



# 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

Nov-Dec 2022



## PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Compatriots: Season's Greetings to you all. Jeannie and I hope that each of you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year's celebration with your family and friends. As my year as President comes to an end on January 21, 2023, 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 thank them for their services throughout this past year. For Chapter Service Awards see **Page 7**.

The Chapter received many awards from both State and National Societies of SAR this year based on the great work done by our members. 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 several events, such as School History Fairs, or supporting our Veterans at the Audie Murphy South Texas Medical Center. However, we were pleased to conduct our Annual Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort Independence Day Historical Celebration on July 3rd, attend the Annual Battle of Medina Commemoration in August and the Texas SAR Board of Managers Meeting in Richardson/Dallas, TX in October. We joined the San Antonio de Bexar DAR Chapter for the Joint DAR-SAR Annual Christmas Luncheon on December 3rd. For details, see **Page 4**. We had four of our members participate in the Wreaths Across America Annual Event and placed over 50 wreaths at the headstones at the San Antonio National Cemetery on December 17<sup>th</sup>. (See **Page 6**).

At the Chapter Meeting on December 15th we conducted our annual election of Officers for 2022. Many of the Officers agreed to serve another year as noted on **Page 7**. Because of their service we have good continuity in our programs for the coming year.

**We need to grow our Color Guard** as a number of our members who have served with distinction are no longer able to perform as Guardsmen or Flag Bearers. Please consider purchasing a Revolutionary Period Uniform and join us for the various events for the coming year, such as our Annual Independence Day Historical Program at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort in July. There are plenty of clothiers who can help you. For sources, contact Compatriot Frank Rohrbough at frankr@gvvc.com.

In closing, I thank you for your support throughout my term of service as your President. I know that you will give in-coming President Dick Weitzel your valued service to continue our many successes to grow our membership and fulfill the goals of the Texas Society of SAR. I wish you a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year. It's been an honor to serve you as your President. 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**.

## NOVEMBER GUEST SPEAKER CHAPTER ARNOLD ALVARADO

(Photo Left) Our Guest Speaker for the Novem-

ber Chapter Meeting was Arnold Alvarado who served 26 years teaching American and European History as well as Texas History at Southwest Texas College. The subject of his presentation was “The Constitution — its Origins and Framework.”

He explained the primary reason the people wanted a new form of government was to seek freedom from King George III and gain individual rights from government. He addressed the problems facing our country under the Articles of Confederation and provided a brief history of Greek democracy and the Roman Republic. Our founder's were very much informed on this early history. Alvarado then addressed the writers and thinkers of the Enlightenment and how they inspired the founders.

Finally, he stated our founder's applied all those ideas into the writing of the US Constitution.

For more reasons please read the Preamble to the Constitution.

For his presentation President Kanter presented him a Chapter Challenge Coin.



## DEATH OF COMPATRIOT CAMMID O. ARRENDALL

We were saddened to learn just recently that Compatriot Arrendell had passed last January. We contacted his wife, Marianne, and extended our deepest condolences to her. She provided Compatriot Arrendell's Obituary which reads: “Cammid O. Arrendell, 97, of San Antonio was born in Cleveland, Texas on January 19, 1925. He went home to be with his Lord on January 22, 2022. Cam joined the US Army Air Corps in 1943 and was a Ball turret gunner on B-17, a Navigator and Lead Bombardier on B-24 and B-32.

Cam served as Lt. Col Chaplain in the United States Air Force from 1960 - 1979. During his military career, he was stationed across the United States, as well as Korea, Japan, and Germany. Following his military retirement, he was President of his own company as a contractor for TxDOT. Cam was a proud member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas, and the Sons of the American Revolution.

He was an avid historian and teacher. Cam loved studying the word of God and had a heart for Missions, especially spreading the gospel in Hungary, New Zealand, and Mexico. He was a man of conviction and generosity and gave his life to serving God and giving to others. Cam opened his heart to those less fortunate and helped establish people in ministry through Southern Baptist Theological seminaries. He enjoyed multiple trips teaching at Bible seminars in Romania and Nairobi and building churches in Kenya. Cam also spoke to KGB recruits in Russia and invited them to follow Christ, which they all did.

He was a strong leader, husband, father and grandfather. Cam brightened and encouraged the lives of others with his contagious zest and joy for life, always had a joke to share, and a story to tell. He was treasured by many for his profound influence. Cam made his calling and election sure, and his family carries on his legacy.

He was a lifelong learner having graduated from University of Houston, BBA in Management, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, BD and Masters of Divinity and most recently Ph.D. in Church History at Newburgh Theological Seminary at the age of 92.

Cammid was preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Ollie Arrendell; his wife, Eloise of 42 years; his daughter, Trudy; and his seven brothers and sisters.

