



THE SAN ANTONIO COMPATRIOT

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

Compatriot Richard Weitzel, President - Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, Editor

Jul-Aug 2023



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Compatriots: Although we will take a couple of months off from our Chapter Meetings during July and August, we need to focus on those events which are planned for the Fall.

As you will note in this Newsletter, we have participated in several activities during this period. Most notably was our 12th Annual performance at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort on July 3rd, and joined the Granaderos Y Damas De Galvez for their "38th Annual Fourth of July Patriotic Ceremony" at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery as shown on Pages 2 and 3. We joined many other Patriotic Organizations to place our Chapter Wreaths to honor the many veterans who have fought for and protected the freedoms that we have today.



On August 5th our Chapter held a Grave Marking Event at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery to honor five of our compatriots. (See Page 5). At the end of that event we conducted a Flag Presentation Event to honor General Richard E. Cavazos, a true American Hero. In January 2023, Ft. Hood, Texas, was renamed Ft. Cavazos in honor of this gallant distinguished Texas Soldier. We submitted an article for inclusion in the Texas Compatriot Newsletter and are seeking to have it included in the NSSAR Magazine.

On August 12th we participated in the 210th Anniversary of the Battle of Medina by attending a Memorial Ceremony where we were joined by Compatriots from the Freedom Chapter to remember this battle - the bloodiest ever on Texas soil. Compatriot David Hamaker, a 6th generation descendent of Revolutionary War Patriot Peter Sides, and member of the Freedom Chapter, spoke about how Patriot Peter Sides came to Texas to fight for the Texians Independence from Spain. He stated "Peter Sides, who had fought many battles during his life, was 63 at the time of his death, in the Battle of Medina. As the President of the San Antonio Chapter, I was honored to deliver the "Opening Prayer" and also the closing "Memorial Prayer to all who died in the Battle of Medina", at the request of Martin Gonzales, the Chairman of the Atascosa County Historical Commission. Kevin Kanter delivered both of these Prayers for the two years he was the Chapter President. For more details see Pages 6-7.

Compatriot Grave Marking Ceremonies will resume in September and through the Fall. We are always looking for more members to assist in this recognition of our Compatriots that have passed before us. All members are welcome to attend these events. For more details contact Compatriot Frank Kebelman at kebelman@gmail.com.

As a reminder all members who are an Event and Committee Chairman please report chapter activities that take place during the year using the Chapter Activities Report Form. Use the URL noted below, then go to the "Docs" tab and click on "Society Docs & Forms". This Form must be sent to Compatriot Blair Rudy who is responsible for preparing the Chapter's Annual Report for 2023.

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, *Dick Weitzel*

CHAPTER CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY

At the Invitation of the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa in San Antonio, the San Antonio Chapter conducted its **12th Educational and Historical Independence Day Event** for hotel guests visiting the resort on July 3, 2023. The event was held at 10:30 A.M. in the Luckenbach Pavilion near the golf course. This was the 246th anniversary of our nation's Declaration of Independence from England. Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, Past Chapter President, served as the Master of Ceremonies. He welcomed approximately 80 hotel guests to the event to celebrate the founding of our country. Immediate Past Chapter

President Kevin Kanter spoke on "What SAR Is and Does". Chapter Historian Compatriot Larry Loop gave the overview on "Why We Celebrate Independence Day".

(Photo Left) Twelve members participated in this year's event. From Left to Right are: Front Row Kneeling — Compatriots Frank Rohrbough, Frank Kebelman and Larry Loop. Standing — Mike Bowles, Dan Farris, Joe Weathersby and wife Vedia, Fred Soupiset, Jason Bourgeois, Kevin Kanter, Ron Finch, Larry Luckett and Christopher Bowles,



Grandson of Mike Bowles. Stephen Rohrbough and Diane Rohrbough wife of Frank Rohrbough. Not shown but attending were Bob Watson and Kenneth McAnear.

The Chapter Color Guard included Commander Frank Kebelman, Guardsmen Larry Loop and Ron Finch and Flag Bearers Fred Soupiset (US Flag) and Jason Bourgeois (Texas Flag). They opened the event with the Posting of Colors and closed the event with the Retirement of Colors.

