



THE SAN ANTONIO COMPATRIOT

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

Compatriot George Whittenburg, President - Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, Editor | Nov-Dec 2020

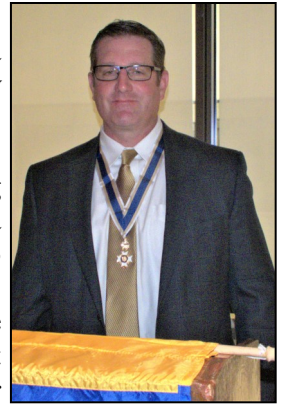


PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Compatriots: Season's Greetings to you all. Shelbi and I hope that each of you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year's celebration with your family. As my year as President comes to an end on January 21, 2021, I thank the many members who have helped to make my time as President extremely rewarding despite the COVID Pandemic restrictions that we all experienced. I really enjoyed working with all members who have actively served our Chapter in some way, whether as a Chapter Officer, Committee Chairman or Committee Member. I sincerely want to thank you for your service. For Chapter Service Awards go to **Page 5**.

We had a challenging year. The Chapter received many awards from both State and National Societies of SAR this year many from the great work done by Past President Dustin Whittenburg in 2019. I expect to see some additional Chapter Awards next year based on your efforts this year.

Once again, I regret that the COVID Restrictions precluded us from conducting our many events, such as School History Fairs, the Hyatt Hill Country Resort Independence Day Program on the Revolutionary War and Colonial History, Color Guard events and supporting our Veterans at the Audie Murphy South Texas Medical Center and our Annual Gala in January 2021. However, we were happy to join the San Antonio de Bexar DAR Chapter at the Annual Christmas Luncheon. That event is noted on **Page 3**. And, we had several of our members participate in the placement of wreaths at the headstones at the San Antonio National Cemetery on December 17th. (See **Page 4**). At the Chapter Meeting in December we conducted our annual election of Officers for 2021; the slate of candidates led by Compatriot Kevin Kanter for President was elected by acclamation. (See **Page 5**). My best wishes to our new Officers, I feel secure in the knowledge that our organization will be in good hands for the coming year. As a final thought I am saddened by the passing of Compatriot Henry Garcia. His obituary is provided on **Page 5**. In closing, I wish all Chapter members a healthy, happy and prosperous 2021; it has been an honor to serve you as your President. Respectfully, *George Whittenburg*.



DONATIONS TO SERVE VETERANS AT AUDIE MURPHY VETERANS MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER

Because of the Coronavirus (COVID -19), all Veteran Service Organizations have cancelled their services to the VA Volunteer Services Office (VAVS) at the Audie Murphy Veterans Memorial Medical Center in San Antonio. As a reminder our Chapter provides a two-person team to operate the Popcorn Concession each Friday where we receive donations for each bag of popcorn we "sell". These donations average about \$600 per month. These monies go into a Veterans Service Account that supports the personal needs of hospitalized veterans and all other veterans who receive health care services in the South Texas Regional Health Care System.

Because of the loss of these revenues since March, several of our chapter members have made voluntarily donations to the VAVS so they can continue meeting the needs of these patients. To date, over \$1920.00 has been donated. To continue these donations, chapter members are invited to make voluntary donations until our Popcorn Concession can be reactivated – possibly in the Fall. Any amount will help – maybe \$50 or more. State that your "donation be credited to the Sons of the American Revolution, San Antonio Chapter No. 4. Make the check payable to **GPF 7021** and put in the memo section of your check "Popcorn Fund, SAR, San Antonio Chapter." Send your donation to: **Voluntary Services, Audie Murphy VA Hospital, Attn: Scott Traeger, 7400 Merton Minter Blvd., San Antonio, TX 78221**. Thank you for supporting our Veterans Programs.