He is survived by his wife of 21 years, Marianne; daughters, Madeline, Kim and Lisa; four grandchildren, Corin Mason (Danny), James Willis III., Rachel Boster (Hayden) and Matthew Willis.



## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Vietnam War Commemorative Event

On November 21<sup>st</sup> at the invitation of Activities Director Tashua Plair seven members from the San Antonio Chapter SAR visited the Frank Tejada Texas Veterans Nursing Home in Floresville, TX. The purpose of the visit was to conduct a Commemorative Event to recognize 80 residents who served on active duty during the Vietnam War Era and to “Honor Them and Thank Them for their Service”.

Compatriot Rohrbough, as Master of Ceremonies, provided remarks about the United States of America 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemorative Program whose Office is in Arlington VA. This National Commemoration was authorized by Congress in 2012 to recognize the unsung patriotism of our Vietnam War veterans who served on active duty during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location.

The Texas Society SAR is a Commemorative Partner with the Vietnam War Commemoration Program and were privileged to honor Vietnam veterans and their families in Floresville, TX.

**(Photo Right)** Shown from right to left are Chapter President Kevin Kanter, Master of Ceremony Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, and Vice President Richard Weitzel. Also attending were Compatriots Frank Kebelman, Michael Bowles, Larry Loop and Robert Watson. Eighty residents were pinned with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Veterans Pin (shown below) to 31 who served with the US Army, 23 with the US Air Force, 19 with the US Navy, and 7 with the US Marine Corps. Eight family members were also recognized with Veteran Family Button Pins.



When each Pin was placed on the clothing of the veteran the phrase was recited “A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You”. The phrase is also engraved on the back of the Pin.



**(Photo Left)** Those residents who were mobile, and many in wheelchairs, attended the event in the dining room where they were welcomed by Chapter President Kanter. He stated that SAR is a lineage organization which is historical, educational, and patriotic that seeks to maintain our American freedom, values our Citizenship, and honors the patriotism and sacrifices of our patriot ancestors who achieved our independence from England 240 years ago.

Following the main event we visited many of the residents in their rooms or in Memory Care where we pinned on their Veterans Lapel Pin. Many of the veterans were visibly emotional when receiving the Pin and learning that their service was valued and honorable.

Shown in photos bottom left to right are President Kanter, Compatriot Kebelman, and Compatriot Dick Weitzel.

A News Release of our event was sent to the Editors of Texas Society Compatriot Newsletter and National Society SAR Magazine.



## ANNUAL JOINT DAR-SAR CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

We had twelve members and six spouses of our Chapter attended the Annual Joint DAR-SAR Luncheon hosted by the San Antonio de Bexar DAR Chapter at the San Antonio Country Club on Saturday, December 3rd. Chapter Regent Gail Fox welcomed all members and their guests. **(Photo Right)** Our Color Guard presented the Colors at the Opening of the Luncheon. Shown from left to right are Compatriots Keven Kanter, Frank Rohrbough, US Flag Bearer, and Stephen Rohrbough, Texas Flag Bearer. Following the luncheon the Color guard retired the Colors.



Regent Fox was a gracious hostess recognizing our Chapter President Kevin Kanter and our Chapter Color Guard. President Kanter led the SAR Members in the Pledge to the Sons of the American Revolution.



**(Photo Left)** Also attending the Christmas Luncheon SAR Chapter as shown from left to right are Former NSSAR President-General Edward F. Butler (and his First Lady Robin) Chapter President Kevin Kanter (and his wife Jean), Color Guard Commander Frank Rohrbough, US flag Bearer (and his wife Diane), Former Texas SAR President Stephen Rohrbough, Texas Flag Bearer (and his First Lady Marie), Max Strozier, Former NSSAR Chaplain James Taylor (and his wife Patricia) and Compatriot David Bowles (and his wife Sharon). Following the Opening remarks and introduction of Guests, Regent Fox invited

all guest to enjoy a delicious meal of Pan Seared Salmon or Chicken Roulade.



**(Photo Left)** During our lunch a Quartet from the Youth Orchestra of San Antonio provided a beautiful rendition of Holiday Music.

**(Photo Right)** In recognition of the service of our Chapter Color Guard Regent Fox presented President Kanter an Honorarium of \$100 to be used for our Youth Awards Program.



**(Photo Lower Right)** shown along with two of our Color Guardsmen - Frank Rohrbough (left) and Twin Brother Stephen Rohrbough (right) - are Max Strozier and Chris Smith. Smith, who became a member of the Sons of the American Revolution in in 2018, is wearing is a modern Scottish formal outfit. The vest and coat is called a Prince Charlie and has only been around since about 1920. He is well-versed in Early American History. He is seeking membership in General Society of the War of 1812.



