



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

Jan-Feb 2022



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Compatriots: I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President for the second time in 2022. Our 2022 Executive Committee is comprised of some new members and tenured familiar faces. I am looking anxiously forward to implementing new ideas and programs and resurrecting some that have been placed on the back burner, while enjoying the successes of those activities that make our organization one of the premier chapters in TXSSAR.

Compatriot Bob Watson will continue to serve as Chairman of the Membership Committee and promote our Mentor Program. This program is meant to make our new/potential members feel welcome in our organization and provide some “hand holding” to our new members to help them integrate successfully. If you are interested in becoming a Mentor, please reach out to Bob at beaglebud@satx.rr.com. Additionally, Frank Kebelman will continue to Chair our Scouting Committee. His involvement with the Scouting organization in Bexar County will ensure that we are able to increase our visibility to Scouting and allow us to promote SAR Eagle Scout Scholarships.

On that same subject, we are actively seeking someone to take on the position of Publicity Chair. This position will require someone to “tell our story”, by seeking the cooperation of newspaper, Internet, radio and television professionals to assist him in getting out the word about our Society.

The new year is a year of change. We're meeting once again, Educational Awards are being presented, Compatriot Grave Markings are putting us on the map as continuing to be one of the best Chapters in TXSSAR. Unfortunately, all of our changes aren't good for us as a chapter. 2nd Vice President Paul Reynolds has decided to move back to Ohio to be closer to family. While we have to respect and understand Paul's desire to be close to his family, it's bittersweet for our Chapter.

Paul has been a valuable, active member of the San Antonio Chapter for the past 10 years when he was inducted to SAR in January 2012. When a call for help goes out, Paul has always answered. He has served in multiple capacities over the years as 2nd Vice President, Chaplain and, probably one of the busy committees, as Chairman of ROTC/JROTC Program. During the past 10 years he expanded the presentation of our chapter awards to deserving students at 43 high schools and 3 college within the San Antonio area. In doing so, Paul compiled an extensive database of each of the high school and university contacts. He reached out to our members to attend the Annual Awards Events at each school to present our Awards in person to the students. Clearly, his dedication to this program has been commendable.

In addition to his work in our Chapter, his 42-year career as a Broadcast Engineer has served many San Antonio area radio stations well through his expertise.

As many of us are veterans, we certainly understand the desire to go “home”, wherever it may be. We have been blessed that Paul called San Antonio “home” for many years and now we must bid a heartfelt “see you later” to Paul as he enters the next chapter of his life.

In closing, our goal is to hold monthly meetings “In-Person” at the Petroleum Club featuring many interesting speakers who have agreed to enlighten us with many topics that we will find interesting.

Compatriotly, Respectfully, *Kevin Kanter*



DONATIONS TO SERVE VETERANS

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**.

CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2022

The following Officers were elected by acclamation at the December 15th Chapter Meeting and were Installed by Texas SAR President Drake Peddie at our Chapter's Annual Gala on January 29, 2022 at the Petroleum Club.

President: Kevin Kanter

1st Vice President: Ellert (Dick) Weitzel

2nd Vice President: Paul Reynolds

Recording Secretary: Michael Bowles

Corresponding Secretary: Frank Rohrbough

Sergeant at Arms: Frank Rohrbough

Treasurer: Larry Luckett

Registrar: Peter Baron

Historian: Larry Loop

Chaplain: Paul Reynolds

Genealogist: James Taylor

Chancellor: Edward Snyder

CHAPTER

(Photo Right) Our Honored Guest Speaker was the Texas Society SAR President Drake Peddie. We were pleased to have him Install our Chapter Officers for 2022.

In his opening remarks he addressed the need for protecting our historical documents. What we save from our family history is up to each member so it can be passed on to the next generation. He cited several writings of what high school students wrote on a history test about our US History. Frightfully, we laughed a lot.



CHAPTER RETURNS TO GALA EVENT

With the COVID-19 restrictions being lifted, we were able to hold our Annual Gala at the Petroleum Club on January 29, 2022. This year we had 51 total attendees from our Chapter, area DAR Ladies and other Guests. We truly appreciate the valued support of our local DAR Chapters.



