



# The San Antonio Compatriot

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



January-February  
2024

**Compatriot Blair Rudy, President**  
[blairrudy@me.com](mailto:blairrudy@me.com)

Issue #1

Editor: Compatriot Bob Watson  
[beaglebud@satx.rr.com](mailto:beaglebud@satx.rr.com)

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## President's Remarks

Greetings San Antonio Compatriots,  
I am Blair Rudy and I wish to extend my deepest gratitude to all of you for having me as your 2024 Chapter President. I will endeavor to make you all proud. Thank you.



I had crafted up a rather lengthy letter but due to all the real information you need from us I will be brief. We have had a wonderful 2023 with Dick Weitzel at the helm. Thank you Dick, well done. We have an exceptional level of doings and plans unfolding surrounding our sponsorship of the Texas State Conference April 11- 14, 2024. Kevin Kanter and team are laying out what looks to be a blockbuster gathering. San Antonio #4 is definitely raising the bar with the 2024 meeting.

We need your help to make the conference a success. There are many opportunities to participate if even for a few hours. For example - consider taking a few hours in the silent auction room. The hotel, Airport Doubletree, cut off date for lunches and the Saturday Banquet is March 18. Please register for the conference soon. Register on the state web site under the events tab.

The chapter has started the year with a bang! Read on to learn of the busy schedule ahead and decide where you will pitch in and help. See you at the conference.

Huzzah!

Blair

## Chapter Meetings

**Chapter Executive Committee Meetings:** 11:30 A.M, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed.

March 13th & Apr 10rd  
La Fonda Restaurant  
8633 Crownhill Blvd

**Chapter Meetings:**  
11:30 AM, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed.  
March 20th No April Meeting  
Petroleum Club  
8620 N. New Braunfels

**Reservations are required:**  
[txsarch4reservations@gmail.com](mailto:txsarch4reservations@gmail.com)



# Compatriot News



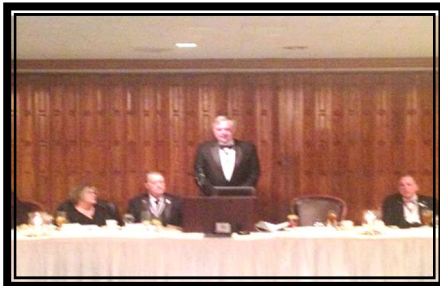
*Happenings*

## The Gala

Honoring Thomas Paine's "Common Sense"



State President Sam Massey Congratulating President Rudy & wife Candy



State President Sam Massey

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, the chapter hosted their annual Gala at the Petroleum Club for chapter members, state officers, and DAR ladies. It was an outstanding evening of celebration of new officers, chapter successes, and

member achievements. The evening began with a social hour highlighted by the wonderful piano music played by our Compatriot Jay Higginson. Jay has been a chapter member for 26 years and graces us each year with his talents - Thank you



Jay. It made the evening special!



The main event of the night was induction of the 2024 officers (Pg 7). President Massey presided over the induction. Compatriot Kevin Kanter received The Chapter Medal for Distinguished service for the many functions and services he performs for the chapter and state SAR organization.



# Compatriot News



## Gala Pictures

A wonderful night of celebration



SA Chapter #4 Color Guard



2024 Officers: See web site



Dan Farris presenting  
Thomas Paine Vignette



L-R: President Massey,  
Compatriot Kanter, President Rudy,  
Compatriot Preddie, state trustee



Dinner is Served



## Who Was Caleb Brewster?

Without Caleb Brewster, it is entirely possible that we may be living under the Union Jack (English flag) now. At 19 years old, Caleb was looking for adventure. He applied for and was accepted for a position on a Nantucket whaler. Tired of whaling, he soon pursued a life at sea as a mate on a merchant ship. However, as soon as news of the American Revolution and battles of Lexington and Concord reached his ship, he quickly returned home to fight the war against British oppression.