## DECEMBER GUEST SPEAKER CHAPTER MATT DEWAELSCHÉ

Mr. Matt DeWaelche was our Guest Speaker for our Chapter Meeting on December 14, 2022. He is an Archivist/Librarian for the San Antonio Public Library's Texana/Genealogy Department, located on the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor of the San Antonio Central Library at 600 Soledad Street in downtown San Antonio.

He has a Master's Degrees in History from Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri, and a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from The University of Texas in Austin. Matt has worked in the Texana/Genealogy Department since 1995, when the Central Library opened.

He stated that the Library is undergoing extensive renovation and has remained closed to the public. However, much of the resources of the library remain open via the website where the public has access to research and genealogical materials and documents. He explained that the Library has a vast array of resources through the network of local, state and national libraries and invited our members to use those resource for any family research on their ancestors.

Members who want to use the resources of the Library may do so via the website at <https://www.mysapl.org>.

Membership to the San Antonio Public Library is free to all Bexar County residents. Access to the digital collections is available 24/7. For information about how to get a library card, visit our website. Two Ways to Register:

- 1) In-Person – Stop by any of our 29 locations during regular business hours. Typically, all one needs are a photo ID and proof of current address – like an up-to-date driver's license. For more information about how to get a library card, visit our website.
- 2) Register Online – To begin immediately using some of our services, fill out the online registration form and then stop by any San Antonio Public Library location within 30 days to present your photo ID and proof of current address and pick up your library card.



## CHAPTER DONATES CHRISTMAS TOTES FOR VETERANS

At the November Chapter Meeting President Kanter asked for donations from members in attendance to support the Totes for Veterans Program conducted by the South Texas Veterans Medical Center in San Antonio. The hat was passed and \$496 was collected. The donations covered the cost of items that were purchased and loaded in the HEB Christmas Totes.



(Photo Left) The 10

items shown were placed in each of the ten (10) Tote Bags. Additionally, an HEB Gift Card for \$25 was included in the Tote to cover the cost of a Turkey or Ham to provide a meal for a family of four. (Photo Above) The Totes for Veterans were delivered to the Volunteer Services Office on December 5th by Compatriots Larry Lockett (left) and Frank Rohrbough (right). Between them are Jason Gray, Chief Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) and Andraia Avila, Volunteer Assistant.



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



**(Photo Left)** On National Wreaths Across America Day, it is WAA's mission to "Remember, Honor and Teach" about the many ways veterans have served our country. Those who have passed are honored with wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at 2,800 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. This year 1.4 million WAA Wreaths were placed at Veteran Cemeteries across America. Over 2600 wreaths were placed at the San Antonio National Cemetery this year which is the most wreaths placed to date and only 500 short of 3100 grave sites in the cemetery.

On December 17th WAA Wreaths were placed at the foot of each gravestone to honor each veteran for their service. The person placing a wreath respectfully recited the veterans name and states "Thank you for your Service" while rendering a hand salute.

**(Photo Right)** The host organization for this event was the San Antonio Young Marines. It is a local youth education and



service program for boys and girls, ages 8 through completion of high school. 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. During the Opening Ceremony seven cadets placed a wreath on the ground in front of the presentation platform for each of the seven Uniformed Services.

**(Photo Left)** The Young Marine Color Guard presented the National Colors for the Opening Ceremony; The National Anthem was sung and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.



We joined with the Daughters of the Union Veterans of the Civil War (DUVCW) to order 43 Wreaths this year for placement at the historic San Antonio National Cemetery and the Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery.

**(Photo Left)** Participants from our Chapter included President Kevin Kanter and Compatriots Frank Rohrbough and Jerry Collins. We placed a total of 150 wreaths at the gravestones in the San Antonio National Cemetery this year.

Despite the heavy rain that stopped just minutes before the event started, the Director of the San Antonio Young Marines organization stated that this was the largest gathering of volunteers to attend this local event since its beginning in 2013. Thus, all 2600 wreaths were placed at headstones in about 45 minutes.