(Photo Left) The members shown left to right were elected at the December 15, 2021 Chapter Meeting to serve as Officers in 2022. They are: Michael Bowles, Recording Secretary; Paul Reynolds, 2nd Vice President; Kevin Kanter, President; Larry Loop,

Historian; Frank Rohrbough, Corresponding Secretary and Sgt at Arms; and Richard Weitzel, Vice President. Members not present included Larry Luckett, Treasurer; Peter Baron, Registrar; James Taylor, Genealogist; and Ed Snyder III, Chancellor. They were recognized at the December Chapter Meeting and noted in the November - December 2021 Chapter Newsletter.

(Photo at Right) The most notable presentation by President Kanter was the presentation of the SAR Distinguished Service Medal and Certificate to Compatriot Michael Bowles for his outstanding personal service to the San Antonio Chapter during 2021. This award can only be presented by a Chapter President once each year.



CHAPTER RETURNS TO GALA EVENT (Cont'd)



(Photo Left) President Peddie presented a SAR Certificate expressing his appreciation to President Kevin Kanter for his distinguished service as President of the San Antonio Chapter in 2021 which fully challenged his leadership skills during the period of the COVID Pandemic.

(Photo Top Right) President Kanter presented his wife Jean Kanter with the Lydia Darragh Medal and Certificate for her continuous longtime support for her service to the Sons of the American Revolution during his time



as President of the San Antonio Chapter.

(Photo Right) President Peddie presented the Daughter of Liberty Medal and Certificate to Jean Kanter for her outstanding service to the Texas Society SAR. By assisting in the application process she has brought many new members into SAR. As a means of recognizing DAR ladies they are eligible to receive an appropriate SAR medal such as the Medal of Appreciation, Martha Washington Medal, or the Daughters of Liberty Medal.

(Photo Below) President Peddie conducted the Induction of Michael A. McComas and John V. Booth into the San Antonio Chapter. National Society Sons of the American Revolution. These compatriots are related



(Michael is John's nephew) and thus have the same Patriot

Ancestor. Patriot Bailey Anderson was a Private in the Militia having served under Colonels Brandon and Richardson in South Carolina and Capt Price and Colonel Christian in Virginia. He moved to Harrison County TX and is one of 46 Patriots buried in Texas.



(Photo Right) Our Historian Larry Loop provided an Historical Vi-

gnette on the Battle of Golden Hill. On this day in history, January 19, 1770, the "First Blood" of the American Revolution is shed at the Battle of Golden Hill.

The Liberty Pole in New York City was first erected on the Commons in 1766. Soldiers in a barracks on the north side of the Commons saw this sign of defiance every day and tore it down in August, only to have 3,000 angry citizens confront them. The Boston Massacre would happen six weeks later.

The Battle of Golden Hill was even more significant than the Boston Massacre in that it was a protracted skirmish that lasted several days. The Boston Massacre would earn the greater place in history though, because of the actual casualties that occurred... and because of the more skillful propaganda machine of the Boston Sons of Liberty.



CHAPTER RETURNS TO GALA EVENT (Cont'd)



(Photo Left) We were pleased to have so many of our wives and DAR ladies joined us for this event. From left to right are: Prissy Hancock, Karen McCloskey, Sharon Bowles, Carol Ann Weitzel, Patricia Anders, Cindy Watson, Bettie Cardenas, Deanna Trussell, Karen Mueller, Jan Mueller, Brooke Whittenburg Marilyn Loop, Candy Rudy, and our special guest Michelle Poczobut and Jean Kanter.

(Photo Far Right) Ms. Michelle Poczobut was our special guest we wanted to recognize for her valued participation at our Grave Marking Events. She is an accomplished bugler who played Taps at each of our compatriot grave sites. President Kanter presented her the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate in recognition of notable services on behalf of our American principles.

Michelle has participated in many veterans internments at Veteran Cemeteries to include Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. To date Michelle has participated in 30 Grave Marking Events held by the Chapter since September 2021.



