



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 Jul-Aug 2020



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Compatriots: There has been very little activity since our last Newsletter because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We continue to take the appropriate steps to keep our chapter active in the community and protecting public health. Again, we have had to cancel our July-August Chapter Meetings but hope that we can return to In-Person Meetings in the Fall when restrictions may be relaxed. We are exploring ways to hold meetings in the event restrictions are not relaxed. These include the use of video conferencing and/or alternate locations that will allow meetings in the numbers we require. We will resume holding our Chapter Meetings on the third Wednesday of the month when restrictions allow. We resumed our Executive Committee Meetings at the La Fonda Mexican Restaurant in Alamo Heights starting in July. Meetings will continue to be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

One of the most important events of our year is to honor our First Responders. While Compatriot Peter Baron has continued to work with his contacts at the San Antonio Fire Department on the selection of our Award recipients, we will not be able to honor them until a Fall Chapter Meeting.

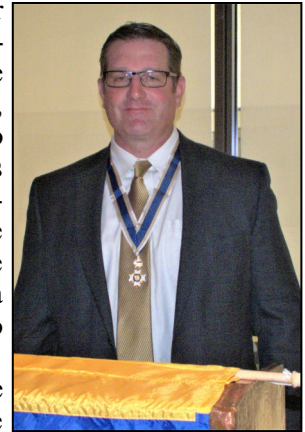
The Texas Society conducted its Annual Meeting via Zoom beginning with Committee Meetings on Friday, August 7th. General Sessions for registered members were held on the evening of August 7th and morning and afternoon on August 8th and the Board of Managers Session later that afternoon. Our chapter received 7 Awards for our work in support of the goals and objectives of the National Society. (See Page 2). An update on our Orator Contestant Winner Candace Landrum is also provided on Page 2.

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Battle of Medina Memorial Event this year was conducted as an abbreviated event. On Saturday morning, August 22, 2020 Texas Society President, General Society War of 1812, John Thompson conducted a memorial ceremony in remembrance of the Battle of Medina that was fought on August 18, 1813. Two of our Chapter Color Guardsmen participated in this event. (See Page 3 for more details).

Further, we need to continue supporting the VA Hospital Popcorn Fund to cover lost revenues. Several chapter members have sent contributions and the Executive Committee approved the Veteran's Committee donation of \$200 from their budget. I encourage you to make a contribution as noted below.

For details about our coming events, see page 3 or go to our Chapter Website at <http://www.sarsat.org>.

I thank all of you for your patience and flexibility during these times. Stay healthy and remain in touch with each other. I look forward to seeing you all at the next chapter meeting.



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 \$1,200 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.



(Photo at Left) Joseph S Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest Results: As stated in the March - April Chapter Newsletter Candace Landrum from East Central High School 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, competed 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 had 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. As our Chapter Winner Landrum was sent her Certificate of Appreciation and \$500 honorarium in March. As the Texas Society Winner she received a check for \$2,500. We and the Texas Society SAR are so very pleased that we had the privilege of being her sponsor for the NSSAR Oration Contest. Landrum competed well against the 12 contestants, but did not place among the finalist. We hope to have Landrum present her oration at a Chapter Meeting this Fall.

CHAPTER RECEIVES AWARDS FROM ANNUAL TEXAS SOCIETY CONFERENCE

Because of the sustained work of chapter members under the able leadership of Past President Dustin Whittenburg during his term of service 2019, the 2019 State Awards shown below well state our chapter fulfilling the goals and objectives of our Chapter, the Texas Society and the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