OUR GUEST SPEAKER FOR OUR NOVEMBER CHAPTER MEETING WAS MS CANDACE LANDRUM



(Photo at Left) Joseph S Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest: Our Contest Winner Candace Landrum attended our Virtual November Chapter Meeting where she thanked the Chapter for her award and our support during the Contest. She concluded by re-playing her video presentation as a National Contestant.

As stated in the March - April Chapter Newsletter we noted that Candace Landrum from East Central High School had advanced to the Texas Society State Oration Contest. Because the State Meeting was moved from April to July 30th — August 2nd due to the coronavirus pandemic, the State Contest was conducted via a video presentations. In early May, Landrum was selected as the Texas Society Oration Contest Winner. Accordingly, she was to compete in the National Society Oration Contest during the Annual Congress in Richmond, VA in July. However, with the coronavirus pandemic still affecting many communities across the nation, President General Jack Manning announced on May 25th that the Annual Congress in July has been cancelled. Landrum, along with other State Orations Contest Winners, competed via a video presentation. Compatriots Larry Loop, Kevin Kanter and Dustin Whittenburg assisted Landrum in “video tapping” her presentation on June 12th. Her video presentation was sent to the NSSAR Oration Contest Committee for judging in July. Ms. Landrum was sent her Certificate of Appreciation and \$500 honorarium in March. We are so very proud of Candace and her accomplishments. We are so very pleased that we had the privilege of being her sponsor for the NSSAR Oration Contest. While she did not win the National Contest, she was eager to attend our November Chapter Meeting so she could express her appreciation in person. She is currently a student at Tarleton State University in Stephenville Texas.

FLAG CERTIFICATE PRESENTATIONS

Certificates this year. **(Photo at Far Right)** The first Certificate was presented to Marine Colonel (Retired) Tony White on November 11th. Colonel White served as an infantry officer and then transitioned to an intelligence officer. His last job was the Marine G2 in Japan when the tsunami hit and the reactor melted down. He gave a presentation on revolutionary Marines to our chapter a couple



of years ago. **(Photo at Left)** A second Certificate was presented to Air Force Colonel (Retire) Darrell Wagner on November 11th. Colonel Wagner served as a comptroller/finance officer. His last job was at the Pentagon in Washington D.C. serving at Hq. US Air Force. Following his retirement from the USAF he served at the Bexar County Sheriff Department as a comptroller. **(Not Shown)** A third Certificate was presented on September 12th to Steve McBride. He is a very patriotic citizen. He is currently an executive with Wells Fargo and flies an American flag in front of his house everyday.

(Photo at Right) A fourth Certificate was presented by Compatriot Ron Powell, our Flag Presentation Chairman, to Air Force Widow Sue Kopplin on November 17th in memory of her husband Major William Kopplin who flew the famed SR71 Reconnaissance Aircraft. The flag she flies at her home was given to her at her husband's funeral.

President George Whittenburg presented three Flag



ANNUAL JOINT DAR-SAR CHRISTMAN LUNCHEON



Eleven members of our Chapter attended the Annual Joint DAR-SAR Christmas Luncheon hosted by the San Antonio de Bexar DAR Chapter at the San Antonio Country Club on Saturday, December 5th. President George Whittenburg and his wife Shelbi joined five of our compatriots who served as Color Guardsmen for the posting and retiring of the Colors. Those attending were James Massingill and his wife Judy, Kevin Kanter and his wife Jean, Frank Rohrbough and his wife Diane, Stephen Rohrbough and his wife Marie, Robert Watson and his wife Cindy, Kenneth McAnear, Frank Kebelman, Paul Reynolds and Max Strozier. **(Photo at Left)** Shown from left to right are Commander Frank Rohrbough, Kevin Kanter (Guardsman

of the United States Flag), Stephen Rohrbough (Flag Bearer of the United States Flag), Paul Reynolds (Flag Bearer of the Texas Flag) and our newest Guardsman Frank Kebelman (Guardsman of the Texas Flag).

