



THE SAN ANTONIO COMPATRIOT

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

Compatriot Larry Loop, President — Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, Editor

May-Jun 2017



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Compatriots: The Chapter has been very active the past two

months. At our May Executive Committee Meeting we implemented the President General's Mentor Program. On May 26th, 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 on the Tombstones of veterans who are buried at the National Cemetery at Ft. Sam Houston.

Because May is Law Enforcement Month for SAR, we sought a candidate from the San Antonio Police Department. This year, we recognized Detective Rafael Trinidad, twenty year veteran of the San Antonio Police Department, for his service. Sergeant Daniel Alonzo, Supervisor of the Robbery Task Force, was our guest speaker. (See Page 2). We also inducted three new members — Thomas O'Brien, Col. John Hale and Brian McEnery.

To continue our efforts to support joint activities with our DAR sisters, we presented the National Colors for the opening of the DAR San Antonio Area Regents Council {SAARC} Flag Day Luncheon. Reverend Taylor offered a prayer and I led the Preamble. The featured speaker was Andrew Carroll, Founding Director of the Center for American War Letters.

Compatriot Paul Reynolds continues to perform an outstanding job coordinating the JROTC events with the San Antonio Area High Schools and Universities. At the end of May our chapter completed (44) JROTC and ROTC presentations to deserving cadets. Thank you Paul, and all the members who participated in these presentations.

At our June Chapter Meeting, our Guest Speaker was Dennis Lafferty presenting the National Sojourner's "Build a Flag Presentation". Our own Bob McConnell and Sojourner assisted in the presentation. We recognized Matthew Brady, son of Compatriot Robert Brady, as our Eagle Scout Award winner for 2017. Robert accepted the Eagle Scout Award Certificate and a check for \$250 on behalf of his son Matthew. We inducted four new members — Richard Wright, Michael Neely, George Whittenburg, brother of our Treasurer Dustin Whittenburg, and Frank Russell. Compatriot Wright had a record number of family members (11) present for his induction; many potential members for SAR, DAR and CAR. These inductions bring our total new inductees for the year to ten. In addition, we have had two members transfer in from other chapters. We also have 70 prospective members in various stages of completing their application. Genealogist Reverend Taylor and Registrar Peter Baron have been very busy working with these prospective members.

On June 24th, our Color Guard participated in the Blue Skies Patriotic Parade at Air Force Village II near Castrovilla. Residents of this Retirement Community have served our country well during their military careers and use this event to celebrate the nations Independence Day early.

We have two Independence Day Events coming up in early July and I ask for those who live in the San Antonio area to participate in these events. Our biggest program is our Independence Day Celebration which will be held on July 3rd at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort at 10:00 A.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 be attending the event. I ask that if you can, please join us. Our second event is the Wreath Laying Ceremony conducted by the Granaderos de Galvez y Dames at San Antonio National Cemetery on July 4th. As your President, I will assist in placing our Chapter Wreath before the attendees and give the benediction. Our Color Guard will also be presenting the National Colors at the Fort Sam Houston Naturalization Ceremony on July 25. We will also be providing the Speaker to address the new military citizens.

As a reminder, there will be NO chapter meetings in July or August. We will continue to have our Executive Committee (Business) Meetings in August and September.

Have an enjoyable and safe summer; hope to see you at our next Chapter Meeting on September 20th at the Petroleum Club.

Compatriotly, *Larry Loop*



LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD

Each year our Chapter presents SAR's Law

Enforcement Award to a deserving Law Officer. Our Awardee for 2017 is Detective Rafael Trinidad, a twenty-year Veteran of the San Antonio Police Department.

(Photo at Right) Compatriot Peter Baron read the Citation to accompany the Award. It reads: "Detective Trinidad entered the San Antonio Police Department in cadet class 1997 Alpha. He has served in the Patrol Division, the Special Weapons and Tactics Unit (SWAT), and the Robbery Task Force.

During his years of service Detective Trinidad excelled as a SWAT officer and assisted in the apprehension of numerous high-risk offenders. His commitment earned him the recognition of his peers and his supervisors. His service as a robbery detective has led to the arrest of numerous repeat offenders.

Detective Trinidad is a pillar in the Community. He has been a member of the S.A. Law men's softball team for many years and uses his exposure to promote officers as positive role models for youth and members of the public. His mentorship and the camaraderie continue to show Law Enforcement as essential members of our Community.