Compatriot Frank Kebelman explained the various Battle Flags of the Revolution highlighting the "Star Spangled Banner" and what it means, to patriots. He explained that it unified resistance to oppression of liberties: oppression both by one's own government and by foreign powers. It began as an early symbol of defiance to the tyrannical King George and the British government during the American Revolution. To the Continental soldiers, most specifically the Continental Marines, it represented what they were fighting for. He showed the Flag that was flown over the Serapis that Captain John Paul Jones had captured from the British and claimed it to be a US Flag. He spoke on the evolution of the Patriot Uniforms during the Revolution starting with the Minutemen of Massachusetts and Virginia and Mountain Men of the Carolinas and the Regimental Uniforms that were approved by the Continental Congress in 1778.

Additionally, Compatriot Soupiset provided an overview of the guns used by soldiers in the Militia and the Continental Line Army during the Revolution, notably the 75-caliber flintlock musket. He noted that a well-seasoned soldier could load and fire a musket three times in one minute. He stated that the musket was not very accurate beyond 50 yards and thus during a battle, muskets were fired in volleys in succession at the enemy standing in formation over 50 yards away. He described the firing positions of soldiers in formation — shoulder to shoulder and standing 3 rows deep — when engaging the enemy on the field of battle. Following several volleys, the command was given to fix bayonets and advance against the enemy. Compatriot Stephen Rohrbough spoke about the use of the 50 caliber flintlock rifle and noted that a rifleman could load and fire only once every 90 seconds. It was more accurate weapon and used for targets up to 250 yards away. Many riflemen served as snipers during a battle seeking to injure or kill enemy commanders.

Major Woodard, from the US Army Medical Museum at Ft. Sam Houston, spoke about the practice of medicine during the Revolutionary War. He noted that the use of inoculations to protect the health of the soldiers was first used at the Winter Encampment at Valley Forge in 1777. He invited attendees to visit his Demonstration Table to learn more about medical practices and treatment of soldiers of the Continental Army. Compatriot Rohrbough then called for the Ringing of the Bell as a salute to each of the Original Thirteen Colonies on the date they became a colony as they were announced.

Before closing the Program Compatriot Stephen Rohrbough presented Major Woodard, USA (Ret) the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal for his military service and participation in our event this year.

We closed the Program with the playing of the song composed by Country Artist Lee Greenwood "God Bless the USA". The guests joined in the singing of the song and standing in honor of our great country.

CHAPTER CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY (Cont'd)

To allow greater interaction for the hotel guests, Demonstration Tables were set up where guests could visit each table to learn more about the various aspects of the Revolutionary War. These included: Weapons and Accouterments, Revolutionary Period Uniforms, Making a Powder Horn, Flags of the Revolution, Currencies of the Colonies, Patriot Ancestor Stories, Family Genealogy Charts, Camp Followers of the Revolution, and Coloring Book Sketches depicting events of the Revolution. **(Photo Right)** Major Woodard, Historian, US Army Medical Museum, told more about the practice of medicine during the Revolutionary War and the instruments used in the field hospitals. Looking on is Compatriot Keven Kanter and a hotel guest.



(Photo Below Left) Compatriot Larry Loop explained the currency used in the Colonies during the American Revolution. Revolutionary money was referred to as 'Continental' - the paper money issued by the Continental Congress. He provided each guest with a handout which explained the types of currencies used in colonial times. **(Photo Right)** Lady Diane Rohrbough displayed a table of items that might have been brought with the Camp Followers when they followed their husbands, fathers, or other male relatives to war.



As predominantly tenant farmers, the families could not stay on the farms as the women could not do the difficult work required. Items always carried by the women would have been herbal medications, sewing needles, threads, scissors, etc.,



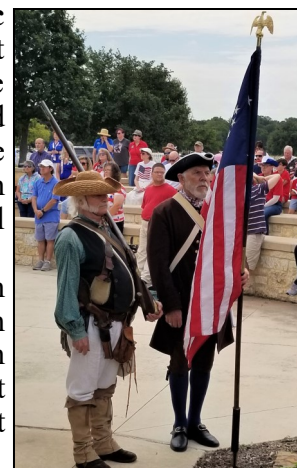
one or more plates, a couple of utensils, fire-making items, and a water bucket, plus any other items they could carry. The children would gather twigs, and dry leaves to build campfires, make traps to catch small animals, and help to assist the family. Being "Sponsored" the army provided ½ of the rations that the soldier got to the women and ¼ of the allocations to the children.