Regent Karen McCloskey welcomed all members and their guests. She was a gracious host recognizing President Whittenburg and our Chapter Color Guard. Of special note was the tribute that was given to Miss Mary Eleanor Brackenridge, the 1st Regent and Founding Member of the San Antonio de Bexar Chapter!

(Photo at Right) Shown from left to right are Past Regent Peggy Jared, Regent Karen McCloskey, most recent Past Regent Lauren Walthour, Past Regent Sandy Burton (now current Treasurer). The Chapter celebrated its 118th Anniversary of the founding of the Chapter having been organized on December 11, 1902.

Past Regent Peggy Jared gave a sterling overview of the many accomplishments of Miss Brackenridge who contributed in many ways to the growth of San Antonio.

The Tribute in part reads: "Miss Brackenridge was a staunch supporter of education—especially for women. She even delayed moving to Texas with her parents to

graduate in 1855 from Anderson's Female College in Indiana at the age of 17. Upon arriving in Texas, Miss Brackenridge ministered to family and friends and even studied medicine in order to serve her new area which had much sickness but few physicians. Miss Brackenridge became a highly visible and influential leader in an educational movement which coincided with "the wonderful awakening of women to sense their responsibilities" during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. She personally provided the financial means for many women to receive higher educations, including those which emphasized medicine. A 1905 article published in the DAR's *American Monthly Magazine* stated that, while under the leadership of Miss Brackenridge, the San Antonio de Bexar Chapter donated to the San Antonio Industrial School for African American Girls, thus promoting DAR's support of and dedication to Education. In her zeal to provide more opportunities for women, Miss Brackenridge was instrumental in establishing the State College of Industrial Arts for Women in Denton, Texas, now known as Texas Women's University. Under her leadership, the San Antonio de Bexar Chapter also provided financial support to that institution. Miss Brackenridge and two others were the first women to serve on a board of regents at an institution of higher education in Texas. TWU, as it is often called, still honors Miss Brackenridge's contributions with the Student Union Building being named in her honor. Today, we thank Miss Mary Eleanor Brackenridge for her immense contributions to education."



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA (WAA) EVENT HELD AT SAN ANTONIO NATIONAL CEMETERY



Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2,100 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad. Throughout the year WAA works in a number of ways to show veterans and their families that we will not forget — we will never forget — those who have served.

(Photo at Left) The host organization for this event was the **San Antonio Young Marines**

which is a local youth education and service program for boys and girls, ages 8 through completion of high school. **(Photo at Right)** Wreaths were placed upright on the ground between the Flags of the Color Guard for each of the seven Uniformed Services during the opening Ceremony.

The Young Marines promote the mental, moral, and physical development of its members. The program focuses on character building, leadership, and promotes a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. The Young Marines strongly support the U.S Marine Corps' Youth Drug Demand Reduction efforts.



Our Chapter joined with the Daughters of the Union Veterans of the Civil (DUVCW) War to order 23 Wreaths this year for placement at the historic San Antonio National Cemetery and the Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery. A total of 2331 wreaths were placed at the grave-stones in the San Antonio National Cemetery this year.

(Photo at Left) Participants from our Chapter shown from left to right are Larry Loop, Jason Bourgeois and Frank Rohrbough.

(Photo Right) Compatriot Bourgeois placed wreaths to honor of several veterans by stating aloud their names and service.



(Photo at Far Right) Compatriot Frank Rohrbough and his wife Diane, a member of the George Kendall Chapter DAR, honored several other veterans by stating aloud the name of the veteran and their military service. They also purchased 5 wreaths that were placed at the Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery the preceding day to honor fellow Medical Service Corps Officers with whom he served in the US Air Force and who had passed in recent years.

Additionally, Compatriot Kevin Kanter joined the Green Valley Boys Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in a similar wreath laying event at the Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery. He purchased three WAA Wreaths placing them on veterans graves .