### American Revolution

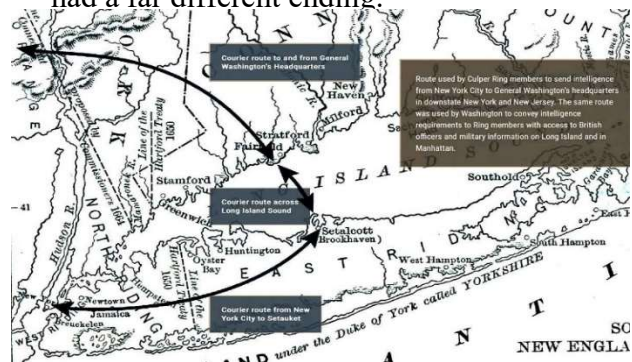
Spies and intelligence information are key elements to military combat. It was no different during the American Revolutionary War. A major spy ring for General George Washington and the Continental Army was the Culper Spy Ring, headed by Benjamin Tallmadge, from 1778 to 1783. This group of patriots was primarily based in New York City and Long Island. Caleb Brewster, recognized as an expert in navigation and maritime skills, was recruited to the spy ring, primarily utilizing whaling boats, to serve as a courier. Few could navigate the Long Island Sound between New York City and General Washington's headquarters in New Jersey as Caleb could. He conducted precise navigation throughout the Sound at night and through inclement weather while out maneuvering British ships to deliver crucial information.

Facts and dates for this article were drawn from multiple internet searches, Wikipedia, and The Journal of American Revolution.

### Washington's Spy Ring

The Culper Spy Ring used a variety of clandestine methods such as invisible ink on documents and codes to protect communications regarding British troops and warnings to General Washington and the Continental Army. These reports were of utmost importance in making strategic decisions when combating British troop movements and potential attacks. The secrecy and effectiveness of the Culper Spy Ring along with Caleb Brewster's maritime skills required to relay the information played a significant role in the success of Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.

The spy ring's methods and Caleb's efforts are recognized as pivotal in the outcome of the war and are considered the roots of American espionage. Historians surmise that without Caleb Brewster's maritime skills and bravery, the American Revolution may have had a far different ending.



Spy Ring's Long Island Sound's Routes



# Compatriot News



## Member's Corner



### **San Antonio Genealogy & Historical Society (SAGHS):**

Compatriot Peter Baron gave a presentation to SAGHS on February 17, 2024 on the colonial attire, weapons, and the evolution of the flag since the Revolutionary War. Peter had demonstration tables to allow visitors to handle and view various items. The program was very well received. Thank you Peter for representing SAR and the local chapter.



Compatriot Peter Baron

**Mentorship** is a relationship between a more experienced and knowledgeable person who is available to pass along what they have learned to a newcomer. Sounds simple and it is. In this modern day of electronics, this can be done from you home. We currently have 66 perspective members who have expressed interest. New members benefit from mentorship as well. The chapter needs a few mentors willing to “hold hands” with the perspective and new members to encourage and guide them. Please consider stepping up and helping the chapter in this area. It will mean a great deal to the future health of the chapter. Contact Bob Watson, Membership Chairman, at [beaglebud@satx.rr.com](mailto:beaglebud@satx.rr.com) for questions.

**Training Materials** – There is a wealth of information on both the State and National websites. The amount of information is quite amazing. The State web site ([texassar.org/!!TXS!!SAR!!/training.htm](http://texassar.org/!!TXS!!SAR!!/training.htm)) requires you to log into the SAR private site. Contact Bob Watson (see above) if log in information is unknown. The National SAR website (SAR.org) also has a wide range of valuable information. You must create a free account to view. Visit <https://america250sar.org/schols/> which is another great source for training and education material.

**Participation:** Compatriots we need you! Surely you are not paying your dues just to read the magazine. Now, with the holidays over and the “cold” Texas winter has set in, won’t you join us in the many activities your chapter is involved with. The general meeting at the Petroleum Club on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 11:30 is a great place to start! The programs are interesting and it is a good time to meet and enjoy the fellowship of the other members. The chapter’s veteran programs are outstanding and your help in anyway you are able would be greatly appreciated. Come out and let’s make the San Antonio Chapter a great example talked about throughout the state. If you need information on any event or activity, do not hesitate to reach out to any officer or committee chair for more information. What do we need to do to generate your interest? The chapter welcomes your suggestions and criticisms. If we can do better, let us know. Hope to see you soon.



# Compatriot News



**Compatriot William Collins Buell V** age 89, of San Antonio, Texas passed away on Tuesday, 28 November 2023. Until his death, Bill had been the longest serving active member of the San Antonio Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution having joined SAR in May 1956 when he was a West Point cadet. Bill was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1959 upon graduating from the USMA. He had a distinguished military career as an Army Ranger and served many over seas tours to various countries. Bill earned many decorations to include the Bronze Star, Air Medal, the RVN Cross of Gallantry w/silver star and palm, and the Purple Heart. He retired at the rank of Lt. Colonel in 1981. Bill was laid to rest at Ft Sam Houston National Cemetary on Feb 13, 2024 with several chapter members in attendance. Compatriot Buell will be missed.

**New Members:** Welcome and congratulations to the new **Compatriots Jim Cambell and Mike Giglio**. Be sure to introduce yourself to our new members and make them feel at home. Offer your guidance in our processes and procedures and invite them to get involved in our programs.

