



THE SAN ANTONIO COMPATRIOT

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

Compatriot Dustin Whittenburg, President — Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, Editor

Sep-Oct 2019



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Compatriots: I hope you had an enjoyable summer that included some travel and family gatherings. We have a very active program

this Fall and hope you will be able to join us for our Chapter Meeting and Special Events. For more details on coming activities and events, see **Page 5**.

At our September Chapter Meeting on September 18th, I welcomed Vice President Texas Society District #3 Al Gibson and asked him to make a few remarks about the Texas Society and its upcoming Annual Meeting in Arlington, Texas in October. Following his remarks I was pleased to introduce our speaker Mr. Kevin Klaus, from the Texas General Land Office. He spoke on the "Spanish Land Grants" of Texas.

I was pleased to induct five new members into SAR and our Chapter. These inductees are noted on **Page 4**. Further, special recognition was also given to several of our Chapter members. Compatriot John Baines was given SAR's "War Service Medal" for his Navy Service during the Vietnam War. Additionally, the Chapter was awarded the National Society's "USS Stark Memorial Award" (based on chapter size (100-199 members)) at the 129th Annual Congress on July 6-10 in Costa Mesa, Orange County, California. The Award was presented to members of our Veterans Committee as seen on **Page 5**. Of special note, I recognized Chaplain James Taylor for his return to our chapter meetings. Chaplain Taylor has had a long period of health issues stemming from a fall about a year ago.

With October being SAR's Annual Public Safety Awards Month, Compatriot Peter Baron took the lead on this special Awards Program and worked with the San Antonio Fire Department to select deserving members for our Fire Safety and Emergency Medical Service Awards. This year 2 individuals were recognized for their extraordinary service and 9 firefighters were recognized for their heroic services to the San Antonio community. We welcomed their family members during this Public Service Awards Luncheon. For more details, see **Pages 3 and 4**. Of special note, Compatriot Baron received the SAR's Liberty Medal (6th Oak Leaf Cluster) by the National Society at the 12th Congress in July. Members are eligible to receive this Medal for being a "first line" sponsor for 10 new members.

Finally, based on the Executive Committee's decision at our March 14, 2019 Meeting, the Chapter Meetings for November and December have been moved ahead one week to **November 13th and December 11th**. Remember to make your reservations to attend our Chapter Meetings by Noon on the Monday before these Meetings. If you are not on the Standing Reservations List, please make your reservation with our Treasurer Kevin Kanter at reservations@sarsat.org.

Respectfully, *Dustin Whittenburg*

CHAPTER'S GALA BANQUET

The Chapter's Annual Gala Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2020 at the Petroleum Club at 6:00 P.M. Our Keynote Speaker will be Monty Monroe, Texas State Historian; his topic will be "Preserving Texas History." The primary purpose for conducting this event 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 and celebrate the event with the Texas Daughters of the American Revolution.

A Chapter News Release will be sent out in December and early January reminding you to make your Reservations!

Save the Date!
San Antonio SAR
Chapter GALA

Saturday
January 18, 2020
@ 6:00 PM
Petroleum Club

SEPTEMBER CHAPTER MEETING



(Photo at Left) Our speaker for our September 18th, was Mr. Kevin Klaus, from the Texas General Land Office; he spoke on the “Spanish Land Grants” of Texas. Mr. Klaus has a background in Anthropology, Archaeology, and Public History from the University of New Mexico, and currently working towards becoming a certified genealogist. For the last 14 years he has served as one of the lead researchers in the Texas General Land Office Archives and Records Program Area. During his time at the Land Office he has searched the early Court of Claims files, German Collection and archival collection to learn more about the history of Texas and discover the amazing collection of personal letters of early soldiers and pioneers who helped settle our great state. Following the Spanish crown’s first land grant in Texas in 1716, large tracts of property were bequeathed along the San Antonio River valley by the 1750s. During the mid-18th century, private land was documented, surveyed, and

divided into *porciones*, or long thin strips of land, by a Spanish royal commission in southern Texas, while tracts of land in North Texas were informally granted to settlers. After the Spanish crown opened Texas to foreigners in 1820, Stephen F. Austin signed a contract under President Agustín de Iturbide’s colonization law in order to draw settlers from Louisiana. Despite Iturbide’s fall from power in 1823, Austin managed to secure his agreement under the new Mexican government. Other colonists, or *empresarios*, also negotiated contracts in an effort to draw more families to the region in exchange for enforcing Mexican law in their settlements. Women were also granted land under certain circumstances, such as the wealthy and widowed.