(Photo Left) To show our appreciation for President Peddie's visit, Compatriot Bob Hancock, along with his wife Prissy, presented him with a Basket of Cakes, Cheeses and Wines from the famous Haby's Alsatian Bakery in Castroville, Texas. This gift has become a traditional gift which the Hancock's give to guest speakers who attend our Annual Chapter Gala Event.

(Photo Right) Our Color Guard for this Gala Event were (L to R) Compatriots Frank Rohrbough (Commander and US Flag Bearer), Stephen Rohrbough (Texas Flag Bearer) and Larry Loop (Guardsmen). The NSSAR and Texas SAR Flags were preposition for the event.



(Photo Left) During the social hour and much of the dinner we were entertained by the music player on a grand piano by our Compatriot Jerry (Jay) Higginson. He served as Chapter President from January 2008 to January 2009. Jay started studying Piano at age 7 which continued through college. There he started a music major and switched to a double major in business and economics with a minor in music. He sometimes played lounge music at a couple of large hotels in Kansas City. He has played for church for over 50 years starting as a youth. For the gala he presented multiple genres from old standards, classics, Broadway and TV hits and early Americana saluting the SAR hoping to reach a diverse audience.

YOUTH AWARDS CONTEST FOR 2022

The 2022 Youth Contests have been concluded at the Chapter Level. The number of candidates for our contest was down considerably this time, possibly due to Covid illnesses' and restrictions.

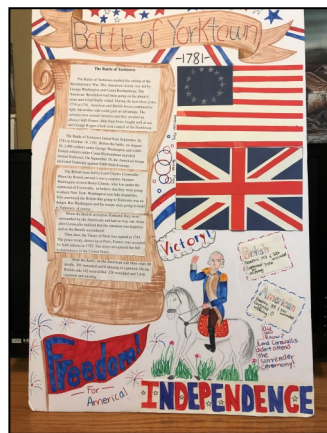
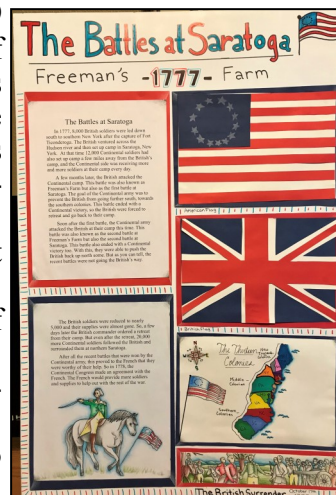


(Photo at Left) Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration Contest: Our Chapter Winner for this award is Shannon Langas. She attends the Communication Arts High School in San Antonio and plans to get a degree in Illustration at the Savannah College of Arts and Design. Her topic was “Fence Sitters, Patriots, and COVID 19”. Her first Place Award was \$500. Ms. Langas was the only one from our Region 3 and advanced to compete at State.

Americanism Poster Contest: There were 119 posters entered in the contest from the 5th grades of Hardy Oak Elementary School. Our chapter winners were selected during our Executive Committee Meeting on February 10th. The theme for this year’s contest was a Revolutionary War Event. Our winners are:

- **First Place:** Gabby DeGannes “The Battles at Saratoga.” Award \$50 **(Photo at Right)**
- **Second Place:** Sindhu Selvakumar “Battle of Yorktown.” Award \$35 **(Photo at Left)**
- **Third Place:** Bowen Han “Boston Tea Party”. Award \$25 **(Photo Bottom Left)**

Since we had over 100 poster entries we are able to send our 1st and 2nd place posters to the state contest.