L-R: Jim Campbell  
Mile Giglio



**Chapter Awards:** Congratulations to these compateriots for their outstanding contribution and dedication to the chapter activities.

L-R:  
Frank Kebelman  
Frank Rohrbough  
Ron Finch



**Color Guard Medals:** Color Guard Cmdr. Frank Rohrbough

Texas Bronze Bernardo de Galvez: Ron Finch & Frank Kebelman

National Bronze Color Guard: Frank Kebelman

**Chapter Bronze Good Citizenship Medal:**  
President Blair Rudy & 1st VP Frank Kebelman  
Mike Giglio, Bob Peterson, Nancy Peterson



L-Mike Giglio

L- Bob Peterson

C- Nancy Peterson



# Compatriot News



## 2024 Chapter Officers:

| <u>Office</u>                  | <u>Name:</u>           | <u>Email</u>                   | <u>Phone</u>          |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>President</b>               | <b>Blair Rudy</b>      | <b>blairrudy@me.com</b>        | <b>(214) 505-1452</b> |
| <b>1st Vice President</b>      | <b>Frank Kebelman</b>  | <b>kebelman@gmail.com</b>      | <b>(210) 760-9275</b> |
| <b>2nd Vice President</b>      | <b>Ron Finch</b>       | <b>ronfinch.sat@gmail.com</b>  | <b>(210) 639-3409</b> |
| <b>Recording Secretary</b>     | <b>Mike Bowles</b>     | <b>mikdbow@swbell.net</b>      | <b>(210) 508-3786</b> |
| <b>Corresponding Secretary</b> | <b>Frank Rohrbough</b> | <b>frank@gvtc.com</b>          | <b>(830) 537-5452</b> |
| <b>Treasurer</b>               | <b>Dan Farris</b>      | <b>danfarris98@gmail.com</b>   | <b>(660) 591-6709</b> |
| <b>Registrar</b>               | <b>Larry Luckett</b>   | <b>Luckett67@hotmail.com</b>   | <b>(210) 481-5338</b> |
| <b>Genealogist</b>             | <b>Larry Luckett</b>   | <b>Luckett67@hotmail.com</b>   | <b>(210) 481-5338</b> |
| <b>Historian</b>               | <b>Larry Loop</b>      | <b>lloop1@gvtc.com</b>         | <b>(830) 438-0412</b> |
| <b>Chaplain</b>                | <b>Jim Massingill</b>  | <b>jpsc_5304@earthlink.net</b> | <b>(210) 481-2110</b> |
| <b>Sgt. At Arms</b>            | <b>Ron Finch</b>       | <b>ronfinch.sat@gmail.com</b>  | <b>(210) 639-3409</b> |



# Compatriot News



**Color Guard:** A number of the chapter's Color Guard members are unable to continue serving due to scheduling conflicts and health issues. More Color Guardsmen are needed to participate in the various events the unit is called upon to support. Members of the Color Guard must dress in Revolutionary Period attire wearing Militia, Minute Men, or Continental Army uniforms approved by the Continental Congress in 1778. There are a number of sources listed on page 10. **Please** consider volunteering. Your chapter needs you. If interested in serving in this distinct unit, please contact Compatriot Frank Rohrbough ([frankr@gvtc.com](mailto:frankr@gvtc.com)) for questions or to sign up.



2024 Gala



Grave Marking - 2023



Chapter Meeting – Feb

## Miscellaneous

**Texas SAR's Monument** that honors American Patriots buried in Texas, will be located in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin. The monument will be dedicated in concurrence with the 250th Anniversary of the founding of our great nation. The fundraising efforts for this project is progressing nicely, but more help is needed to reach the goal so that bids and contracts can be finalized this year. The estimated cost for the project is \$55,000 and as of February 12, 2024 there is approximately \$47,500 in pledges. Please consider contributing to this great project.

Request you donate via PayPal (preferred method) at <https://txssar.org/dues.htm#31>. Enter your donation in item #31. If you prefer to mail a check, make it payable to Texas SAR and mail to:

Texas SAR Treasurer  
11 Winhall Pl  
The Woodlands, TX 77354

**NOTE:**To ensure proper accounting of your contribution, Please send an email note to [treas@texassar.org](mailto:treas@texassar.org).

Contact the monument committee chairman, Richard Lee Zdunkewicz at [rzdunkewicz@comcast.net](mailto:rzdunkewicz@comcast.net), or phone 713-302-0237 if you have questions. Visit the Texas SAR website to learn more about this project.





