



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

Sep-Oct 2021



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Greetings! I hope that I'm not speaking out of turn, but it appears that we *may* have turned the corner on the pandemic! Chapter meetings have

resumed, state meetings have taken place, awards have been presented and the chapter has been involved in several very exciting activities. So much so that Frank Rohrbough, our hard-working Newsletter Editor and Corresponding Secretary had to add additional pages to this newsletter.

In this month's newsletter, you will find that members of our chapter have been awarded several state and national awards. Some have been presented and more are expected at the Annual State Meeting in Richardson in late March 2022.

At the most recent BOM (Board of Managers) Meeting in Clear Lake, I shared with the delegates our recent initiative to recognize our fallen compatriots. I was clearly surprised at how much positive feedback we received, and several delegates came forward to ask how we were accomplishing such an ambitious endeavor. I had to tell them that it was all because of the work done by a core group of compatriots led by Compatriot Frank Keelman. I strongly encourage anyone that is available on November 13th @ 9AM to join us again at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery to recognize the next group of compatriots. If you have colonial attire, that's great and I encourage you to "kit up". If you don't have colonial attire, you're still welcome to join us in civilian attire. "The more the merrier!" We have a spot for anyone that cares to join us in the most solemn and deserved undertaking.

We are still on the lookout for someone to step up and take on the role of "Public Affairs" contact. We are a very active chapter, and we need someone to help us "blow our horn". If you have any experience with social media, mass media (Radio-Television-Print Media) or perhaps an "in" with local media, please step forward and get the word out. Aside from gaining exposure for SAR and our Chapter, it will also encourage potential new members to seek us out.

Under the area of long-range planning, we will be actively involved at the chapter, State and National level with the celebration of America's Sestercentennial (250th Anniversary). At this time, the New Jersey State SAR has asked to partner with Texas SAR. I think that this will be a very exciting opportunity and we will share more information as it becomes available.

Also, San Antonio has been chosen as the host chapter for the 2024 State Convention. We last hosted the State Convention in 2017 and feedback indicated that we hosted a very successful meeting. If you would like to participate in the planning and execution of this event, please raise your hand when the time comes. There is always room for helping hands at events of this magnitude.

As I opened this message, I mentioned that we are returning to normal after a long period. Part of returning to normal is the resumption of activities that we missed last year. Among those are the annual Holiday Season DAR/SAR Luncheon hosted by the DAR San Antonio de Bexar Chapter at San Antonio Country Club on December 4th. A news release will be forthcoming (or may already be out by the time this Newsletter is sent). Also, we have scheduled our Annual Gala for January 29, 2022 at the Petroleum Club. A separate news release will also be sent regarding reservations and meal choices. For those that have not attended in the past, this is a wonderful evening with our fellow compatriots and their "First Ladies" and several distinguished visitors from the local DAR chapters. Please save the date!

Please continue to watch over one another and stay healthy and safe! Respectfully, *Kevin Kanter*



DONATIONS TO SERVE VETERANS AT AUDIE MURPHY VETERANS MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER

Because of the Coronavirus Pandemic, our Popcorn Concession has been **closed indefinitely**. Due to the loss of these revenues for the past year, we are inviting our chapter members to make a donation to the VAVS so they can continue to meet the needs of hospitalized patients. Any amount will help – maybe \$10 to \$20. Send your check to VAVS and mailed to **Voluntary Services, Audie Murphy VA Hospital, Attn: Scott Traeger, 7400 Merton Minter Blvd., San Antonio, TX 78221**.

GUEST SPEAKER FOR SEPTEMBER CHAPTER MEETING WAS COMPATRIOT BILL COVINGTON

(Photo Right) Compatriot Bill Covington was our guest speaker for our September 15th Chapter Meeting. His topic: “The Churches and the American Revolution” addressed religion and its impact on the American Revolution. Following his retirement as a public school teacher he became an adjunct instructor of Western Civilization, US History, Texas History and World History at Navarro College, in Waxahachie, Texas.

His remarks are summarized as follows: “America was founded upon several key principles among which was the principle of religious freedom or freedom from religion. The first clergyman documented as arriving in the colonies came with the first settlers to the Jamestown colony in 1607. Numerous European sects sought refuge and land in the New World due to the all-encompassing nature of religious freedom as it was manifested in the British North American colonies. The Pilgrims and Puritans in Massachusetts; the Quakers, Moravians, and Dunkards in Pennsylvania; and the Shakers in New York are just a few of these important religious groups that further shaped US history. The American Methodists, with their emphasis on circuit riders, were formed immediately after the American Revolution in an effort to prove their loyalty to the newly independent country.”

