supposed to help them develop whatever gifts there are. That's what I thought a teacher does." He said: "I don't believe there are people who can't sing" and "Some have a very limited range. You have to take people where they are and help them move to where you'd like them to be." Our last ten years were sustained by some amazing Senior Classes who I believe can look back on such wonderful accomplishments as singing in *Carnegie Hall* under the direction of John Rutter, performing at *Disney World* and giving many beautiful performances right here in our own Alamo Heights community. For more information go to: [www.myteacherpages.com/webpages/AMcleod](http://www.myteacherpages.com/webpages/AMcleod)

**(Photo at Left)** The Choir received a standing ovation for their performance.



**(Photo at Left)** The Joint Meeting of the San Antonio de Bexar DAR and San Antonio SAR Chapters was held on December 6th at the San Antonio Country Club. Seated at the Head Table were Chapter President Bob Hancock and Vice President-General Stephen Rohrbough.

Others attending the Joint Meeting were are shown in the Photo from L to R Compatriot Larry Loop and his wife Marilyn, Compatriots Frank Rohrbough and his wife Diane, First Ladies Prissy Hancock and Marie Rohrbough, and Stacy Small, wife of President-Elect Tom Small. Others included Harry Long and his friend Sandra Koppel, Joe Ware and wife Anita, Jack Cowan and Max Strozier.

## FEATURED SPEAKER FOR DECEMBER MEETING



President Hancock was our Featured Speaker for our December 16th Chapter Meeting. His subject of his presentation was “Patriot in Purple—John Hancock”. His talk was information taken from the book - same title, by Hebert S Allen.

John Hancock was born on June 23, 1737 in Cambridge Mass. His father was also, a John Hancock and was a minister. It was interesting to note ,that there were at least eight generations of John Hancock's and they were all ministers until our Patriot. John was raised from his early teens to adulthood by his wealthy uncle, Adam Hancock in Boston. Adam was a import/export merchant. He taught John the tools of the trade and John also became immensely wealthy. He had his own dock and a large fleet of ships. He became known as "The Prince of Merchant".

John Hancock was one of our founding Fathers, who contributed a large portion of his wealth, to win our Independence. He is well known for being the first to sign the Declaration of Independence. In doing so, he said "John Bull (King George the third) will not need his Spectacles to read my name", for that, King George put a 400 pound bounty on Mr. Hancock - dead or captured! John Hancock was President of the Second Continental Congress when the Declaration of Independence was drafted and approved. He and its secretary, Charles Thompson, immediately signed the handwritten draft, which was sent to a nearby printer for printing. On July 19, Congress decided to produce a hand written copy with all the delegates signature. "Secretary Thompson assistant, Philadelphia Quaker and Merchant Timothy Matlock, penned the draft." The public was not made aware of who signed the Declaration of Independence, until January 18,1777.

John Hancock was elected the first Governor of Massachusetts. His goal was to be the President of the newly established United States but he died October 8, 1793 at the young age of 57, before he could realize his goal.

## FOUR NEW MEMBERS INDUCTED



(Photo Above) Participating in the Induction from Left to Right are Genealogist James Taylor, President Hancock, Compatriot Bertolett and his wife Barbara.

President Hancock inducted four new members to the Chapter—one at the November 18th Chapter Meeting and three more at the December 16th Chapter Meeting.

In November, President Hancock inducted Compatriot Craig Bertolett into the Texas Society and our Chapter.

Compatriot Bertolett is a retired US Army Colonel having served for 14 year Active Duty and 16 years in the Army Reserves. His area of service included Armor and Ordinance in Germany and Korea. He then served as an Intelligence Officer later in his Army career.