Detective Trinidad saw further need for service and began a charity to assist in-need children. *Shields for Kids* was founded in 2016. Its motto is "Providing 10-11 for Kids in need." 10-11 is the radio call for needing backup or assistance. Detective Trinidad wants to see that no child is left behind and that all children see police as helpful and caring.



Detective Trinidad has exemplified a life of service. He is an Air Force Veteran having served in Desert Storm and Desert Shield. His dedication to God, his Community and his Family exhibits the traits of our Founding Fathers.

We recognize Detective Rafael Trinidad for this honor and commitment to duty; these actions reflect great credit on himself, his family, the San Antonio Police Department and the Citizens of San Antonio."

(Photo at Left) SGT Daniel Alonzo, Robbery Task Force Supervisor of the San Antonio Police Department, was our Guest Speaker. He witnessed the Award presentation to Detective Trinidad as noted above. In appreciation for his attendance, President Loop presented him a book entitled "American Heroes" by Edmund S. Morgan.



COLOR GUARD CELEBRATED AN EARLY INDEPENDENCE DAY EVENT

(Photo at Right) Our Chapter was invited to participate in the Blue Skies Parade at the Air Force Village II on Texas Hwy 90 West located between San Antonio and Castroville on June 24th. Our Color Guard lead the Parade which began at 9:00 A.M.

Our Color Guardsmen included (L to R) Compatriots Stephen Rohrbough, President Larry loop, James Taylor and Bob Hancock.

We were well received by patriotic residents who have served our country in uniform.



CHAPTER CELEBRATES MEMORIAL DAY WITH AREA SCOUTS

On May 26th our Chapter participated in the Opening Ceremony of the Area Council Scouts Annual Flag Placement Event at the National Cemetery at Ft. Sam Houston, TX. The event honors all veterans who have served our country throughout previous and current wars.

(Photo At Right) Chapter Members participating in the Event (from right to left) were: Chaplain James Taylor, Guardsman Bob Hancock, Texas Flag Bearer President Larry Loop, and US Flag Bearer and Color Guard Commander Frank Rohrbough. Former Chaplain-General NSSAR James Taylor gave the Invocation and Benediction.

Following the Opening Ceremony, San Antonio Area Scouts, to include Boys and Girls, were instructed to place small US Flags in front of over 100,000 Veterans' Grave Markers in the cemetery. The Flags were provided by the Veterans Administration.



SAN ANTONIO AREA REGENTS COUNCIL LUNCHEON

Responding to Madam President Judy Ostler's (Texas Society DAR) call for greater participation in public events, SAARC Regent Joy Collins invited our Chapter to join them at their June Luncheon to celebrate Flag Day. President Larry Loop agreed that our Chapter would provide the Color Guard and a Chaplain. Regent Collins noted that the Guest Speaker would be Mr. Andrew Carroll, the Founding Director of the Center for American War Letters.

Mr. Carroll is an exceptional speaker telling of his goal to collect 1 million original letters from service members serving in a combat zone of any American War from the American Revolution to current military action. He is seeking any writing from a member who described what he



or she was experiencing in the war zone in writings to their family back home. Mr. Carroll shared with the attendee several writings that were very revealing. For more information you can contact him at carroll@chapman.edu. If you have any "War Letters" and want to have them archived, you can send them to:

Center for American War Letters, P.O. Box 53250, Washington, D.C. 20009 (where Mr. Carroll resides).

(Photo at Left) Carroll spoke of one original document that was from a soldier written in 1775 about his experience during the American Revolution. Shown with Carroll are (L to R) Compatriots Frank Rohrbough, Larry Loop and Stephen Rohrbough.

SEVEN NEW MEMBERS INDUCTED

(Photo at Right) At the May 21st Chapter Meeting, President Loop inducted three new members into SAR. Shown from Left to Right) are Compatriots Brian Todd McEnery (a fireman for the San Antonio Fire Department), Thomas Paul O'Brien and Colonel John Hale (Active Duty, US Army).

Each compatriot provided a brief history of their Patriot Ancestor's service during the American Revolution.

- **Brian McEnery's** Patriot was Pvt. Samuel Howard who served in Virginia Militia, Buckingham CO, VA.
- **Thomas O'Brien's** Patriot was Roger Gregory who furnished beef for the Continental Army.
- **John Hale's** Patriot was Jacob Gardenhire, a Soldier in Virginia Militia.