Based on his presentation it’s understandable why Compatriot Covington was selected as the Texas Society Daughters of the American Revolution’s 2017 Outstanding Teacher of US History Award.



SAR’S BRONZE GOOD CITIZENSHIP AWARD PRESENTED TO ALFRED “A. J.” CHANEY

(Photo Right) President Kanter presented the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal to Mr. Alfred Chaney.

The Citation reads in part: “For meritorious conduct and exemplary citizenship while serving as District Director, Coyote

District, Alamo Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, from 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2021. Mr. Chaney performed his duties as professional Scout Executive for the newly created Coyote District in a consistently noteworthy fashion. Consisting of some eighty-five units including Cub Scout Packs, Scouts BSA Troops and Venture Crews, and formed by combining three different districts into one larger diverse organization, Mr. Chaney used his expertise, dynamic management ability and sterling “*Scout Spirit*,” to mold Coyote District into a cohesive and highly successful operation. When young ladies were finally accepted into full BSA membership, Mr. Chaney was instrumental in establishing girls troops which ultimately helped produce several of the first female Eagle Scouts in Bexar County.

As the COVID crisis struck, it was Mr. Chaney’s leadership and enthusiasm that helped keep up the morale of both his Scouts and their leaders. His ability to find solutions to COVID’s unique challenges insured the district and its units maintained their advancement, service and outdoor programs at near normal levels while at the same time meeting all the protocols demanded by the virus. His actions during one of the most difficult periods in the one hundred eleven year history of the Boy Scouts of America upheld the finest traditions of American citizenship and reflected great credit upon himself and the Boy Scouts of America.”



INDUCTION OF TIMOTHY SIEGFRIED

TEXAS SAR AWARD FOR PETER BARON



(Photo Left) At our Chapter Meeting on September 15, 2021 President Kanter inducted Compatriot Timothy Siegfried into the Chapter at our Chapter Meeting on September 15, 2021. His Patriot ancestor was Private Frederick Fennell, PA Militia, 1st Company, Second Battalion, under Captain Joseph Koocken. **(Photo Right)** President Kanter also presented a SAR Certificate of Appreciation from Texas Society President Drake Peddie to Compatriot Peter Baron for his service as Chairman of the Veterans Operation Ancestor Search (OAS) Committee during 2020.



CHAPTER RECEIVED MANY SAR AWARDS AT THE FALL BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING

The Texas SAR held its first In-Person meeting - since the outbreak of the Corona-19 Pandemic in early 2020 - at the Clear Lake City, TX Hilton Hotel from October 8-10, 2021. This Board of Managers (BOM) Meeting was hosted by the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter with over 100 members and guests in attendance. Its primary purpose was to recognize the accomplishments of members and present Awards from the National Society SAR Congress that was held in Seattle WA in July and from the Texas Society for community services performed during to this past year.

Our chapter received numerous Awards at the Texas SAR Annual Virtual Meeting. They can be found in the March-April 2021 Chapter Newsletter on Page 2. Other Awards received at this BOM include:

- Patriot Medal - Dustin Whittenburg (TBA at Texas SAR 2022 Annual Meeting)
- Color Guardsman of The Year - Frank Rohrbough (TBA at Texas SAR 2022 Annual Meeting)
- Liberty Medal w/Oak Leaf Clusters - Peter Baron & Dustin Whittenburg
- National Society USS Stark Award Honorable Mention - San Antonio Chapter
- Wreaths Across America – San Antonio Chapter



(Photo Left) Compatriot Frank Rohrbough was selected as Texas SAR Color Guardsman of the Year for 2021. He was nominated for this award by Compatriot Peter Baron and endorsed by former President-General Edward Butler and approved by Chapter President Kevin Kanter. His extended years of Color Guard Service at the Chapter and State levels and leadership for conducting the Chapter's Annual Independence Day Event at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort for hotel guest on July 3, 2021 contributed to his selection by his peers for this prestigious State Award. This Award will be officially announced and presented at the Texas SAR Annual Meeting in Richardson, TX scheduled from March 31-April 3, 2022.