# Compatriot News



## Veterans News

**Salute to Veterans Week** – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) conducts a National Salute to Veteran patients during the week of Valentine’s Day. This is a time to honor and appreciate both hospitalized and outpatient Veterans. Along with a program and tour of the VA facility, SAR mini-receptions are conducted at outpatient clinics. These events are to thank Veterans for their service and dedication to maintaining our freedoms. More than nine million Veterans are cared for each day in VA medical facilities, outpatient clinics, domiciliary sites, and community living centers throughout the U.S.

This year, Chapter members hosted a mini-reception at the Shavano Park VA Outpatient Clinic, and handed out snacks, drinks, and Valentine’s Cards. In addition, we shook the hand of all veterans who were at the clinic and thanked them for their service. Veterans appreciated the reception and since many of the chapter members are veterans themselves, stories and experiences were shared. It is an important chapter event and well worth the time spent.



Audie Murphy Hospital  
L-R: Mike Bowles, Bob Watson



Shavano Park Veterans  
Outpatient Clinic  
L-R: Bob Watson, Larry Loop



Shavano Park Veterans  
Outpatient Clinic  
L-R: Mike Bowles, Larry Loop, Veterans

**George Washington Proclamation** – Chapter President Blair Rudy participated in three Washington Proclamations in honor of George Washington, the nation’s first president.

**L-R:** President Blair Rudy,  
County Judge Bret Brey,  
Blanco  
Mayor Mike Arnold,  
Blanco  
Mayor Stephanie Fisher,  
Johnson City





# Compatriot News



## Colonial Attire And Equipment



Wearing colonial garb is certainly not required, but participating in various events fully dressed in colonial attire is quite gratifying and special. It also helps promote SAR's mission and is a great recruiting effort in that it generates curiosity and often initiates conversation and interest in the chapter. If you desire to begin acquiring colonial attire and/or various paraphernalia, the companies listed below are good suppliers. You do not need to purchase an entire uniform at one time. Determine what you would like and purchase peacemeal until you have the full uniform.

[George Franks, Hatter](#)

[Samson HistoricalU](#)

[Fugawee](#)

[Le Pierre Sutler](#)

[Avalon Forge](#)

[US Hist](#)

[Fort Laramie Trading Post](#)

[Crazy Crow Trading PostU](#)

[Missouri Boot and Shoe](#)

[Hamilton Dry Goods](#)

[Logsdon & Co. Historical Outfitters](#)

[The Quartermaster General](#)

[Townsend's](#)

[Heritage Costumes](#)

[eBayMilitary Uniform Supply](#)

[Carl Giordano-Tinsmith](#)

[G.Gedney Godwin](#)

[First Virginia Cl, Quartermaster](#)

## FIREARMS & WEAPONS

[Cabin Creek Muzzleloading](#)

[US Hist](#)

[Dixie Gun Works](#)

[Middlesex Village Trading Company](#)

[Track of the Wolf](#)

[Collectors Firearms](#)

## MISCELLANEOUS

[Smiling Fox Forge](#)

There are numerous other companies that sell colonial attire so search the web. Ebay is a great source as of course is Amazon.



# Compatriot News



## Membership Milestones

Congratulations and a thank you goes to these members for their continued support of SAR for so many years.

### 5\_yrs of Service

Jay Sampson  
Arthur Sandoval  
Kristofor Normand  
Thomas Keeton  
Thomas McNish  
Luke Lovelace  
William Elmer  
Arnulfo Alvarado  
Lee Morris  
Jason Bushman  
Eugene Holmes  
Robert Watson  
Gale Ebie  
Eilert Weitzel  
John Prather  
Morris McKee  
John Jansma  
Ernest Kerr  
Brian Scott  
Joshua Galaviz  
Ryan Galaviz  
Kenneth McAnear

### 10\_yrs of Service

Douglas Bannister  
James Allgood  
Kenneth Watson

### 25\_yrs of service

Terry Block  
Aaron Smith  
George Harcourt  
Norman Krimbill  
James Hanavan  
Ernest Hanavan III  
Ernest Hanavan JR

### 15\_yrs of service

Paul Wagoner  
Mark Guthrie  
Kenneth Pfeiffer  
Richard Cordova  
Jay Lewallen  
Ronald Graves  
Robert Clark  
John Hinnant

### 30\_yrs of service

Mark Ware

### 20\_yrs of service

Brandon Ware  
Robert Green  
Jon Sandidge

### 35\_yrs of service

Wesley Williams  
Phillip Strickland

### 50\_yrs of service

Thomas Brown  
Eldon Freeman