



THE SAN ANTONIO COMPATRIOT

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

Compatriot George Whittenburg, President — Compatriot Frank Rohrbough,

Mar-Apr 2020



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Compatriots: We have been living under extraordinary conditions under the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic since late January. As a result, we have been directed to “shelter in place” to mitigate this disease. During this time of uncertainty and sacrifice we are taking steps to maintain as much normalcy as possible in our chapter functions while making adjustments necessary to protect the welfare of our members and the community. We have, unfortunately had to cancel our March and April Chapter Meetings. However, We conducted our Executive Committee Meetings for March and April via telecommunications; we will continue doing so until the crisis has passed and La Fonda Mexican Restaurant in Alamo Heights is available.

I have already rescheduled the March and April Chapter Meetings for July and August. One of the most important events of our year is to honor our First Responders at our May Chapter Meeting, tentatively scheduled for May 20th. While Compatriot Peter Baron will coordinate the selection of our Award recipients, we may not be able to host them until a later date.

Compatriot Larry Loop has done an outstanding job of managing the youth education programs which you can read on **page 2**. In addition, we have sought to maintain the VA Hospital Popcorn Fund through donations of individual chapter members until we can start selling popcorn again. Thank you to all who donated. For more details, see the item below.

We hope that we can resume holding our Chapter Meetings at the Petroleum Club on the third Wednesday of the month when it reopens. Until then it is of paramount importance to stay healthy and stay in contact with each other. I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

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



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. 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 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 for approximately 4 months or more, several of our chapter members have made voluntarily donations to the VAVS so they can continue meeting the needs of these patients. All chapter members are invited to make voluntary donations too until our Popcorn Concession can be reactivated – possibly in June. Any amount will help – maybe \$10 to \$20. Our News Release dated April 13th at 12:10 P.M. provided a suggested letter for you to send to VAVS addressed to **Voluntary Services, Audie Murphy VA Hospital, Attn: Scott Traeger, 7400 Merton Minter Blvd., San Antonio, TX 78221**. Thank you for supporting our Chapter initiative to support Veterans Programs.

CHAPTER YOUTH CONTEST AWARDS



Joseph S Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest: At our February Chapter Meeting, President George Whittenburg announced our Chapter Winners of our first ever SAR Oration Contest and the Stella Knight Essay Contest.

(Photo at Left) As noted in the Jan-Feb 2020 Chapter Newsletter, our Chapter Oration Contest Winner is Candace Landrum from East Central High School. Landrum advanced to Texas Society Regional Contest and won that contest thus earning a place at the Texas Society State Oration. However, with the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, the State Meeting has been rescheduled for July 30 to August 2nd.

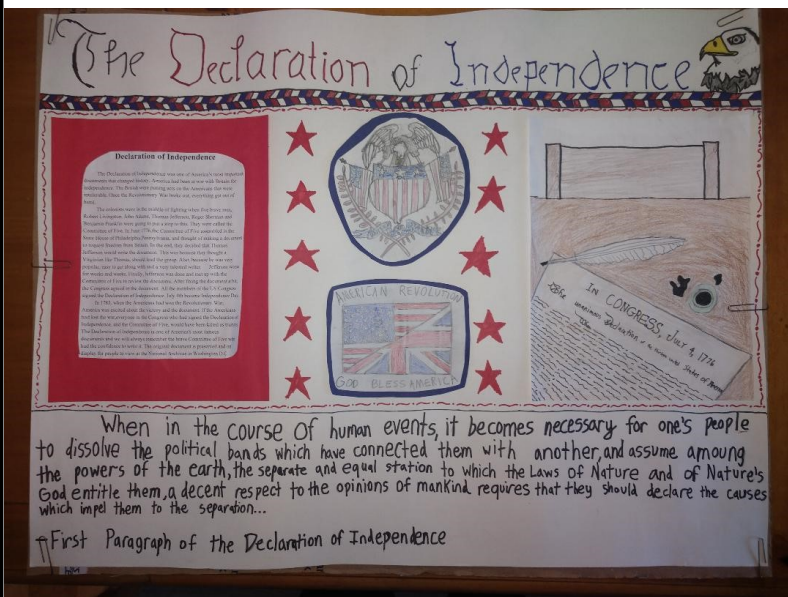
In order to complete the State Oration in time to submit a Texas Winner to the National Contest, the regional winners individually performed their oration in a video conference with Mark Harrison, our State Chairman. Landrum completed her state presentation on April 17th.

Landrum was presented her Certificate of Appreciation and \$500 honorarium via mailed to assure she has the funds before she begins her college education. She acknowledged receipt of her Award on April 23rd noting “I received your letter today containing my award and my certificate. I would like to thank you so much for all that you have done. It has truly been an honor to meet you and your wife,

Mr. Kanter, Mr. Harrison and your colleges. You are all such wonderful and humble people and truly demonstrate what it means to believe in the next generation and for that I am so thankful. I hope you all have a lovely time getting to spend this quality time with your loved one.”