Stella Knight Essay Contest: We had 4 contestants for this contest this year. The winners are as follows:

First Place: "Silence Dogood" by Giselle Kaderabek. Award \$500 **(Photo Right)**

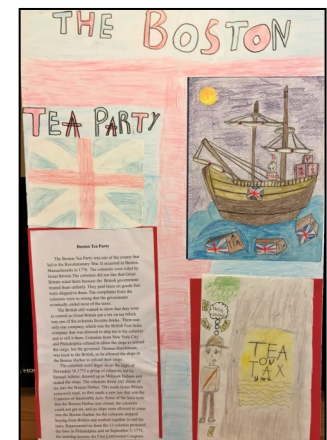
Second Place: “Patriotism in the Pandemic” by Shannon Langas. Award \$250

Third Place: “The Right to Decide” by Madison Jones. Award \$100

(Photo Right) Ms. Kaderabek is a senior at Ronald Reagan High School in San Antonio. While managing a 3.7 GPA on a 4.0 scale, she has been on the varsity volleyball team for 3 years earning academic all district honors and sportsmanship that would serve as a foundation for her character. She plans to go to college and seek a degree in marketing.



Her essay reads in part: “What we seldom recollect about Benjamin Franklin is his exposure to the elements that made him the most celebrated and honored founding father in history. Benjamin Franklin, often shadowed behind the pseudonym, Silence Dogood, allowed him to write anonymously ... for publication in the newspaper. From April to October in 1722, Benjamin submitted a collection of 14 Dogood letters which all would to be published and recognized by the Courant.” She will read her essay at the April 20, 2022 Chapter Meeting. Her essay was submitted to the state contest but did not place in the top 3. There were 18 essays that competed at the state level which proved to be a highly competitive event.



The posters and the oration winners will be judged at the State Conference on April 2, 2022 and announced at the Youth Awards Luncheon.

EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

(Photo Right) Compatriot Benjamin D. Bowles, a Junior Member of SAR San Antonio Chapter No. 4, attended the February Chapter Meeting accompanied by his mother, Amy O'Brien Bowles, M.D. He was the winner of the Chapter level Knight Eagle Scout Contest and his entry will be forwarded for competition at the State level. Benjamin is a junior at the STEM Academy located on the campus of the Legacy of Education Excellence (LEE) High School in San Antonio, Texas. After Benjamin read his Contest essay, "John Marshall, Patriot Fighter, Constitutional Defender", President Kanter presented him the Eagle Scout Medal, Certificate, and \$250 Chapter award. This is the Chapter's first Knight Eagle Scout entry in several years. Benjamin is the grandson of Compatriots Thomas O'Brien and Michael Bowles, both members of the San Antonio Chapter.



YOUNG COMPATRIOT CROSSOVERS TO BOYS SCOUTS

(Photo Right) One of our youngest members, Compatriot Jake Lee made his "Crossover" from Cub Scout to Boy Scout on February 19th. "Crossover" from Cub Scout to Boy Scout is a very important event in Scouting Life. It marks the advancement of a young man into a deeper understanding of what Scouting is and how Scouting serves to build and support young men into respectful, responsible adults, culminating in the pinnacle of Eagle Scout. We extend to Compatriot Lee our best wishes and good luck as he enters this next phase of Scouting.

Jake is the Grandson of Kevin and Jean Kanter and Son to Daughter Krystle Lee-Lovelace and Stepson to Compatriot Brian Lovelace who we lost to COVID in August, 2021.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley, otherwise known as Molly Pitcher, dies. On this day in history, January 22, 1832, Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley, otherwise known as "Molly Pitcher," dies. The details of the Molly legend are somewhat uncertain. Molly Pitcher was actually a common name used for women who helped carry water to soldiers on the battlefield, so "Molly" is not necessarily referring to one person. Indeed, there are several "Mollies" that we know of. One "Molly" that we do know a fair amount about is Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley. Mary was born in Pennsylvania to a poor family. She worked as a servant in a doctor's house for many years before she married William Hays of Carlisle, Pennsylvania. William Hays joined the Continental Army in May, 1777 in Bucks County, New Jersey, during the British occupation of that state. Mary joined William as a "camp follower" during the winter at Valley Forge that year. Camp followers were women who would travel with the army and perform tasks such as washing clothes, preparing food and caring for sick or dying soldiers.

