



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 2022



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Compatriots: It's been a busy Spring and portends to be an even busier Summer! We've been busy presenting JROTC and ROTC Medals to deserving Cadets all over our coverage area, we've completed several more Compatriot Grave Marking Ceremonies (and qualified nine Compatriots for Grave Marking Medals), we've attended the annual TXSAR State meeting. While at the State Meeting in Richardson, Texas; Past President Dustin Whittenburg was awarded the Patriot Medal, Frank Rohrbough brought home the Color Guardsman of the Year, several members were awarded Certificates for their work at the Chapter and State level. Dustin Whittenburg moved from State Chancellor to State Secretary and I was honored to be selected as State Chaplain. We provided Color Guard at the Pioneer Ball as well as the Pilgrimage to The Alamo during Fiesta.



We have also learned that the San Antonio Chapter will host the 2024 Annual Meeting. For those involved in past state meetings, you know that it's a lot of work in advance preparation and a very hectic few days during the event, but it's an opportunity for our Chapter to shine and I encourage everyone to become involved at some level. Information will be forthcoming.

Although we will take a couple of months off from our Chapter Meetings, our Summer is shaping up to be a great time to showcase our Chapter. For those of you in the Color Guard, "It's a great time to wear wool"! We will continue to pursue our initiative to honor our past compatriots, participate in several Color Guard opportunities, make our annual presentation at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort, represent our Chapter and SAR at the annual Independence Day Celebration at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery, and the commemoration of the Battle of Medina as well as a few other activities that are in the midst of "firming up" and more information will be communicated as it becomes available. We are also sharing our activities on the State Color Guard calendar to ensure that we make a good impression at all of the activities where we are asked to represent SAR.

Our Chapter continues to grow as our Registrar and Assistance Registrar are busy assisting potential members with the completion of their application. Our newly elected State President Jim Kuykendall shared his vision during his address at the 127th Annual Convention. His desire is to grow our membership and just as importantly, *mentor* our new members. He asked us to grow members in our organization; "To get one, ask one!". Tell friends, co-workers, family members, about SAR. As a Chapter, as an organization, we aren't getting any younger, we need to plant the seeds to encourage "new blood" to come after us, to join us to further our mission of teaching our history and our heritage.

I ask everyone to be on the lookout for opportunities to present Flag Certificates to any neighbor or business that you see that flies our colors *appropriately*. If you see a likely candidate, please let our Flag Committee Chair, John Booth know so he can follow up on your lead. His email is jvbooth@me.com.

Please watch for upcoming activities either through email, our chapter website (<https://www.txssar.org/SanAntonio/>) or our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/sarsatx>.

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. Such donation should be sent to VAVS addressed to **Voluntary Services, Audie Murphy VA Hospital, Attn: Scott Traeger, 7400 Merton Minter Blvd., San Antonio, TX 78221.**

COMPATRIOT FRANK KEBELMAN WAS NOMINATED FOR GENERAL WESTMORELAND SAR AWARD



As a Rifleman with the **San Antonio Memorial Services Detachment** at the National Cemetery Fort Sam Houston, Texas Lt. Colonel Kebelman, USMC (Retired) provided 959 volunteer hours (9590 Stark Points) of service to the Audie Murphy Memorial Medical Center and attended 347 (6940 Stark Points) service members' funerals during the year 2021. With mileage he earned an additional 1380 Stark points for a total of 17,900 Stark Points for 2021.

This service is documented in the San Antonio Chapter's USS Stark Report for the 2021 Reporting Year. Accordingly, Compatriot Kebelman qualifies for five oak Leaf Clusters to National Society Sons of the American Revolution Service to Veterans Medal which he received in 2020. Compatriot Kebelman's participation in the Memorial Services Detachment on a weekly basis, is truly an extraordinary service to veterans from all branches of the Armed Services.

Based on this service to veterans he is The Texas Society's nominee for National Society's General William Westmorland Award. Although he was not selected by the National Society's Veterans Committee, the Texas Society and our chapter are very proud of Compatriot Kebelman's service to Texas veterans these past two years.