One of the highlights of the BOM Banquet on Saturday night was a presentation of the SAR's Silver Good Citizenship Medal by Texas Society President Drake Peddie to a local artist for his over 10 years of community service to Texas Veterans who died in the Southwest Asia War. **(Photo Right and Left)** Ken

Pridgeon is an Air Force veteran whose trade was as a "sign painter". In 2010 a father of a deceased soldier asked if he would paint a portrait of his son which would give him some solace as he grieved the loss of his son. At



the age of 75 Ken saw a new calling for doing many such portraits for other parents who saw the gift that Ken had given to others. Now at 86 he says "I still paint all the time about 13 to 15 hours a day, six days a week." He said that he makes a print of each portrait and presents it to the family of the fallen soldier. He doesn't get paid for his work but relies on donations from municipal organizations.

This recognition presentation was organized by former Texas Society President Tom Jackson based on the recommendation of Compatriot Scott Giltner, Chairman of the

National Society SAR Veterans Committee. Pridgeon brought four portraits for display with two shown here. He has done over 500 portraits of Texas veterans and an untold numbers of portraits for other parents around the country.

His portraits are on display in the Fallen Texas Warriors Memorial Gallery located in Spring Texas.



CHAPTER PRESENTS SAR PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS AT OCTOBER MEETING

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE AWARD PRESENTED TO FIRE ENGINEER RANDA CONNALLY BROWN

(Photo Right) On October 20th during our Chapter Meeting President



Kevin Kanter asked Compatriot Peter Baron to announce the Chapter Public Service Awards for 2021. He announced the selectees and read the Citation to accompany the Awards. (Photo Below) Compatriot (Lieutenant Fire Chief) BT



McEnery presented the Certificate and Medal to Engineer Randa Brown.

The Citation reads: “Fire Engineer Randa Gayle Connally Brown has contributed to the success of the San Antonio Fire Department. Her knowledge, demeanor, and work ethic are a positive example to everyone she meets.

Engineer Brown entered the San Antonio Fire Department on 8 July 2000. She has served the citizens of San Antonio as a firefighter in the Fire Suppression Division and as a Paramedic in the Emergency Medical Services Division. She is currently assigned as a Paramedic with the Blue Team, leading the San Antonio Fire Department’s response to the global pandemic. Engineer Brown’s current assignment has her assisting both the public and the Fire Department in these uncertain times. Her empathy and compassionate care have encouraged many to overcome the desperate hardship of the COVID Infection.

Engineer Brown has brought compassionate service to the Emergency Medical Services Division. Her actions have improved morale and provided exceptional patient care, this reflects great credit on Herself, the San Antonio Fire Department and the Citizens of San Antonio.

Recognized this 20th Day of October 2021 by the San Antonio Chapter, of the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution.

FIRE SAFETY COMMENDATION AWARD PRESENTED TO FIRE ENGINEER STEVE IBROM

(Photo Right) Compatriot (Lieutenant Fire Chief) BT McEnery presented the Certificate and Medal to Engineer Ibrom. The Citation reads: “Fire Engineer Steven Patrick Ibrom has distinguished himself and the San Antonio Fire Department through his professionalism, his expertise, his ardent commitment to training, and his desire to provide the best firefighting and rescue capabilities to the citizens of San Antonio.



Engineer Ibrom entered the San Antonio Fire Department on 12 April 1993. He has served the citizens of San Antonio for over 28 years in the Fire Suppression and Hazmat Divisions. He is currently assigned to Ladder 2 on the B shift. Engineer Ibrom brings to the fire station an enthusiasm that energizes all he leads. His easy-going demeanor and extensive skill set allow even the most uneasy rookie to feel confident and excel. His eagerness to mitigate every scene allows for efficient and timely resolutions.

It is this dedication to service and self-sacrifice that resonates from Engineer Ibrom and those he leads. His actions reflect great credit on Himself, the San Antonio Fire Department and the Citizens of San Antonio.

Recognized this 20th Day of October 2021 by the San Antonio Chapter, of the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution.

CHAPTER MARKS GRAVE SITES OF DECEASED CHAPTER MEMBERS



(Photo Left) Under the leadership of Compatriot Frank Kebelman, our Compatriot Grave Marking Program started on September 4th to mark the graves of our chapter compatriots who are interred at Ft. Sam Houston Cemetery. The primary purpose of this program is to honor the memories of those who did so much for SAR and our Chapter.