2021 OFFICERS

The following Officers were elected by acclamation at the December 17th Chapter Meeting:

President: Kevin Kanter
1st Vice President: Ellert (Dick) Weitzel
2nd Vice President: Jason Bourgeois
Recording Secretary: Michael Bowles
Corresponding Secretary: Frank Rohrbough
Sergeant at Arms: Frank Rohrbough
Treasurer: Jerry Collins
Registrar: Peter Baron
Historian: Larry Loop
Chaplain: Paul Reynolds
Genealogists: James Taylor
Chancellor: Edward Snyder

NOTE: Officers will be Inducted by **Texas SAR President Drake Peddie** at the Chapter Meeting (Virtual) on January 21, 2021.

CHAPTER SERVICE AWARDS

President George Whittenburg thanked Chapter members for their service to the Chapter during the past year. Awards were given at our December 17, 2020 at the Chapter Meeting.

SAR Meritorious Service Medal: (2)
 Henry A. Garcia, Jr., December 17, 2020 – Medal
 Max B. Strozier, Dec 17, 2020 - Medal
SAR Roger Sherman Medal for Service as an Officer (2 yrs), Cmte Ch. (3 yrs), or Cmte Member (4 yrs) (2)
 Michael D. Bowles, December 17, 2020 – Medal
 Ellert Richard Weitzel, December 17, 2020 - Medal
TXSSAR Chapter Service Medal and Certificate (14)
 Kenneth W. McAnear, Dec 17 2020 – Medal
 Roy H Leonard, Jr., December 17, 2020 – 2nd Oak Leaf (OL) Cluster
 Dustin S. Whittenburg, Dec 17, 2020 – 3rd OL Cluster
 Kevin L. Kanter, Dec 17, 2020 - 3rd OL Cluster
 Larry L. Loop, Dec 17, 2020 – 4th OL Cluster
 Paul K. Reynolds, Dec 17, 2020 – 4th OL Cluster
 Robert N. Hancock, December 17, 2020 – 6th OL Cluster
 George Ronald Powell, December 17, 2120 – 6th OL Cluster
 Edward C. Snyder III, Dec 17, 2020 – 6th OL Cluster
 Peter T. Baron, Jr., Dec 17, 2020 – 8th OL Cluster
 James C. Taylor, Dec 17, 2020 - 8th OL Cluster
 Frank G. Rohrbough, Dec 17, 2020 – 8th OL Cluster
 Stephen W. Rohrbough, Dec 17, 2020 – 10th OL Cluster
 George W. Harcourt, Dec 17, 2020 – 12th OL Cluster

PASSING OF COMPATRIOT HENRY GARCIA, JR.

HENRY GARCIA

April 27, 1938 -
 December 14, 2020



Henry Andrew Garcia, Jr. joined the Lord on December 14, 2020 in San Antonio, Texas. He was born in 1938 in Refugio, Texas to Henry Andrew Garcia, Sr. and Mary Cisneros. Henry was preceded in death by his son, Henry “Hank” Garcia. He is survived by his beloved wife of 62 years, Betty Vogel Garcia; daughter, Lawna D. Swellander (Stephen); son, Greg Garcia (Melissa); sisters, Sara Valenzuela and Theresa Garcia; brother, Basil Garcia; seven grandchildren - Sarah, Dylan, Kendrick, Michael, Brian, Alexandria, and Emily; and four great-grandchildren - Corrine, Collin, Cason, and Harlynn. Henry was a wonderful son, brother, husband, father, Opa/Grand Opa, and Patriot. A dedicated Kelly AFB teammate, successful business/food entrepreneur, committed community volunteer, proud Sons of the American Revolution life member, involved Canary Island descendant, active Los Bexarenos Genealogical and Historical Society member, a world-class softball pitcher and coach, and an accomplished speaker, writer, and reporter. “Living on Love, Borrowing on Time” was Henry and Betty’s song. Henry had a presence larger than life, and will be greatly missed.