MARCH CHAPTER MEETING

Our Guest Speaker for our March 16th Meeting was Mr. Aubrey David, Director, Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. He spoke about the projects for developing the cemetery to meet the future needs of service members and their spouses for the next 40 years. He explained what changes were funded for the next several years and what additional changes were needed to meet future requirements. He confirmed that there was adequate space to do burials up to 2050.

For the support that Director David has given to our Chapter to conduct the Compatriot Grave Marking Program at Ft. Sam Houston during the period of September 2, 2021 to February 26, 2022, President Kanter presented Mr. David with the SAR Silver Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate. The Citation to accompany the Award was read by Compatriot Frank Kebelman.

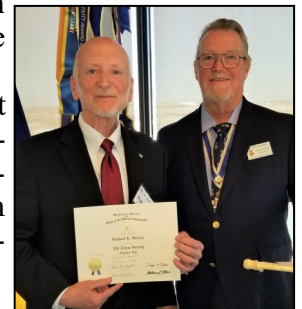


REVISION OF CHAPTER BYLAWS

Because the Chapter Bylaws had not been updated for the past 10 years, President Kanter had requested they be reviewed and any changes needed to be presented to the Executive Committee in December. Some changes were needed - although minor and technical for clarity and the duties of the some of the officers needed expansion. Proposed changes were announced to the Executive Committee on January 12, 2022; the committee approved the changes and requested that the membership be given a 30 day notice as required by our Chapter Bylaws via a Chapter News Release on February 1, 2022. At the Chapter Meeting on March 16th, Chancellor Edward Snyder presented the Bylaws changes to the membership. A motion was made to accept the Bylaws Seventh Amended Edition. The motion carried with out objection. They are posted on the Chapter website.

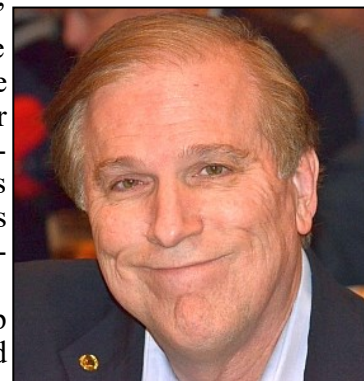
INDUCTION OF COMPATRIOT HOWARD HARING

(Photo at Right) President Kevin Kanter inducted Compatriot Howard Haring at the Chapter Meeting on March 16th. His patriot ancestor is Thomas Smithers Hill (P-181615) who served as a Private in the North Carolina Militia of Guilford County, first under Captain John Leek, and later under Captains John May and Robert King.



CHAPTER WINS MANY STATE AWARDS

The Texas Society conducted its 127th Annual Convention as an “In-Person” Meeting on March 31 — April 3, 2022 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 the trying circumstance 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 President Kevin Kanter during his term of service in 2021, we fulfilled many of the goals and objectives of our Chapter, the Texas Society and the National Society Sons American Revolution.

- **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.** Of significance is the fact that over 75 percent of the USS Stark Points reported were earned by Compatriot Frank Kebelman for his service to veterans as a member of the Memorial Service Unit at Ft. Sam Houston
- **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 Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest Award:** This contest was supported by the developed to help promote 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. Of the one hundred and nineteen (119) students who prepared a poster, ten (10) posters competed in our chapter Contest. Our first place winner is Gabby DeGannes for her poster on “The Battles at Saratoga”; she received a \$50 Cash Award. Our second place winner is Sindhu Selvakumar for her poster on “Battle of Yorktown”; she received Award \$35 Cash Award. Both posters advanced to the State Contest on April 2nd where Gabby placed 5th and received a \$100 Award and Sindhu placed 4th at the State Contest and received a \$100. These posters are shown in the January-February 2022 Newsletter.
- **Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration Contest:**
(Photo Right) Our Chapter Winner is Shannon Langas. Her topic was “Fence Sitters, Patriots, and COVID 19”. She placed 2nd in the State Contest on April 2nd and received a \$750 Award. As our Chapter winner she also received a first Place Award of \$500. She attends the Communication Arts High School in San Antonio.
- **For other State Awards, see page 4.**



San Antonio Chapter attendees included Past TXSSAR President Stephen Rohrbough, Chapter President Kevin Kanter, Chapter Corresponding Secretary Frank Rohrbough, Past Chapter Presidents Peter Baron and Dustin Whittenburg. Noteworthy is Compatriot Whittenburg also served at the State Chancellor and was elected to be the State Staff Secretary for 2022-2023; Kevin Kanter was re-elected as District IX Vice President and elected as State Chaplain. Larry Loop was appointed as sub-committee Chair of the State Medals & Awards Committee and Jason Chall is Chairman of the State Education Committee.