After the Texas Revolution, Spanish and Mexican land grants were honored while the new government issued headright grants - conditional grants with explicit requirements. In 1845, the Pre-emption Act passed, giving current settlers the advantage of purchasing up to 320 acres of land, though this was overruled by the Homestead Act of 1854 which restricted the amount of land to 160 acres. During the Reconstruction era, veterans of the revolution and the disabled Confederate soldiers were granted large tracts of land. In addition to colonists, land was bequeathed to companies and other entities for the construction of public works and infrastructure.

Source: "Land Grants." Handbook of Texas Online at <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/mp101>.

(Photo at Right) President Whittenburg thanked Mr. Klaus for his informative and historical presentation.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR TEXAS SAR DISTRICT #3 VISITS CHAPTER

Compatriot Al Gibson, Vice President Texas SAR District #3 and Member of the Hill Country SAR Chapter in Kerrville, brought greetings from Texas President David. Gibson gave a brief overview of President Temple’s goals for the Texas Society noting that “Membership will be a focus this year for membership enables our chapters to touch lives around the state. To keep it simple with membership remember the three R’s – Recruitment, Retention, and Reinstatement. Recruit new members. We have to continue to recruit to grow our membership and we’ve been pretty good at it adding over 300 new members in 2018.”

Gibson invited our members to attend the Texas Society State Meeting that will be held in Arlington, TX on October 5-7, 2019. Thank you Al for coming to our September Meeting and addressing our members.



PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

The San Antonio Chapter of the Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution recognized eleven of San Antonio's finest First Responders at its Public Service Awards Luncheon on October 16, 2019. KENS 5 covered the presentation during our meeting on their 5 p.m. Newscast.

President Whittenburg presented the Public Service Awards to each member of the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) with SAR's Public Service Medals and Certificates. At this year's luncheon, 2 individuals were recognized for their extraordinary service to the San Antonio community as noted on **Page 4**. Nine Firefighters were recognized for their service. We

welcomed their family members who attended this Public Service Awards Luncheon.

(Photo Right from Top Down) Two Engine Crews were also recognized for their extraordinary public service as noted in the Citation below for their SAR Fire Safety Awards. Engine Crew is #54 includes Engineer Bradley Garza, FF Joshua Torres, FF Cliff Peterson and FF Manuel Munzo.

(Photo Left from Top Down) Engine Crew is #30 includes Engineer Kim Nolan, FF Lauren Steinhauser, FF Jeremiah Schoenert and Lt. Jason Randall. Not shown is FF Kyasha Horne who was unable to attend the event and will receive her Award at another time.

While each awardee received their own Citation to accompany their Awards, only one Citation was read for all. Citation reads: "On 13 September 2019 a call went out for a structure fire on Wild Oak, on the city's East Side. Engine 54 commanded by Acting Lieutenant Bradley Garza and Engine 30 commanded by Acting Lieutenant Kim Nolan responded. Engine 54 was first on scene and Lt. Garza reported fire and smoke on the Alpha side. An interior attack was ordered. Residents then advised of a victim trapped inside the fire. E54 and E30 Crews made an aggressive attack and initiated rescue of the trapped victim. The victim was located in a smoke filled room and ventilation was initiated. The engineers removed burglar bars creating access. The interior crews extricated the victim out of the single story bedroom window while fire suppression was underway. The efficiency and decisive actions, under hostile conditions, allowed for nearly complete mitigation of the rescue and extinguishment prior to the arrival of additional units. This commitment and dedication to

Service and to Fire Safety resonates from the Crews of Engine 30 and Engine 54. These actions reflect great credit on themselves, the San Antonio Fire Department and the Citizens of San Antonio. Recognized this 16th Day of October 2019 by the San Antonio Chapter, of the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution."

(Cont'd on Page 4)



PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS (CONT'D)



(Photo Left) President Whittenburg presented the National Society SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal to

Lt. Kyle Staffel. Lt. Staffel entered the San Antonio Fire Department in 2007. He has served the citizens of San Antonio for 12 years in the Fire Suppression and Emergency Medical Services Divisions. He is currently in charge of Engine 54.

Lt. Staffel is committed to training and improving the service provided by his crew. This training shows in the level of expertise and discipline visible in the actions of those he leads. His demeanor and skill is an example that allows his crew to function without direct supervision and secure the desired outcome in a safe and efficient manner.