A private Graveside Service is planned. Everyone is invited to sign the online guestbook at www.missionparks.com in the Tributes section.

Note: On November 1, 2014 Henry was inducted as a member of the San Antonio Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution. Henry was a Life Member and served admirably as Chairman of the Membership Committee constantly working to keep members in an “Active Status” and in good standing in the Texas Society and National Society. He was awarded the SAR Meritorious Medal and Certificate posthumously on December 17, 2020. He will be dearly missed.

PRELIMINARY TREATY OF PARIS IS SIGNED

On this day in history, November 30, 1782, the preliminary Treaty of Paris is signed, bringing the hostilities of the American

Revolution to a close. The British government became more disposed to achieving peace with the Americans after the surrender of General Charles Lord Cornwallis and the loss of several of its possessions to France and Spain.

The United States was prevented from dealing directly with Great Britain due to its alliance with France, having promised that it would not negotiate with Britain without them. Nonetheless, messages were exchanged between Ben Franklin in Paris and Prime Minister, Lord Shelburne's peace commissioner in Paris, Richard Oswald, seeking common ground on which a preliminary peace could be formed.

The United States demanded full recognition by Britain as a sovereign nation, removal of British troops from its territory and fishing rights off Newfoundland. At first, Britain wanted the United States to remain as British possessions, but with greater autonomy. This was rejected by Ben Franklin, who wanted all of Canada for the United States as part of the deal. Britain rejected this proposal.

The negotiations continued in secret and John Jay and John Adams joined Franklin. Due to the exposure of some secret meetings between Britain and France and to his distrust of the French, John Jay, began negotiating directly with the British, against the wishes of Franklin and unbeknownst to France. Formal talks began in September and the remaining difficulties were ironed out over the next two months.

Two days after America's 4th peace commissioner, Henry Laurens, arrived, a preliminary agreement was signed on November 30, 1782, which recognized the United States and established its boundaries, roughly being from the Mississippi to the Atlantic and from the Great Lakes to Florida. The preliminary Treaty of Paris also granted the US the right to fish off Newfoundland and granted both Britain and the US the right to use the Mississippi River.

Congress was to "earnestly recommend" to the states that they refund any property taken from Loyalists during the war and creditors on both sides were given full rights to recover all debts. Prisoners were to be released on both sides and all American property was to be left undamaged by British troops when they left.

The preliminary Treaty of Paris was ratified by Parliament on January 20, 1783 and by Congress on April 15. A ceasefire was declared by Britain on February 4 and by America on April 11th. The final official Treaty of Paris was signed by the commissioners on September 3, 1783, ratified by Congress on January 14, 1784 and by Great Britain on April 9, 1784. The ratified documents were exchanged once and for all in Paris on May 12, 1784, bringing the American Revolution to an end.

<http://www.revolutionary-war-and-beyond.com>

(Note: Based on this historical vignette our Chapter Historian Larry Loop gave a presentation about Treaty and noted the boundary of the new nation at the December 17th Chapter Zoom Meeting.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

The Annual Chapter Gala, January 23, 2021. CANCELLED due to the COVID Pandemic: May be rescheduled if Restrictions are lifted.

Texas Society of SAR 126th Annual Conference: April 14-18, 2021 at the Hyatt Hotel in Richardson, TX; Registration Form and Hotel Reservation Information is on the TXS-SAR Website at www.txssar.org. (Frank Rohrbough)

Next Chapter Executive Committee Meetings: January 13th and February 10, 2021, La Fonda Mexican Restaurant, Alamo Heights (Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday each month 11:30 A.M.)

Chapter Meetings: January 21st and February 17, 2021 will be held Virtually (**Tentative**); at 5:00 P.M. A News Release will be sent out before the Zoom Meeting with instructions how to Join the Meet-

ing. (Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month.)

For more information, please go to our Chapter Website at:
www.sarsat.org.