(Photo Right) Shown from bottom left to right to top right are: Frank Kebelman (Event Organizer/Flower Placement), Richard Weitzel (SAR Bronze Marker), Jim Massingill (US Flag Marker), Paul Reynolds (Chaplain), Frank Rohrbough (Program Publisher), Michelle Poczobut (Bugler), Kevin Kanter (Master of Ceremony), Fred Soupiset (Biography Reader/Guardsman), Stephen Rohrbough (Biography Reader/US Flag Bearer), Jason Bourgeois (Musket Detail), Larry Loop (Biography Reader/TX Flag Bearer), and Blair Rudy, Texas SAR Color Guard Commander/(Musket Detail). Not shown is our Photographer Paul Garcia.



On September 4th we completed the marking of our first seven compatriots' graves. Each grave marking event included an opening prayer, reading of the compatriot's biography, placement of a small US



(Photo Above) Headstone of BG Sidney Hinds, US Military Academy graduate, Olympic Gold Medal Winner in Marksmanship in 1924 Olympic Games, and who served in WWII in North Africa, Sicily and from Normandy to Berlin.

Flag at the headstone, musket firing, playing of taps and closing prayer.

Grave sights marked included: Compatriots Colonel Everett M. Graves (USA Retired), Brigadier General Sidney R. Hinds (USA Retired), Captain Robert J. Lake (USAF Retired), Colonel Charles F. Cooper (USA Retired), Colonel Milton S. Thompson (USA Retired), Colonel Milo B. Barragan (USA Retired) and Colonel Harold W. Dutcher (USA Retired).

On October 2nd we marked seven additional graves. These included: Colonel Perry H. Burnham (USAF Retired), Colonel Gilberto S. Trevino, (USA Retired), Colonel Harry S. Long (USAF Retired), Colonel Louis E. Haley (USA Retired), Commander Henry J. Williams (US Navy Retired), Sergeant William C. Salinas Jr. (USA), Lt. Commander Donald J. Knapp (USN Retired).

(Photo at Right) Bugler Michelle Poczobut sounded "Taps" at each of the seven events. She is a seasoned bugler who often times serves at other notable events to include funerals at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C.

President Kanter stated "We are looking for volunteers to participate in Patriot Grave Marking ceremonies. This activity is an excellent way to honor our patriots and compatriots that have passed." This program does not require that you attend in uniform and is open to everyone.

We'll conduct our 3rd event on **Saturday, November 13th at 9:00 A.M.** starting at the Columbarium which is located at the back of the cemetery.

Directions: To get there enter the Main Entrance of the National Cemetery at Ft. Sam Houston from Harry Wurzbach Rd, drive past the Administration Building and through the front section of the cemetery, under the bridge to the east section of the cemetery. Again, if you are interested in participating in this event or any of the remaining events, please contact Compatriot Frank Kebelman at kebelman@gmail.com.



CHAPTER HISTORICAL VIGNETTE

Chapter Historian Larry Loop provided a vignette on the “Cornwallis Surrender at Yorktown” which coincides with this



months Chapter Meeting. The vignette reads: “On this day in history, October 19, 1781, British General Charles Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown. The Battle of Yorktown was the last major battle of the American Revolution. Although fighting did continue in various areas, peace negotiations began the following spring and eventually brought the war to an end.

The British had successfully conquered Georgia and South Carolina in 1779 and 1780. When General Cornwallis invaded North Carolina, however, things didn't go so well. In the spring of 1781, Cornwallis was forced to the coast for resupplying and regrouping. He marched to Virginia instead, thinking it would be easier to conquer than North Carolina had proved to be.

After arriving in Virginia, Cornwallis received orders from his superior, General Henry Clinton, in New York, to make a deep water port on the Chesapeake, where supplies and reinforcements from New York could be landed. Cornwallis marched to Yorktown in the summer of 1781 and began reinforcements.

George Washington, meanwhile, left New York with French General, the Comte de Rochambeau, with 7,000 soldiers. They met with the Marquis de Lafayette and his army in Virginia, while French Admiral, the Comte de Grasse, fought off a British fleet bringing reinforcements to Cornwallis and landed thousands more French soldiers. In all, 17,000 French and American troops surrounded Yorktown.

The allies began bombarding Yorktown after digging a siege trench. For days, bombs rained down on Cornwallis who began running out of food and ammunition. After nearly two weeks of resisting, Cornwallis knew reinforcements from New York would not arrive in time and he reluctantly sent out a drummer with a white flag on October 17.

Negotiations were held over the next two days at the home of Augustine Moore, which is still standing. On the 19th, the official surrender ceremony was held. The American and French soldiers marched into town and the British soldiers marched between the two allies and laid down their arms. British drummers and fifers played a popular British song called "The World Turned Upside Down," as the troops surrendered.