Stella Knight Essay Contest: Our Chapter also conducted its Essay Contest in late February. Our winner is Whitney Stewart from Sandra Day O'Connor High School. Her topic was the “Effect of Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense* on the framing of the United State Constitution.” Her essay was forwarded to the Texas SAR State Contest which occurred in late March. Her Certificate and \$500 honorarium was mailed to her to assure she has her funds before she begins college in the fall. Our second place winner was Ethan Apawan from Louis D. Brandeis High School. His topic was “Money in the Nation”. His certificate and \$100 honorarium has been mailed to him.

The documents prepared for the Youth Contests will be posted on the Chapter Website at SARSAT.com.



American History Poster Contest: Our Chapter SAR American History Poster Contest was held in February. Although over 75 posters were prepared by the students from Hardy Oaks Elementary School, we had the teachers select the top 25 posters for our Contest. Members of the Executive Committee judged the posters during the Meeting on February 12th.

The top 3 Posters selected were:

• 1st Place — Dhakshin Thinnati P. (\$50 Honorarium)

(See Photo at Left)

• 2nd Place — Jana Morris (\$35 Honorarium)

• 3rd Place — Elana Xu (\$25 Honorarium)

Dhakshin’s theme for his poster was “The Declaration of Independence”. As our 1st Place winner his poster was sent to the Texas Society State Chairman to compete in the Texas Society State Poster Contest. Again, because of the coronavirus pandemic, this Contest was re-

scheduled for judging later in the Spring.

The 2nd Place Poster prepared by Jana Morris focused on the “Battle of Yorktown” while the 3rd Place Poster prepared by Elana Xu selected the “Battles at Lexington and Concord” as their themes of an event during the American Revolution for this year’s American History Poster Contest.

A PATRIOT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION REMEMBERED

Declaration of Independence signer Benjamin Harrison dies!

On this day in history, April 24, 1791, Declaration of Independence signer Benjamin Harrison dies. Harrison was from a politically prominent family of planters from Charles City County, Virginia. His family dated back to the earliest English settlement of Virginia. He was related by blood or marriage to several other Revolutionary War heroes, including Martha Washington, Thomas Nelson and Peyton Randolph, and was a business partner of Robert Morris, who was known as the "Financier of the Revolution."

Harrison attended William and Mary College, but never graduated. At the age of 19, his father and two sisters were killed in a freak lightning strike and Benjamin left school to take over his father's business at Berkeley Plantation, which also included a ship building business and breeding horses.

Harrison was first elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1749 and he served there for the next 25 years. He was elected to the First Continental Congress when the Revolution broke out and shared rooms in Philadelphia with his friend, George Washington. Harrison's jovial personality had a way of reducing tension and he was thus often chosen to serve as the "Chairman of the Whole" in Congress, meaning he would guide the debates about tough topics.

Harrison served in this position during debates about the Articles of Association, which was Congress' boycott of British goods, during the debate about whether or not to declare a declaration of independence from Great Britain and during the discussions on the actual language of the Declaration of Independence itself. Harrison was one of Virginia's seven signers of the Declaration.

Harrison served on several important committees in Congress and helped create the Board of War, the Navy and the Committee of Secret Correspondence. He also served simultaneously as a lieutenant in the militia of his home county and as a judge. In 1781, Harrison and his family were forced to flee when the traitor Benedict Arnold, now working for the British, invaded Virginia near Harrison's Berkeley Plantation. Arnold pillaged Berkeley and burned many of the family's valuables, including family portraits, the reason why no contemporary portrait of Harrison exists except for a small miniature carried by one of the family members.

After the war, Harrison continued in the Virginia Assembly and as governor from 1781 to 1784. He also served in the Virginia Constitutional Ratification Convention where he was a strong advocate for the inclusion of a Bill of Rights.

Perhaps Benjamin Harrison's greatest legacy was his progeny. His son William Henry Harrison would famously defeat the Shawnee leader Tecumseh at the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811, become a general in the War of 1812 and be elected the 9th President of the United States. In addition, William Henry's grandson and Benjamin Harrison's great-grandson, also Benjamin Harrison, would be a Civil War Union general and would be elected the 23rd President of the United States.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

Texas Society of SAR 125th Annual Conference: July 30—August 2, 2020 at The Westin Hotel at the Woodlands, TX; Registration Form and Hotel Reservation Information is on the TXSSAR Website at www.txssar.org. (Frank Rohrbough)

Annual Pioneer Ball: November 7, 2020 at La Villita, **Color Guard Assemble** at 6:00 PM; Opening Ceremony begins at 7:00 PM. Present the Colors. (Frank Rohrbough)

Next Chapter Executive Committee Meetings: May 13, 2020, most likely a virtual meeting via the Internet, (Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday each month 11:30 A.M.)

Chapter Meetings: May 20th (tentative); June 17th, July 15th, and August 19, 2020; 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)**

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

www.sarsat.org