OTHER AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE TEXAS SOCIETY SAR MEETING

Patriot Medal and Certificate: Past Chapter President Dustin Whittenburg was awarded the Patriot Medal for his service to the Texas Society as Chancellor. This is the highest SAR Award for individual service to the State. This award is given to only one member for every 500 members in a State Society. The Texas Society is the largest State in the National Society and qualifies for six Patriot Medals to be awarded each year to deserving candidates.

(Photo Right) Compatriot Whittenburg joins many of our chapter members as shown from left to right Edward Butler, Stephen Rohrbough, Frank Rohrbough and Peter Baron. Other chapter recipients include Jim Massingill, James Taylor, George Harcourt and many others going back to the founding of our Chapter on April 30, 1930.



Color Guardsman of the Year: Our Color Guard Commander Frank Rohrbough was selected as “Color Guardsman of the Year” by the Texas Society Color Guard Committee at the Board of Managers Meeting in October 2021 at Clear Lake, TX. He was nominated by Compatriot Peter Baron for the Award and endorsed by Past President-General Edward Butler (2009-2010) for this prestigious award. His nomination was approved by our Chapter President Kevin Kanter. The award was given to Commander Rohrbough at the Closing Banquet of the Annual State Meeting on April 2, 2022.

Other chapter recipients of this Award are Compatriots Peter Baron (2011) and James Taylor (2016). **Other Awards:** Many other awards were given by President Drake Peddie for service as Officers of the State Society and other members who served on State Committees as a chairman of a committee. Compatriot Dustin Whittenburg received the Certificate of Distinguished Service while Compatriots Frank Rohrbough, Kevin Kanter and Peter Baron were presented the Silver Roger Sherman Award for their dedicated and faithful service to the Texas Society for the Sons of the American Revolution.



CHAPTER PARTICIPATES IN FIESTA EVENTS

Pioneer Ball: Through the help of Compatriot Jay Lewallen and his First Lady Diane, the San Antonio Chapter was invited to present the National and State Colors for the State Association of Texas Pioneers 101st Patriotic & Historical Ball. On Saturday, April 2, 2022, the San Antonio Chapter presented the National Colors at the Opening Ceremony of the Patriotic Ball at La Villita Assembly Hall at 7:00 P.M. **(Photo Right)** From left to right are Guardsman Jay Lewallen, US Flag Bearer Frank Keberman, Texas Flag Bearer Fred Soupiset and Guardsman Larry Loop.



Pilgrimage to the Alamo: On Monday, April 4, 2022, the Chapter participated in the Annual Pilgrimage to the Alamo where many Fiesta Organizations processed at 4:00 PM from the Municipal Auditorium (Tobin Center) to the Alamo at 3:30 P.M. Participating were Color Guard Commander Frank Rohrbough, President Kevin Kanter, Fred Soupiset in period dress and Compatriots, Robert Watson and Howard Haring. President Kanter presented the Chapter Wreath for placement on the lawn in front of the Alamo. The event was sponsored by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and attended by many patriotic organizations supporting the Annual Fiesta Event.



CHAPTER WINNER OF STELLA KNIGHT ESSAY CONTEST

Ms. Giselle Kaderabek was selected as our Chapter Winner for the Stella Knight Essay Contest in February. She is a senior at Ronald Reagan High School in San Antonio. She was invited to read her essay at our Chapter Meeting on April 20, 2022.

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.”

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. **(Photo Above)** Chairman of the Chapter Youth Awards Programs Larry Loop presented Ms. Kaderabek with a Medal and Certificate with a \$500 check for her Award.



GUEST SPEAKER FOR APRIL CHAPTER MEETING



(Photo Left) Our Guest Speaker was Robert M. “Bob” Benavides who has had a lifelong interest in San Antonio heritage. His research and community contributions to San Antonio and Texas history go back more than 40 years. He is currently serving as Chairman, Board of Directors, of the San Antonio Living History Association. He is the Editor/Publisher of the “YANAGUANA’S SUCCESSORS – *The Story of the Canary Islanders’ Emigration to Texas in the 18th Century*” for the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of the City of San Antonio, Texas.

