



THE SAN ANTONIO COMPATRIOT

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

Compatriot Kevin Kanter, President — Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, Editor

Mar-Apr 2021



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Compatriots: I'm reminded of the song from the musical; "Annie" - "The sun will come out tomorrow". It appears that for our purposes, the Pandemic *may* be behind us and we will be able to return to business as usual. The 126th Annual TXSSAR Convention via Zoom was held on April 16 -17, 2021 during which our chapter received many awards and recognitions as shown on **Page 2**. We are especially proud of Compatriot Frank Kebelman who was awarded the SAR Service to Veteran's Medal.



We are looking for volunteers to participate in Patriot Grave Marking ceremonies beginning soon. This activity is an excellent way to honor our patriots and compatriots that have passed. This does not require that you attend in uniform and is open to everyone. Frank Kebelman has prepared an excellent program and I encourage anyone interested in participating to contact him (kebelman@gmail.com).

Our Membership Committee Chair, Bob Watson is still looking for volunteers for our Mentor Program. This program is meant to make our new and potential members feel welcome and become informed of the multiple activities that we are involved in. Please consider taking a new or potential member "under your wing". We all recall what it was like to attend our first chapter meeting and feeling like a fish out of water until we had someone reach out and make us feel welcomed.

We are still looking for someone to take on the Chair of our Publicity Committee. If you have an "in" with local media in any form (television, radio, print media) please consider helping us get the word out about our Chapter and SAR.

TXSSAR is also encouraging us to recognize members of the public for their dedication to flying our US Flag. If you are aware of an individual or business that consistently and appropriately flies the flag, contact Ron Powell (grpowell@flash.net) to see that we present them with a Flag Certificate.

We also ask everyone to be on the lookout for nominees for the SAR Heroism Medal. We do a great job of recognizing our First Responders for their contributions in keeping us safe, but there are heroes among us that step forward in a time of need and selflessly place themselves in harm's way for their fellow man. If you are aware of someone that has risked their personal safety to help someone in need, please share that information.

I'm especially pleased to report that we will be returning to in-person meetings beginning with our General Membership Meeting on May 19th @ 11:30 A.M. at the Petroleum Club.

We are resurrecting our Standing Membership List for those that attend our monthly meetings. I encourage everyone that wants to be on the standing list to send an email to txsarch4reservations@gmail.com. Your name will be entered on the list and you won't have to reserve your space every month for the monthly meeting. If you are unable to attend, you must send an email stating that you will not be attending. If an email stating that you are not attending is not received, you will be charged for the meal.

Finally, I encourage everyone to visit our **new website** at <https://www.txssar.org/SanAntonio/>.

Respectfully, *Kevin Kanter*

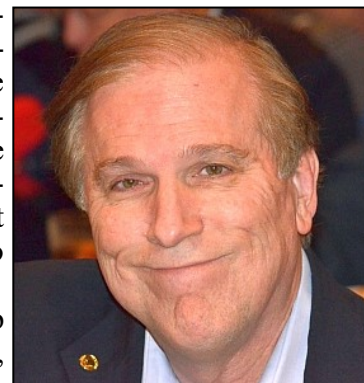
DONATIONS TO SERVE VETERANS AT AUDIE MURPHY VETERANS MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER

Because of the Coronavirus Pandemic, 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 had provided a two-person team to operate the Popcorn Concession each Friday where we receive donations for each bag of popcorn we "sell".

Because of the loss of these revenues for the past year, several of our chapter members have made donations to the VAVS so they can continue to meet the needs of hospitalized patients. All chapter members are invited to make donations until our Popcorn Concession can be reactivated – possibly in the Fall. 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.**

CHAPTER WINS STATE AWARDS

The Texas Society conducted its 126th Annual Convention as a Virtual Meeting on April 16-17, 2021 with over 100 members attending the General Sessions. During these proceedings President Drake Peddie acknowledged the work of the State Officers and Committee Chairmen for their work and diligence under trying circumstances due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Despite many restrictions Chapters and State Committees conducted virtual meetings to achieve the National and State Society goals and objectives this past year. Below are the State Awards that were presented to the San Antonio Chapter.



Because of the sustained work of chapter members under the able leadership of Past President George Whittenburg during his term of service last year, we fulfilled many of the goals and objectives of our Chapter, the Texas Society and the National Society Sons 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 (200 + 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 (101+ Members):** Awarded to the Chapter that best meets the criteria based on Veterans activities in the past year. **San Antonio Chapter #4**
- **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.**
- **Colonel M. Hill Patriot Fund Award:** For total contributions to the Fund that exceeds the total of the previous year. **San Antonio Chapter #4.**
- **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. **State Awards will be announced following the May 15th Contest.**
- **George S. and Stella Knight Essay Scholarship Contest:** Anastasia Royal Priest* from Great Hearts Northern Oaks High School was awarded 2nd Place. She received a \$750 Scholarship.
- **Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration Contest:** Lucy Garrison* from Earl Warren High School was awarded 4th Place. She received a \$300 Scholarship. Hailey Soupiset*, our second place chapter winner and granddaughter of Compatriot Fred Soupiset, took 3rd place in the state oration contest and was awarded a \$500 Scholarship.