(Photo at Right) President Whittenburg presented the National Society SAR Emergency Medical Service Medal to Engineer Kristina Dean for her extraordinary service. Engineer Kristina Dean entered the San Antonio Fire Department in July 2006. She has served the citizens of San Antonio for 13 years in the Fire Suppression and Emergency Medical Services Divisions. She is currently a field Paramedic on Medic 22 and a specialist with Texas A&M Task Force 1. Engineer Dean's commitment to safety and training is exemplified in her bedside manner and exemplary patient care. She recently recognized and treated a patient with an aortic aneurism, going above and beyond to ensure that the patient received the necessary care. As a member of Texas Task Force she travels to wherever the need is greatest. She made a 4000-mile trip this summer through the Southeast States.



INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS



On September 18, 2019 at Chapter Meeting, President Whittenburg inducted five new members. **(Photo from Left to Right)** New members are Arnulfo Alvarado, Jason Chall, Frederick Gleeson, Cecil Jones and Roy Johnston.



Compatriot Alvarado's Patriot Ancestor is Private James McMechen who enlisted in Captain William Harrod's Company in the Virginia Militia on January 2, 1777 and served in the Upper Ohio River Region. Compatriot Chall's Patriot Ancestor is Jacob Piatt (Pveatt), a Captain in service with Virginia Colonel George Rogers Clark, 1777. Compatriot Gleeson's Patriot Ancestor is Major John Fairbanks Jr. who initially served as a Private in Service at Valley Forge and rose to the rank of Major in Colonel Cushing's Regiment. Compatriot Jones's Patriot Ancestor is Freeman Jones who served as a Pvt in the North Carolina Militia under Colonels Hampton and Armstrong. Compatriot Johnson's Patriot Ancestor is Sgt. Lewis Holloway who served in the 2nd Regiment Georgia Continental Line under Colonel Samuel Elbert.

OTHER AWARDS PRESENTED



At the September Chapter Meeting, President Whittenburg more Awards to members. **(Photo at Far Left)** Compatriot John Baines was presented the SAR War Service Medal for his Naval Service during the Vietnam War. **(Center Photo)** Compatriot Lee Morris received his Supplemental Membership Application Certificate having proved his lineage to Patriot Ancestor Nathaniel Gallup.

(Photo at Right)



President Whittenburg recognized members of the Chapter Veterans Committee upon the Chapter being Awarded the National Society's "USS Stark Memorial Award" (based on chapter size (100-199 members)). Shown are David Brooks, Bud Davenport and Frank Rohrbough.

CONGRESS AUTHORIZES YORKTOWN VICTORY MONUMENT

On October 29, 1781, the Continental Congress authorizes the Yorktown Victory Monument at York, Virginia, to remember the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and the British army, news of which had just reached the Congress in Philadelphia. The monument was not even begun for 100 years and was started during the centennial celebration of the victory in 1881.

Congress' original resolution to erect the monument reads as follows: "That the United States in Congress assembled, will cause to be erected at York, in Virginia, a marble column, adorned with emblems of the alliance between the United States and his Most Christian Majesty; and inscribed with a succinct narrative of the surrender of earl Cornwallis to his excellency General Washington, Commander in Chief of the combined forces of America and France; to his excellency the Count de Rochambeau, commanding the auxiliary troops of his most Christian Majesty in America, and his excellency the Count de Grasse, commanding in chief the naval army of France in the Chesapeake."

Notice the emphasis on French involvement during the war. If it hadn't been for French cooperation, the war likely would have been lost, a fact not known by many Americans. The Yorktown Victory Monument was finished in 1884. The main pillar is 84 feet tall and the statue of the Lady Victory is 14 feet on top of that. The statue was replaced in 1956 after the original was damaged by lightning. Today the monument can be found on the southeast end of Main Street in Yorktown, Virginia.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

Next Executive Committee: Wednesday, November 8, 2019, 3:00 P.M., **New Location** - Office of President Whittenburg at 3511 Broadway, San Antonio, TX

November and December General Membership Meetings: Wednesday, November 13th and December 11th, 11:30 A.M., The Petroleum Club (7th Floor), San Antonio, TX.

US Military Veterans Association Parade - Saturday, November 9, 2019 at San Antonio, TX, Assembly Point is Section C, at 10:30 A.M. Parade starts at noon.

Joint DAR-SAR Holiday Luncheon: Saturday, December 7, 2019, San Antonio Country Club, Social begins at 11:00 A.M. Meeting begins at 11:30 A.M. Reservations are required and must be made via the San Antonio de Bexar DAR NLT

December 2nd.

Annual Chapter Gala: Saturday, January 18, 2019, Petroleum Club (7th Floor), 6:00 PM. (See Page 1 for more details.)

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

<http://www.sarsat.org>