(Photo at Left) At our June 21st Chapter Meeting. President Loop inducted 4 Compatriots into SAR. These included: Richard Wright, Frank Russell, George Whittenburg brother of our Treasurer Dustin Whittenburg, and Michael Neely. Each compatriot provided a brief history of their Patriot Ancestor's service during the American Revolution. Shown from Left to Right are:

- **Richard Wright's** Patriot was Pvt. Nathan Slawson/Slauson having served in Capt Theodore Crane 4th Regiment, Westchester Co. Militia New York. Compatriot Wright had a record number of family members (11) present for his induction; many potential members for SAR, DAR and CAR.
 - **Frank Russell's** Patriot was Lt. Henry Ware, in SC Militia Justice of the Peace/Member of the Constitutional Convention from GA/Member of First GA Assembly.
 - **George Whittenburg's** Patriot was Lewis Holloway, Sgt. 2nd Regiment Georgia Continental Line under Col. Samuel Elbert.
 - **Michael Neely's** Patriot was Pvt. Jacob Neely serving in company commanded by Captain Douglas, regiment commanded by Col. Moore in North Carolina.
- These inductions bring our total number of new inductees for the year to ten.

SOJOURNERS PRESENTS "BUILD A FLAG PROGRAM"

CSM Dennis Lafferty (USA, Ret) was our Guest Speaker at the June 21st Chapter Meeting. He presented the National Sojourner's "Build a Flag Program". Assisting him in the presentation were Compatriot Colonel James (Bob) McConnell (USAF, Ret), Lt Col John Lorch (USAF, Ret) and HON Lee Leopard.

The Heroes of '76 is a sub element of the National Sojourners, Inc. It is composed of Masons who have served in the military services or have been selected as Honorary membership due to their Masonic services. They put on Flag Programs for any organization which would like to have a program. The motto is "Proudly Serving the Cause of Patriotism". They have several different Flag Programs that they perform. The one given to the SAR was "Building the Flag". They started with a platform which represented the "Government" and upon that platform developed the "United States Flag" as it currently is today, providing a narrative with each stripe and star.



MEMORIAL FOR RANDOLPH C. KIRSH III

The following Memorial Remarks were prepared by John McCammon, Lt Commander, TX DIV ATM Sons of the Confederate Veterans:

“Rudy was a member of the SCV for 25 years having joined in 1992. He faithfully honored his Confederate heritage with a strong commitment to service and as an example Confederate to all who knew him.

He taught Confederate Heritage to his Scout Troops as a Scout Master for 30 yrs. Rudy was active in the Alamo City Guards as a long time Adjutant to that camp. **(Photo at Right)** He served as President of the Confederate Cemetery Association and was responsible for resurrecting it after years of neglect. Rudy laid out the current arrangement of "The Strangers Plot" in that cemetery, thus giving dignity to those men who could not afford markers.

Generous in every portion of his life, Rudy donated time, money, and equipment to the Confederate Cemetery in San Antonio. Many years Rudy worked at the cemetery on his own and spent countless hours returning that ground to the wonderful cemetery it is today.

He was also a family man with sons in the SCV: Rudy IV, Stewart, Trevor, and Grandson Rudy V. He is currently 'expecting' great grandson Rudy VI who will also become an SCV member when he arrives later this year.

An avid reenactor and benefactor to: SALHA, 6th Texas, Co K, and Arrow Head Chapter WWII. Rudy used this format for also teaching children about history and sponsored many "In Class" living history programs on the War Between the States. He generously donated funds for many local reenactments and organized those events for the benefit of both children and adults.”

Compatriot Rudy was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, San Antonio Chapter. He and his son Stewart were inducted into SAR on November 16, 2005. Services for his funeral were held on Saturday, July 1st at Porter Loring Funeral Home.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

Summer Recess: No Chapter Meetings will be held in July or August.

Next Chapter Executive Committee Meetings: Egg & I located at 9985 IH-10W (Colonnade) on Spectrum One St., August 10th and September 14th at 11:30 A.M.

Next Chapter Meeting: September 20st at 11:30 AM at the Petroleum Club.

Operation Ancestry Research: Training Sessions will be announced as they are scheduled. Wounded Warrior

Family Support Ctr., Ft. Sam Houston, TX; **(All Members are invited to participate.)** (Peter Baron) **Independence Day Events:**

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

Assemble at 9:15 AM. **127th National Society SAR Congress Knoxville, TN, July 7-13, 2017, Late Registration Fees Began on June 15th.** (All members are encouraged to attend this Annual Event) For details, go to <http://www.sar.org>.

For more information about our chapter activities, go to:

SASAR Chapter Website:
<http://www.sarsat.org>