* Their Chapter Awards are covered in the January-February 2021 Chapter Newsletter.

Notably, the **John Bruce Stuart Jr. Memorial Award** was achieved through the great support of our Chapter Members who provided extraordinary support to veterans at the Audie Murphy Memorial Medical Center. We tripled our monetary donations over last year to the VA Veteran Service Office to meet the needs of hospitalized veterans and by the service of Compatriot Frank Keblman on the Memorial Services Detachment at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery. For more details, see **Page 3.**

COMPATRIOT FRANK KEBELMAN RECEIVES SAR's "SERVICE TO VETERANS" MEDAL



As a Rifleman with the **San Antonio Memorial Services Detachment** at the National Cemetery Fort Sam Houston, Texas Lt. Colonel Kebelman, USMC (Retired) provided 294 volunteer hours (2940 Stark Points) of service to the Audie Murphy Memorial Medical Center and attended 251 (5020 Stark Points) service members' funerals during the year 2020.

This service is documented in the San Antonio Chapter's USS Stark Report for the 2020 Reporting Year. Accordingly, Compatriot Kebelman earned 7960 USS Stark Points qualifying him for the National Society Sons of the American Revolution Service to Veterans Medal.

Usually, it takes a member several years to accumulate 5000 Stark Points. By Compatriot Kebelman's participation in the Memorial Services Detachment on a weekly basis, he accrued enough points in one year to receive the National Society SAR Service to Veterans Medal in rapid time.

Members of the San Antonio Chapter are pleased that Texas Society President Drake Peddie would recognize this extraordinary achievement by presenting this Award during the Second Session of General Assembly at the Texas Society Annual Congress on April 17, 2021. We are grateful that so many Texas Society members could witness Compatriot Kebelman's valued service to veterans from all branches of the Armed Services.

TXSSAR COLOR COMMANDER CALLS FOR COLOR GUARD RALLY

Commander Blair Rudy called for color guardsmen from across Texas to attend a Rally at Veterans Memorial Plaza in Wimberley, TX on April 10th at 11:00

A.M. The primary purpose of this special event was to bring TXSSAR Color Guardsmen together to video tape the Raising and Retirement of the National Colors which would be shown at the 126th Annual Meeting of the Texas Society - a Virtual Meeting - on April 16-17, 2021. Thirty four members participated in this two and a half hour event. Of course there were several "walk through" practices for the 15 musket detail and the 19 flag bearers before the video taping began. Although a beautiful spring day the winds were blowing 20 to 25 miles an hour making it a challenge to carry and hold the flags.

Attendees from the San Antonio Chapter were Former Texas Society President Stephen Rohrbough, Former Texas SAR Color Guard Commander Frank Rohrbough, Compatriot Jason Bourgeois (Musket Detail) and Compatriot Frank Kebelman (US Flag Detail). Bourgeois gave demonstrations for members of the Musket Detail for loading and firing their weapons on the commands of the Musket Detail Commander. Kebelman gave a demonstration on the proper folding of the flag upon retirement of the National Colors. It was a wonderful event that brought about greater comradery among the State Color Guardsmen.



APRIL CHAPTER MEETING GUEST SPEAKER ADDRESSES “HONOR FLIGHTS FOR VETERANS”



April 2011 Guest Speaker, Jeanne Slupik, Honor Flight San Antonio, Former Board Member and Veteran Guardian “A nation that does not honor its heroes will not long endure.” Abraham Lincoln

I am thankful to have been an Honor Flight Guardian for four Veterans: my father who served in WWII, the Korean War and during the Vietnam War; a Korean War Veteran; and two Vietnam War Veterans. **(Photos Right)**

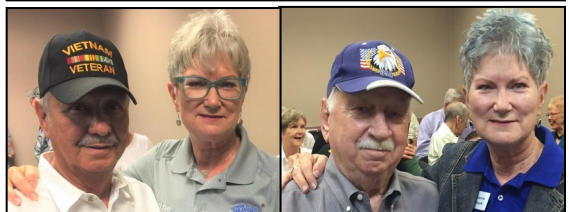
What Is The Honor Flight Program? Many veterans are unable to undertake a trip to Washington D.C. on their own. We honor them by providing this opportunity to visit their memorials at no cost to the veterans. The flight, deluxe tour bus service, hotel, meals and other amenities are provided FREE to the veterans. We also provide trained volunteer guardians to accompany the veterans on the aircraft and at the memorials.