William was trained as an artilleryman during the winter of 1777-78 and Mary is known to have carried water to the trainees. When the winter ended, British Commander-in-Chief, Sir Henry Clinton received orders to evacuate Philadelphia, which was captured in 1777 and to concentrate his forces in New York instead. This was due to a reassessment of strategic needs due to France's entry into the war.

As Lt. Gen. Charles Cornwallis retreated from Philadelphia across New Jersey, George Washington attacked him at what is known as the Battle of Monmouth or the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse. During this battle, Mary's husband William manned the cannons. The temperature was over 100 degrees that day and many men fell or died from heat exhaustion. Mary carried water from a nearby spring for her husband's unit. The water was used by the men, but also to cool the cannon and the ramrod's rag, a rag on the end of a stick used to clean excess gunpowder from the cannon after each shot.

At some point in the battle, William collapsed, but did not die. He was carried off the field and Mary took his place. She continued cleaning the cannon between shots with her husband's ramrod and loading the cannon for the next shot. Mary was nearly injured when a musket ball went between her legs and tore off the bottom part of her dress. At some point, it is alleged that George Washington actually saw Mary on the field and issued her a warrant as a non-commissioned officer after the battle. After the war, Mary went by the name "Molly" for the rest of her life.

William Hays died in 1786, leaving Mary 200 acres of land he was awarded for his service in the war. She remarried to John McCauley in 1793 and continued doing domestic housework for the rest of her life. Around 1810, John McCauley tricked Mary into selling her land for a dirt cheap price and absconded with the money, leaving Mary penniless. In 1822, Mary was recognized by the Pennsylvania Government for her service in the war and awarded an annual veteran's pension of \$40 a year. She died at 88 and is buried in the Old Graveyard in Carlisle under the name "Molly McCauley."

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

CHAPTER'S GRAVE MARKING PROGRAM



(Photo Above Left) Our first event was to honor Compatriot Alexander B. Spenser who became the founder and first President of the San Antonio Chapter on April 19, 1930. From left to right are Richard Weitzel, Frank Rohrbough (Color Guard Commander), Blair Rudy, Stephen Rohrbough (US Flag Bearer), Fred Soupiset (Texas Flag Bearer), Larry Loop (Guardsmen), Frank Kebelman (Master of Ceremonies) and Michael Bowles (Photographer shown in yellow coat in photo at right). (Photo Right) We honored Colonel Albert Metts, a graduate of the United States Military Academy, and served as an officer in combat during World War II, Korea and Vietnam, earning the Silver Star, Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts. He proved Supplemental Applications for forty (40) additional Patriot Ancestors. For his longstanding support of our Chapter, he was awarded Honorary President status in November 2009.



On Saturday, February 26, 2022 our Chapter conducted its 5th Grave Marking Event to honor compatriots who have passed. We conducted 7 Grave Marking Events as follows:

- **Sunset Memorial Park** in San Antonio for Phillip C. Huck, John R. Wilmeth, Colonel Albert C. Metts, and Elmer M. Stahl.
- **San Antonio City Cemetery #1**, for Alexander B. Spenser.
- **Anchor Masonic Lodge Cemetery** for Alexander H. Fraser, and
- **National Cemetery Ft. Sam Houston** for Colonel Felix H. Jones, Jr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

Texas Society SAR 128th Annual Conference: March 31-April 3, 2022; Hilton Richardson Hotel, Dallas, TX, March 31 (Thursday) - April 3, 2022 (Sunday) (Registration Required/Hotel Reservations NLT March 11th via TXSSAR Website) (Frank Rohrbough)

Next Chapter Executive Committee Meetings: Scheduled for

March 9 and April 13, 2022, La Fonda Mexican Restaurant, Alamo Heights (Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday each month 11:30 A.M.)

Chapter Meetings: Scheduled for March 16 and April 20, 2022 at **11:30 A.M.** A News Release will be sent out before each Meeting to make your reservation. Those Compatriots with

Standing Reservations should use TXSARCH4RESERVATIONS@gmail.com to advise if they will NOT attend the Meeting. This will avoid the Chapter paying for meals incurred by their absence.

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

www.txssar.org/SanAntonio