GRANADEROS Y DAMAS DE GALVEZ CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY

On July 4th, we participated in the "38th Annual Fourth of July Patriotic Ceremony" conducted by the Order of Granaderos y Damas de Galvez. The event was held at the National Cemetery at Ft. Sam Houston and included many of the local Patriotic, Historical, and Military organizations including the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Memorial Services Detachment Honor Guard.



(Photo Left) From L-R are Ron Finch, Frank Rohrbough, Kenneth McAnear, Dan Farris, Bob Watson and Kevin Kanter. Compatriot Kanter provided the Benediction at the Closing of the event.



(Photo Right) Compatriot Joe Weathersby served in the Color Guard and posted and retired the US Flag.

CHAPTER CONDUCTS ANOTHER GRAVE MARKING EVENT HONORING COMPATRIOTS



On August 5th our Chapter held a Grave Marking Event at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery to honor five of our compatriots. Three compatriots from the Freedom Chapter joined us and

are marked with an asterisk.

(Photo Above) Shown from L-R are: Frank Kebelman, Dan Farris, Frank Rohrbough, Don Hayes*, David Hamaker* (US Flag), Ron Finch (Texas Flag), Ed Sellards*, Blair Rudy (Drummer), Kevin Kanter and Bob Peterson (Bugler).

We conducted five Grave Markings for our Compatriots. Their biographies are stated as follows:

1. Thomas L. Powell, NSSAR # - 65959, TXSSAR # - 695. He served as an officer in the Army Air Corps in World War II as a radar observer and bombardier and stayed in the USAF Reserve until 1957. He had a long and successful career in the insurance business, and was a Sunday School Teacher and Deacon in the Presbyterian Church. He was accepted for membership in the NSSAR on 7 January 1946. Lt. Powell passed away on 10 March 2017.
2. John Kelsey Burr Jr. - NSSAR # - 76917, TXSSAR # - 1029. He joined the US Army in 1933 and served as a Captain in the US Army Field Artillery during World War II and retired in 1942. In 1953 he applied for NSSAR membership and was approved on 10 October 1953. Captain Burr passed away on 31 October 1958.
3. Lawrence G. Alexander Jr. - NSSAR # - 79375, TXSSAR # -1363. Colonel Alexander joined the United States Army on 2 December 1929 and served in the Medical Service Corps until his retirement as a Colonel in 1959. He was a veteran of both World War II and the Korean War, and was a recipient of the Legion of Merit. He joined the Virginia Society, NSSAR, on 4 May 1955 receiving national number 79375 and Virginia number 1974. He transferred to the Texas Society on 3 December 1957, receiving Texas number 1363. Colonel Alexander passed away on 2 March 1971.
4. Donald Parker Spalding - NSSAR # - 76550, TXSSAR - 1012. After completing his education Colonel Spalding joined the Massachusetts National Guard in 1913 and eventually accepted a commission as an infantry Second Lieutenant in 1917. His military career included service in World War I and World War II and retired from active duty as a Colonel in 1948. He was accepted for membership in the NSSAR on 25 May 1953. Colonel Spalding passed away on 16 June 1972.
5. Yale Hicks Jr., NSSAR - # 79411, TXSSAR # - 1148. He earned his Medical (M.D.) degree, and pursued a career in medicine and in the 1930's served on staff at Austin State School, Austin, Texas. In May of 1941, he joined the US Army as a doctor which included service in Adak, Alaska. He remained in uniform until 1945. Doctor Hicks applied for NSSAR membership and was accepted on 21 May 1955. Captain Hicks passed away on 3 December 1982 in Austin, Texas.

CHAPTER HONORS GENERAL RICHARD E. CAVAZOS, US ARMY (RETIRED)



On August 5, 2023, the Sons of the American Revolution, Texas Society, conducted a Flag Presentation Event at the Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery to honor General Richard E. Cavazos, a true American Hero. Four small US Flags and four Bouquet of Flowers were placed at the foot of the headstone. In January 2023, Ft. Hood, Texas, was re-named Ft. Cavazos in honor of this gallant distinguished Texas Soldier.

(Photo Above) Attendees from the San Antonio (*) and Freedom Chapters (**) include (L-R) Frank Kebelman*, Larry Loop*, Michael Bowles*, Frank Rohrbough*, Don Hayes**, David Hamaker** (US Flag), Ron Finch* (Texas Flag), Blair Rudy* (Drummer), Edwin Sellards**, Kevin Kanter*, Daniel Farris* and Bob Peterson (Bugler) Ft. Sam Houston Memorial Honor Guard.