The National Honor Flight network has safely transported tens of thousands of veterans from all across the US. Priority is given to WWII veterans, any veteran with a terminal illness, the Cold War, Korean War veterans, and Vietnam veterans. Honor Flight San Antonio also provides wheelchairs and trained medical personnel.

How Do We Do It? We do it with a strong volunteer force. We respect the branch and service of every veteran and stop at every memorial that is representative of our veterans. This trip is all about their sacrifices and their service. **(Photos Right)**

All Honor Flight Volunteers are exactly that: unpaid volunteers - from the guardians, to the Board of Directors, to the Staff, our medics and our favorite - the send off and homecoming ceremony participants. If you, or a son or daughter, or grandson or granddaughter are interested in being a guardian - be prepared. Guardians are responsible for everything when with a veteran. We carry all the backpacks, keep the schedules, push the wheelchairs everywhere and basically never leave the veterans alone until they retire for the night. A veteran pays for nothing, carries nothing and must remain with a guardian.

How May You Help? Even though flights are on hold for now, we must be prepared to gear up when we get the all clear. That means a solid list of available guardians, funds, staff, and veterans! To contact us please visit our website at www.honorflightsanantonio.org or Honor Flight San Antonio, 14080 Nacogdoches Road, San Antonio, TX 78247.



THIS DAY IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

George Washington Welcomed by the Citizens of Trenton.

On this day in history, April 21, 1789, George Washington is welcomed by the citizens of Trenton, New Jersey at the Assunpink Creek Bridge as he travels to New York to be inaugurated president. The bridge was the site of Washington's victory over the British known as the Second Battle of Trenton or the Battle of Assunpink Creek during the American Revolution.

After a devastating defeat and the loss of Long Island and Manhattan to the British in the fall of 1776, George Washington had led the Continental Army in retreat across New Jersey and into Pennsylvania. The Army entrenched on the western side of the Delaware River, but the British were unable to cross because Washington had commandeered all the boats on the eastern side of the river. British Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis was forced to set up a series of posts across New Jersey, while he waited for an opportunity to attack Washington.

Washington took the advantage and crossed the river in the middle of the night on December 25th and won a surprise victory against the British allied Hessians at Trenton. Washington retreated back across the river, anticipating a counterattack from Cornwallis. Hoping to continue the momentum from the victory at Trenton, Washington decided to cross the Delaware again and meet Cornwallis head on.

They met at the Assunpink Creek Bridge just south of Trenton on January 2, 1777. The Continental Army repelled Cornwallis' attack 3 times at the bridge, forcing Cornwallis to withdraw and wait to attack again in the morning. Instead, Washington quietly withdrew his troops in the night and went to Princeton where he won another surprise victory. This series of surprise victories brought much needed encouragement to the Americans, whose hopes were waning after the losses in New York.

On April 14, 1789, Washington learned he was elected the first President of the United States. He left Mount Vernon two days later on his way to New York City for his inauguration. On the way, he traveled through such towns as Alexandria, Georgetown, Baltimore, Wilmington and Philadelphia. He was received with great celebrations in every city along the way.

On April 21, Washington arrived to a celebratory crowd at the Assunpink Creek Bridge where the citizens had erected a triumphal arch. Washington passed under the arch and into Trenton where church bells were ringing and girls dressed in white sang a song to "The Defender of the Mothers, The Protector of the Daughters." Washington then dined at the French Arms Tavern before continuing his journey.

On April 23rd, Washington arrived at Elizabethtown, New Jersey, where he got on a barge headed for New York. Several dignitaries rode with him and a flotilla of small ships accompanied the barge to New York. The Spanish warship Galveston sat in New York's harbor and fired a 13 gun salute when Washington passed. The Battery Fort on Manhattan's southern tip fired a 13 gun salute in response and another when Washington landed. Thousands of people had come to welcome him into the city. New York Governor George Clinton met him at the pier and escorted him to the home prepared for him. Washington would be inaugurated one week later on April 30.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

Texas Society of SAR 126th Annual Conference (Virtual): April 16-17, 2021. Must Register to Attend. (Frank Rohrbough)
Next Chapter Executive Committee Meetings: May 12, 2021, most likely a virtual meeting via the Internet, (Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday each month 11:30 A.M.)

Chapter Meetings: May 19th (In -Person; June 17th, July 15th, and August 19, 2020; Petroleum Club (7th Floor), 11:30 A.M. Reservations are required via Kevin Kanter (kevinkanter@icloud.com). (Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month.)
Annual Independence Day Historical Program: July 3, 2021

Hyatt Hill Country Resort at 10:00 A.M. in the Luckenbach Pavilion (Frank Rohrbough)

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

<https://www.txssar.org/sanantonio/>