The focus of his presentation was on the world events of the time that lead up to the Battle of the Medina which was fought in August of 1813 between the Spanish and the Texians who sought independence from Spain. His presentation provided a good overview on the founding and settling of Texas before it became a Republic and eventually the 45th state of the United States in July, 1845. For his presentation President Kanter thanked him for a wonderful presentation and stated that as a custom he would send him a book entitled “Lion of Liberty; Patrick Henry and the Call To A New Nation” by Harlow Giles Unger.

CHAPTER CELEBRATES IN 91ST BIRTHDAY



President Kevin invited other Past Chapter Presidents to join him in the celebration of our Chapter’s 91st Birthday. To set the stage, President Kanter asked Historian Larry Loop to provide a brief history of the founding of our Chapter on April 30, 1930.

(Photo at Left)

From left to right are Frank Rohrbough (Jan 2007-Jan 2008), James Taylor (Jan 2011-Jan 2012 and Jan 2013

-Jan 2014), Robert Hancock (Jan 2014-Jan 2015), Stephen Rohrbough (Mar 1998-Mar 2000), Kevin Kanter (Jan 2021-Jan 2023), George Harcourt (Apr 2005-Dec 2005), Edward Butler (Mar 2002-Mar 2004), David Bowles (Jan 2009-Jan 2010), Jim Massingill (Mar 2001-Mar 2002) and Dustin Whittenburg (Jan 2019-Jan 2020).

COMPATRIOT GRAVE MARKING EVENT



Under the leadership of Compatriot Frank Kebelman the Chapter has conducted its 6th Grave Marking Events on April 30, 2022 at the Mission Burial Park North Cemetery. **(Photo Left)** From left to right are Blair Rudy, Frank Kebelman (Master of Ceremonies), Stephen Rohrbough (US Flag Bearer), Michael Bowles (Flag Placement Detail) Fred Soupiset (Texas Flag Bearer) and Richard Weitzel (Flower Placement Detail). Not shown but present was Michelle Poczobut our wonderful bulgiest who played Taps at each of the five Memorial Services.

We honored five of our chapter compatriots. They are:

- Henry A. Garcia, Jr. and a descendant of the Canary Islanders who settle in Texas;
- Colonel John W. Beretta and one of six of the founding members of our chapter;
- Richard W. Barham Sr. PhD and served in WWII in British Guiana;
- Albert C. McDavid Sr. who was a charter member of the San Antonio Chapter; and
- Albert C. McDavid Jr. was the son of Albert Sr. and served in the US Army during WWII. His headstone is shown above.

CHAPTER PRESENTED JROTC AWARDS AT LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS



work has been remarkable as he expanded the presentation of our chapter awards to deserving ROTC students at 43 high schools and 3 college within the San Antonio area. 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. With his move to Ohio in late April, he will be greatly missed.

(Photo Left) Compatriot George Harcourt presented the SAR JROTC Medal and Certificate to Cadet 1Lt. Kavan Paul at Cole High School on April 20th. **(Photo Right)** President Kanter presented the SAR JROTC Medal and Certificate to Cadet Eloy Robledo at Carrizo Spring High School on April 23rd. Other members made presentations too, but photos were not available to include in this Newsletter.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

Texas Society of SAR 127th Annual Conference: March 30 to April 3, 2022 in Richardson TX. Must Register to Attend. (Frank Rohrbough)

Next Chapter Executive Committee Meetings: May 11, and June 8, 2022, at La Fonda Mexican Restaurant in Alamo Heights (Meetings are held the

2nd Wednesday each month 11:30 A.M.)

Chapter Meetings: May 18th and June 15th, **No Meetings in July-August 2022**, Petroleum Club (7th Floor), 11:30 A.M. Reservations are required via txsarch4reservations@gmail.com. (Meetings are usually held the 3rd Wednesday of each month.)

Annual Independence Day Historical Program: July 3, 2022 Hyatt Hill Country Resort at 10:00 A.M. in the Luckenbach Pavilion (Frank Rohrbough)

For more information, please visit our Chapter Website at: <https://www.txssar.org/SanAntonio/>