## 2023 OFFICERS

The following Officers were elected by acclamation at the December 15th Chapter Meeting:

**President:** Ellert (Dick) Weitzel  
**1st Vice President:** Blair Rudy  
**2nd Vice President:** Frank Kebelman  
**Recording Secretary:** Michael Bowles  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Frank Rohrbough  
**Sergeant at Arms:** Frank Kebelman  
**Treasurer:** Daniel Farris  
**Registrar:** Larry Luckett  
**Historian:** Larry Loop  
**Chaplain:** Kevin Kanter  
**Genealogists:** Larry Luckett  
**Chancellor:** Edward Snyder

**NOTE:** Officers will be Inducted by Texas SAR President-Elect Sam Massey at the Chapter Meeting on January 21, 2023.

## CHAPTER SERVICE AWARDS

President Kevin Kanter thanked Chapter members for their service to the Chapter during the past year. Awards were given at our December 14, 2022 Chapter Meeting. Frank Kebelman was awarded the SAR Meritorious Medal. Other Medals include: **TXSSAR Chapter Service Medal and Certificate (19)**  
 Larry Luckett, Dec 14, 2022 – Medal  
 John Bell, Dec 14, 2022 – Medal  
 John V. Booth, Dec 14, 2022 - Medal  
 Robert Watson Dec 14, 2022 – 2nd OL Cluster  
 Michael B. Bowles, Dec 14, 2022 – 3rd OL Cluster  
 Eilert Richard Weitzel, Dec 14, 2022 – 3rd OL Cluster  
 Jay M. Lewallen, Dec 14, 2022— 4thOL Cluster  
 Frederic P. Soupiset, Dec 14, 2022—4th OL Cluster  
 Dustin S. Whittenburg, Dec 14, 2022 – 5th OL Cluster  
 Larry L. Loop, Dec14, 2022 – 6th OL Cluster  
 Harold Davenport III, Dec 14, 2022 – 7th OL Cluster  
 Robert N. Hancock, December 14, 2022 – 8th OL Cluster  
 Jimmie Massingill, December 14, 2022 – 8th OL Cluster  
 Edward C. Snyder III, Dec 14, 2022 – 7th OL Cluster  
 Peter T. Baron, Jr., Dec 14, 2022 – 10th OL Cluster  
 James C. Taylor, Dec 14, 2022 – 10th OL Cluster  
 Frank G. Rohrbough, Dec 14, 2022 – 10th OL Cluster  
 Stephen W. Rohrbough, Dec 14, 2022 – 12th OL Cluster  
 George W. Harcourt, Dec 14, 2022 – 14th OL Cluster

## CHAPTER AWARDS FOR 2022



Compatriot Grave Marking Program. **(Photo Above)** Shown Left to Right, President Kanter presented a Chapter Service Medals to John V. Booth (Flag Program) and Larry Luckett (Treasurer) and OL Clusters to Robert Watson (Membership), James Taylor (Genealogist) and Frank Rohrbough (Corresponding Secretary).

**(Photo Right)** Shown From Left to Right, President Kanter presents Oak Clusters to Stephen Rohrbough (Awards), Michael Bowles (Recording Secretary), Richard Weitzel (President-Elect) and Jim Massingill (Chaplain). For those not present their Award will be presented at another meeting.



## ANNIVERSARY OF MEMBERS YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP IN SAR

# COMPATRIOT ANNIVERSARIES DECEMBER 2022

### 5th Year Anniversary

Jonathan Springer  
Mathew Springer  
John Hale  
Jett Leonard

### 10th Year Anniversary

Martin Cohick  
Frederic Soupiset  
Peter Grether  
Daniel Grether  
William Udovich  
John Udovich  
Mathew Brady  
Lester Baker  
Paul Wagoner

### 15th Year Anniversary

James Sutton  
Harold Atkinson

### 20th Year Anniversary

Albert Gallatin  
Stephen Metts  
Ben Sewell  
William Hall  
James Taylor

### 25th Year Anniversary

John Wilmeth

### 30th Year Anniversary

Charles Howard

### 40th Year Anniversary

Richard O'Bryant

### 45th Year Anniversary

Roger Huff

### 50th Year Anniversary

### 55th Year Anniversary

### 60th Year Anniversary

### 65th + Year Anniversary

Barent Dutcher

**We thank all members for their years of membership and wish them good health in the years to come!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

**The Annual Chapter Gala, January 21, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.** Reservations are required by sending your check to President Kevin Kanter 508 Wilderness Way, New Braunfels, TX 78132 **NLT January 11th.** For more details see our Chapter News Release which was emailed to All Chapter Members on November 19, 2022. A follow up News Release will be sent to members in early January.

**Next Chapter Executive Committee Meetings:** January 11th and February 8, 2022, La Fonda Mexican Restaurant, Alamo Heights (Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday each month 11:30 A.M.)

**Chapter Meetings:** Because of the Chapter Gala there will be **no January Meeting.** The February Chapter Meeting will be held on February 15, 2022. (Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month.)

**Texas Society of SAR 127<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference:** March 31—April 3, 2023 in Spring, TX; The Registration Form and Hotel Reservation Information will be posted on the TXSSAR Website at [www.txssar.org](http://www.txssar.org).

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

[www.txssar.org/SanAntonio](http://www.txssar.org/SanAntonio)