At the formal surrender ceremony, General Cornwallis refused to attend, feigning illness. He sent his second in command, General Charles O'Hara, to surrender his sword to George Washington instead. At the ceremony, O'Hara tried to give the sword to the French General, Rochambeau, but he refused it and directed him to General Washington. As O'Hara was Cornwallis' second, Washington refused to honor this breach of protocol and he directed O'Hara to surrender the sword to his own second, General Benjamin Lincoln.

The surrender at Yorktown finally convinced Parliament that war with the colonists was futile. Peace negotiations began the following spring. Fighting did continue in the colonies and around the globe after the Battle of Yorktown, but the war finally came to an end when the Treaty of Paris was signed on September 3, 1783.”

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

MEMBER EARNS EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

Compatriot Benjamin D. Bowles, who was inducted as Member of SAR San Antonio Chapter December 2019, was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts

of America on October 10, 2021, during the Eagle Scout Court of Honor that was conducted by Troop 2010 at the Pavilion at Brackenridge Park Golf Course in San Antonio. Benjamin has earned nearly 40 BSA Merit Badges while working toward the Eagle rank. He has been in scouting for 9 years and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout soon after his 16th birthday. Benjamin is a junior at the STEM Academy located at Legacy of Education Excellence (LEE) High School in San Antonio, Texas.

Compatriot Bowles' Eagle Scout Project was building a train play-scene at the Texas Transportation Museum in the spring of 2020. The project required raising hundreds of dollars for materials and over 300 man hours to cut the wood and build the engine and tender.

(Photo Right) Benjamin is the grandson of Compatriots Michael Bowles (left) and Thomas O'Brien (right) both members of the San Antonio Chapter.



SAR BRONZE GOOD CITIZENSHIP AWARD FOR COMMANDER MENDOZA

Commander Loreto "Manny" Mendoza, Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery, Honor Guard Detachment was presented the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate for his dedicated service as Commander. The Citation reads in part: "For outstanding leadership and noteworthy citizenship while serving as Commander, Memorial Services Detachment (MSD), Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, Texas, from September 2019 to September 2021. MSD was founded in 1991 to provide funeral honors for veterans being laid to rest at this national cemetery and has earned a reputation for dedication and service that few veteran organizations can match. Commander Mendoza implemented a series of management actions that significantly improved the overall efficiency of the 120 member detachment. When the COVID crisis struck, all veteran funeral honors were halted. Recognizing the importance of providing support for grieving families, Commander Mendoza proposed a plan to provide these honors using a reduced force of MSD members. The plan was accepted and allowed MSD to resume operations and function throughout the worst of the crisis. His actions have upheld the finest traditions of American volunteer citizenship and reflect great credit upon himself and the Memorial Services Detachment."



INDUCTION OF TWO NEW MEMBERS



President Kanter inducted two new members into the San Antonio Chapter at the Chapter meeting on October 20, 2021. **(Photo Left)** Compatriot Randall Fleishman's patriot ancestor was Johannes Fleischer who took Oath of Allegiance, 1777 and paid supply tax, 1779-1782 in Berks Co, PA. He was sponsored by Registrar Peter Baron.

(Photo Right) Compatriot Charles Clinton Lafere's patriot ancestor is Randolph Casey who was a soldier in South Carolina Militia under Captain Anderson and Colonel Roebuck. He was sponsored by Compatriot Dustin Whittenburg.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

Next Chapter Executive Committee Meetings: November 10 and December 8, 2021 at La Fonda Mexican Restaurant, Alamo Heights (Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday each month 11:30 A.M.)

Chapter Meetings: November 17, and December 15, 2021; Petroleum Club (7th Floor), 11:30 A.M. Reservations are required via txsarch4reservations@gmail.com (Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month.)

Chapter Grave Marking Program: Our third event will be held at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery on **November 13, 2021** at 9:00 A.M. All members are welcome to attend this event. For more information, contact Compatriot Frank Kebelman at Kebelman@gmail.com.

Wreaths Across America: To donate a Wreath and have it placed at a local Cemetery, send email to frankr@gvtc.com for a Order Form.

Joint DAR-SAR Christmas Meeting: December 4, 2021, 11:00 A.M. San Antonio Country Club. **Reservations are required.** Your payment must be received by the Treasurer by **Friday, November 26, 2021.** (See Chapter News Release dated 11/1/2021.)

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

www.sarsat.org