- **The Texas SAR Americanism Awards—Gp. 4 (100 + Members)** Awarded to a chapter that develops an exceptional program to recognize patriotic activities of the youth of the state, supports institutions and adults that promote patriotic education, recognizes observance of national holidays, and recognizes outstanding citizenship during the past year. **San Antonio Chapter #4.** (Repeat Winner from Last Year)
- **Texas SAR Outstanding Chapter Award for Chapters—Gp. 4 (100-+ Members)** Awarded to Chapters that excelled in all programs, activities, and outreach to non-SAR institutions and groups as reflected in the 12 sections of the Chapter Annual Report. **San Antonio Chapter #4.** (Repeat Winner from Last Year)
- **The John Bruce Stuart Jr. Memorial Award—Gp. 4 (100-+ Members)** Awarded to the Chapter that best meets the criteria based on Veterans activities in the past year. **San Antonio Chapter #4**
- **The Ross Shipman Awards Gp. 3 (100 + Members)** Selected by the Newsletter Committee. Best Newsletters published during the past year. **San Antonio #4 Honorable Mention**
- **Texas SAR Flag Presentation Awards:** Given to Chapters having recognized an Individual, Company, or Organization for the proper display, maintenance, and care for flying the Flag of the United States during the past year. White Star presented as a Repeat Winner from last year. **San Antonio Chapter #4.**
- **The Adrian Drouilhet Award:** Awarded to the Chapter with the most new members under 50 years of age. **San Antonio Chapter #4** (19 new members)
- **The James M. Looney Elementary School Poster Contest Award:** This contest was developed to help stimulate interest in American History in support of the Texas School Fifth (5th) Grade Curriculum. The Posters are judged on artistic merit, creativity used to express the annual theme, originality of presentation, and show evidence of research done by the student. **San Antonio Chapter #4, 3rd Place Award.** (Emily Yunn, Hardy Oaks Elementary School, Supporting Teacher was Catherine Baker.)

TEXAS SOCIETY CONDUCTS MEMORIAL CEREMONY AT BATTLE OF MEDINA SITE

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, this year's Program precluded many of the Historical Organizations and Societies from participating in this memorial event. Accordingly, an abbreviated event was led by Texas Society President, General Society War of 1812, John Kenton Thompson where a memorial ceremony was held on Saturday morning, August 22, 2020 in remembrance of the Battle Of Medina on August 18, 1813.

According to writings of Judge Robert H. Thonhoff, author, historian and former Karnes County Judge the Battle of Medina was fought between approximately 1,800 men in the Royal Spanish Army and approximately 1,400 men in the Republican Army of the North, which included about 400 Spaniards, 400 Tejanos, 200 Native Americans, about 400 men from the Eastern States of the newly established United States of America. In fact only 5 men have been identified who previously fought in the American Revolution were involved in some way in the Gutierrez-Magee Expedition. Only Peter Sides has been proven to have fought in both the American Revolution and also fought and died in the Battle of Medina.

Further direct descendants of Peter Sides are eligible for membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), and the Sons of the Republic of Texas (SRT). Descendants directly related to any of the 3,200 men who fought in this battle on either side are eligible for membership in the SRT.

Over the past 20 years the SAR, DAR, SRT, Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT), Mayflower Society, the Daughters of the War of 1812, and descendants of the men who fought here have dedicated



markers to the men who fought and died in this battle and have participate in the Memorial Ceremonies closest to August 13th.

(Photo at Left) Shown from left to right are President GSW of 1812 John Thompson, Compatriots' Frank Rohrbough and Jason Bourgeois from the San Antonio Chapter, and Texas SAR Color Guard Southern Command Commander Blair Rudy from the William Hightower Chapter.

Also attending was Compatriot David Hamaker from the Freedom Chapter, a 6th generation descendant of Revolutionary War Patriot Peter Sides who died at this Battle.. He was inducted to SAR recently. This was his first visit to the Battle of Medina Site.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

Annual Independence Day Programs: July 3, 2020, Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort, 10:00 A.M. **(Cancelled)**

Texas Society of SAR 125th Annual Conference: Rescheduled to July 30 — August 2, 2020 and conducted as a Virtual Meeting.

Next Chapter Executive Committee Meetings: September 9, 2020 and October 14, 2020, La Fonda Mexican Restaurant, Alamo Heights (Meetings are held the 2nd Wednes-

day each month 11:30 A.M.)

Chapter Meetings: September 16 and October 21, 2020 (Tentative); Petroleum Club (7th Floor), 11:30 A.M. Reservations are required via reservations@sarsat.org. (Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month.)

Poteet Strawberry Festival and Parade: Saturday, November 2, 2020; Invited to Participate with Boerne SAR Chapter; Assemble at 9:00 AM and Ride in the "Boat

Float"; Parade begins at 10:00 AM. **(All Are Welcomed)**

Annual Pioneer Ball: November 7, 2020 at La Villita, **Color Guard Assemble** at 6:00 PM **(Cancelled)**

For more information, please go to our Chapter Website at:

www.sarsat.org