Richard E. Cavazos was born in Kingsville, Texas on 31 January 1929. He was raised on the King Ranch where his father, a World War I veteran, served as a foreman. He graduated with distinction from Texas Technical College (now Texas Tech) and was commissioned a 2nd Lt. through the Army ROTC Program. After completing his basic officer training, and jump school, he deployed to Korea and served as an infantry platoon commander in the 2nd Battalion, all-Hispanic segregated 65th Infantry Regiment. In June 1953, while attacking and later defending Hill 412, he was wounded and then rescued several of his wounded comrades for which he received the Distinguished Service Cross.

His record continued to shine and in 1967 he deployed as a Lieutenant Colonel to Vietnam as commander of 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment. Later that year during a fight against NVA forces, he personally led a counterattack, then called in artillery fire, earning a second DSC.

In 1976 the Army chose him to become the first Hispanic Brigadier General and in 1982, he was chosen to be the first Hispanic 4-star general. Throughout his career and life he was a teacher, a mentor and a proven combat leader. His Soldiers loved him and he loved them back. Among his countless decorations are two Distinguished Service Crosses, second only to the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Medal, two Silver Stars, two Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, five Bronze Star Medals with Valor Device, the Purple Heart, The Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with Valor Device as well as numerous unit, campaign and foreign awards and personal decorations.

General Cavazos retired from the Army in June of 1984 and resided in San Antonio, Texas with his wife, Caroline *Greek* Cavazos, and their four children. He passed away on 29 October 2017, and was laid to rest at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery in section PG, site 51.

It is said that “no finer man ever wore the uniform of a United States Soldier” and all who knew or served with him would agree with that quote.

BATTLE OF MEDINA MEMORIAL EVENT

(Photo Right) On August 12, 2023 at 9:15 AM the Texas SAR Color Guard, led by Commander Shiidon Hawley, opened the event with the presentation of National Colors followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation. Participating in the Color Guard were Compatriot Bill Sekel (US Flag) David Hamaker (Texas Flag), Gavin Pless (Drummer) (Grandson of Bill Sekel), Guardsmen John Thompson, Don Hayes, Robert Duckworth and Ed Sellards. Others participating as



Color Guardsmen but not shown were Ralph Reed, Frank Kebelman, Kevin Kanter, Ronald Finch, and Frank Rohrbough. Also attending from our Chapter were President Richard Weitzel (top right in white shirt).



(Photo Above) During the Opening Session Compatriot David Hamaker, a 6th generation descendent of Revolutionary War Patriot Peter Sides, and member of the Freedom Chapter, spoke about how Patriot Peter Sides came to Texas to fight for the Texians Independence from Spain. He stated "Peter Sides, who had fought many battles during his life, was 63 at the time of his death, in the Battle of Medina. The story is told, and records prove that he led his troop into battle with a cry of, "**Come on boys!**" Unfortunately, many of the "boys" turned tail and ran. We can only speculate as to what would motivate a man of his age to take on this fight. It may have been the promise of land or the chance to make another stand for freedom or maybe just a quest for adventure. Whatever it was, I would like to recognize and honor my grandfather, Peter Sides for his belief in the liberties and freedoms that we have today.



(Photo Above) Following the Opening Session the Musket Detail provided a Musket Firing demonstration. Shown from L-R is the Firing Detail Safety Officer (name unknown), Drummer Gavin Pless (Grandson of Bill Sekel), Texas SAR Color Guard Commander Shiidon Hawley and Compatriot Bill Sekel.

The Firing Detail includes SAR Rifleman David Hamaker, Blair Rudy, five other Texians Riflemen and SAR Rifleman John Thompson.

BATTLE OF MEDINA MEMORIAL EVENT (Cont'd)



(Photo Above) Shown from L-R First Row are Bill Sekel, Shiidon Hawley, Frank Kebelman; Back Row are Ralph Reed, John Thompson, (Unknown), Edwin Sellards (US Flag), Robert Duckworth, Drummer Gavin Pless (Grandson of Bill Sekel), David Hamaker, Blair Rudy, (Unknown), Ron Farris and Frank Rohrbough.

Following the Memorial Service at Leming, TX the Texas SAR Color Guardsmen drove to the Battle of Medina Site on Applewhite Road to pay respects in memory of Patriot Peter Sides and all those who perished in this historic battle — the largest ever fought on Texas soil. For more details on the Battle of Medina see David Hamaker's remarks on Page 6.