Compatriot Bertolett's Patriot Ancestor was Samuel Bertolett, a Huguenot who helped settle the Oley Valley, Berks County, Pennsylvania in the 1720s. Settlers were of people of different cultural backgrounds -- French, German, Swiss and English. The work ethic, the conservation ethic, the desire for independence and self-sufficiency -- all are deep-rooted here. As a

“Pacifist” Patriot Bertolett served in the Quartermaster at Valley Forge rendering medical care to the wounded and providing support services to George Washington's Army while in Winter Quarters. For more Inductions, go to Page 6.

## OFFICERS FOR 2016

The following Officers were elected by acclamation at the December 16th Chapter Meeting for 2016:

**President:** Thomas Small

**President-Elect:** David Brooks

**Recording Secretary:** Paul Reynolds

**Corresponding Secretary:** Frank Rohrbough

**Sergeant at Arms:** Frank Rohrbough

**Treasurer:** Jim Massingill

**Registrar:** Peter Baron

**Historian:** William Clanton

**Chaplain:** James Taylor

**Genealogists:** James Taylor

**NOTE:** They will be Inducted at the January 20th Chapter Meeting by TXSSAR President Larry Stevens.

## CHAPTER AWARDS FOR 2015

President Hancock noted in his "Message" on Page 1 the efforts that Chapter Officers and Committee Chairmen undertook to make this another very successful year.

Some "Highlights of the Year" include participation in the National "Salute to Veterans" held throughout the South Texas Veterans Health Care System during the week of February 9th, the George Washington Parade in Laredo on February 21st, history fairs at local elementary and middle schools, the Independence Day Program on July 3rd at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and our Joint DAR/SAR Christmas Luncheon on December 5th.

All of these activities support SAR's goal to educate local students and the public about the history and events of the American Revolution.

At our Chapter Meeting on December 16th, President Hancock presented Service Awards to Officers and Committee Chairman for their service to the Chapter throughout the year.

Members were presented the TXSSAR Chapter Service Medal and Certificate or an Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC) if they had previously received the Medal. For Awards, **go to Page 7.**

## INDUCTIONS (CONT'D)



(Photo at Left) At the December 16th Chapter Meeting President Hancock inducted three more new members. They were Compatriot Kevin Kanter and Curtis (father) and Zachary (son) Wubbena.

Compatriot Kanter's Patriot Ancestor was George Tribble. He was born in Caroline County, Virginia in the year 1757.

He entered the Army in 1776 and served in the Caroline District Battalion and was then absorbed into the Third Minute battalion where he served for nine months. He was then drafted into the Virginia Militia under Captain William Taliaferro.

He served seven tours at different times in the Virginia Militia serving at Port Royal, VA joined by Lafayette's army in Culpepper Country, VA and then marched to Charlottesville and Yorktown. At the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown on October, 19, 1781, Patriot Tribble's detachment reconnoitered the county of

Gloucester to prevent depredations of the enemy of the waters of the York and Rappahannock Rivers. He was in one engagement in Gloucester County with a skirmishing party where four prisoners were taken by his party.

In summary, Patriot Tribble served a total of nine months as a Minuteman and an additional five years as a Militiaman. Patriot Tribble died September 5, 1842.

Compatriots Wubbena's Patriot Ancestor was Jeremiah Meacham. Patriot Jeremiah Meacham served as a private in Connecticut under Captain Willis Clift, and Colonels John Durkee and Samuel Wylls. Compatriot Curtis Wubbena plans to visit the grave of Jeremiah Meacham in Burlington Old Presbyterian Churchyard near Burlington, New York during February of 2016 so he can develop his Patriot's Story further.

## CHAPTER AWARDS (CONT'D)

(Photos Below) President Hancock recognized Chapter members (shown Left to Right from Top to Bottom) for their service to the

Chapter during the past year. They are: VPG SCD Stephen Rohrbough - Awards and Decorations Chairman (7 OLC), Chaplain General James Taylor - Genealogist/Chaplain (5 OLC), Compatriots Tom Small - President-Elect, (Medal) Peter Baron - Registrar (OLC), Paul Reynolds - Recording Secretary (OLC), Jim Massingill - Treasurer (7 OLC), Joe Ware - Executive Committee (6 OLC), Jay Lewallen - Education Chairman (OLC), Bud Davenport - Veterans Programs (3 OLC), Jack Cowan—Veterans Programs (OLC), Harry Long - Executive Committee (7 OLC), Frank Rohrbough - Correspondence Secretary/Newsletter Editor (5 OLC), George Harcourt - Executive Committee (9 OLC) and David Brooks - Veterans Programs (Medal).



There were several Executive Committee Members who were not present but recognized. They were: Compatriots Schuylar Crist - Membership, Bill Clanton - Historian, Edward C. Snyder III - Chancellor, Max Strozier - Webmaster, and Bob Brady - Scouting Programs.

They will be presented their Awards at the January 20, 2016 Chapter Meeting.

## FLAG CERTIFICATES PRESENTED TO THREE MILITARY RETIREES FOR FLYING THE AMERICAN FLAG



(Shown L to R) Ron Powell, Debbie Miller, Janet and Joe Robinson (in wheel chair), Barbra and Merle Tidemann, Bob Hancock and Frank Rohrbough (Rev. War Uniforms).

On December 14th, President Bob Hancock presented three SAR Flag Certificates to three residents of Sonterra Community for flying the US Flag on a daily basis. They include: Colonel Merle (USAF, Ret) and Barbra Tidemann, Colonel Boots (USAF, Ret) and Debbie Miller and Colonel Joe (USA Ret) and Janet Robinson (USAR, Ret). The Citations read: ““The American Flag represents the original Thirteen Colonies and the Patriots of those Colonies who sought liberty and freedom from the King George III of Great Britain and his tyrannical rule. Since 1777, the flag has led our Armed Forces to victories in defense of the ideals of the American Revolution. As a

symbol of freedom and liberty, it well deserves the respect and honor accorded to it by our citizens today, as shown faithfully here by these honorees.

In recognition of their exemplary patriotism, the San Antonio Chapter, Texas Society Sons of the American

Revolution, takes great pleasure in presenting the National Society Sons of the American Revolution Certificate of Commendation and this Citation.” Compatriot Ron Powell, Flag Certificate Chairman, organized this Flag Ceremony Event.



## HONORARY MEMBERSHIP FOR SANDRA KOPPEL

(Photo at Left) President Hancock presented an Honorary Membership to Sandra Koppel, a friend of Compatriot Harry Long, for her longstanding support of our Chapter and loyal attendance at our Chapter Meetings and Special Events.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

**Chapter Executive Committee Meetings: Napa Flats** located at 1301 N Loop 1604 W (Access Rd) in the Vineyard Shopping Center, usually held on the 2nd Thursday each month at 11:30 A.M (Next Meetings are on **January 14th and February 11th.**)

**Chapter General Meeting:** Petroleum Club on 3rd Wednesday each month at 11:30 A.M to 1:00 P.M. (Next Meetings will be held on **January 20th and February 17th, respectively**)

### Special Events:

- **Operation Ancestry Research:** Next Training Sessions will be

scheduled on Mondays beginning in February at the Wounded Warrior Family Support Ctr., Ft. Sam Houston, TX; Session usually start at 1:00 P.M. (**All Members are invited to participate.**)

- **Reception for Texas SAR President Larry Stevens** and his lady Barbara on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at **Tre Trattoria Restaurant** located at 4003 Broadway, San Antonio, TX. **All members and guest are welcome — Dutch Treat.**
- **George Washington Parade in**

**Laredo, TX:** Saturday, February 2, 2016 at 9:00 AM (Participants must complete a Release Form). For more details, contact, Compatriot Frank Rohrbough at [frankr@gvtc.com](mailto:frankr@gvtc.com).

**For more information about what your Chapter is doing, go to our Chapter Webpage at:**

**[www.sarsat.org](http://www.sarsat.org)**