CHAPTER PRESENTS SAR AWARD TO MAJOR SCOTT WOODARD, HISTORIAN US ARMY MEDICAL MUSEUM



(Photo Left) During our Independence Day Event on July 3rd at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort, Past Texas SAR President Stephen Rohrbough, Militia Revolutionary War Uniform, presented the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate to Major Scott Woodard, US Army (Retired) for his Military Service and participation in our Event. Looking on is Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, Master of Ceremonies.

(Photo Right) Reading the Citation is Compatriot Frank Kebelman, Lt. Colonel, US Marine Corps (Retired)



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

THE FRENCH FLEET ARRIVES AT THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

On this day in history, August 30, 1781, the French fleet arrives at the

Chesapeake Bay to assist the Americans in their assault on British General Charles Cornwallis and his 9,000 troops at Yorktown, Virginia. The arrival of the fleet under Admiral Francois-Joseph Paul, the Comte de Grasse, played a decisive role in the British defeat at Yorktown.

In the summer of 1781, George Washington sat outside New York City, planning his next move against the British. He could either attack the main British headquarters at New York City, or he could attack Cornwallis' army in Virginia. French General Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, Comte de Rochambeau, sat at Newport, Rhode Island with 6,000 troops. The Marquis de Lafayette shadowed Cornwallis in Virginia with another 4,500 troops. Admiral de Grasse was in the West Indies with 28 ships and 3,000 soldiers.

Washington and Rochambeau met in Wethersfield, Connecticut on May 22 to examine the options. Washington favored an attack on New York, while Rochambeau favored an attack on Cornwallis in Virginia. Both wrote letters to de Grasse, asking him to come and assist them. De Grasse received orders from France to sail for America, but he chose to go to Virginia, which was closer. When Washington and Rochambeau found out de Grasse's plans, they immediately began marching their combined armies to Yorktown, while leaving some troops around New York to pretend they were preparing an attack on the city in order to fool the British about their real destination, a ruse which worked.

De Grasse arrived at the Chesapeake Bay on August 30, 1781, five days after a smaller British fleet arrived there looking for him. When the British fleet, under Admiral Samuel Hood, did not find de Grasse there, it sailed on to New York. De Grasse began unloading his troops, but on September 5th, a British fleet of 19 ships appeared off the capes. This fleet, under Admiral, Sir Thomas Graves, was expecting to find a much smaller French fleet that had left Newport, Rhode Island and had been instructed to rescue Lord Cornwallis and his army if necessary.

The presence of the French fleet blockading the bay made the rescue of Cornwallis impossible. The two fleets engaged in the Battle of the Chesapeake on the 5th, which was a decisive French victory. As the two sides maneuvered for the next two days, French Admiral Jacques-Melchior Saint-Laurent, Comte de Barras, arrived from Newport and slipped into the bay with 8 ships bearing heavy artillery and siege equipment. The heavily damaged British fleet was forced to flee back to New York for repairs.

Later in September, Washington and Rochambeau arrived with a combined 10,000 soldiers. Washington met with Admiral de Grasse on his 104 gun flagship, the Ville de Paris, on September 14 and expressed his warmest thanks for his assistance. The Siege of Yorktown lasted for about 3 weeks before General Cornwallis surrendered his 7,000 man army to the Americans. From New York, British Commander-in-Chief, General, Sir Henry Clinton, sent another small fleet with reinforcements for Cornwallis, but the fleet did not arrive at Yorktown until October 24th, 5 days after Cornwallis surrendered.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMING EVENTS AND REPORTS

Next Chapter Executive Committee Meetings: Scheduled for September 13, 2023, La Fonda Mexican Restaurant, Alamo Heights (Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday each month 11:30 A.M.)

Chapter Meetings: September 20, 2023 at the 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.

Texas Heritage Day: Our Chapter will participate in this event which is hosted by Schreiner University on Friday, September 15, 2023 from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at the Texas Heritage Park which is located on the campus of Schreiner University. All members and their families are invited to participate in our Program. For more information

contact Peter Baron at ptbaron@hotmail.com.

Reminder: Event and Committee Chairman please report chapter activities using the Chapter Activities Report Form. Use the URL above, then go to the "Docs" tab and click on "Society Docs & Forms".

For more information, please go to our Chapter Website at: www.txssar.org/SanAntonio