



# The Texas Compatriot



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## Two Samaritans cited during SAR Public Service Awards

The Hunt County District Attorney's Office credited the actions of two people who stopped to help a pedestrian with eventually leading to the largest conviction for human trafficking in the county's history.

"You helped save several lives that day," Noble Walker said Saturday at the Public Service Awards presented by the Greenville chapter of the Sons Of The American Revolution.

Walker presented the Heroism Award to Leslie Portillo and Wendy Lopez. The pair were driving along Interstate 30 when they noticed a young girl walking on her own, Walker said.

They stopped and offered her assistance. While they were providing her a meal, they learned the story about how the child and her siblings, all adopted, were being forced to work in a puppy mill operated by Jeffery and Barbara Barrett.

Lopez and Portillo contacted the Greenville police, and in September 2017 the parents were arrested, initially on animal cruelty charges.

The Barretts were later indicted on charges of continuous trafficking of a child. Jeffery Barrett was convicted and sentenced to life in prison. Barbara Barrett was found guilty and sentenced to 99 years in prison.

"Had it not been for you, that abuse may have continued today," Walker said.

During Saturday's [April 30th] ceremony in the 354th District Court, the Sons Of The American Revolution also presented the Law Enforcement Award to 196th

District Court Judge Andrew Bench; the Lifesaving Award to Threesa Sadler with the Raffa Clinic; the EMS Award to Thomas Auanger; the Fire Safety Award to Greenville Fire-Rescue Capt. Jeremia Rivera; a Certificate of Appreciation to Judge Keli Aiken for the use of her courtroom and a Certificate of Appreciation to Texas Sons Of The American Revolution President Jim Kuykendall.

By Brad Kellar | Herald-Banner Staff  
Greenville, Texas



Hunt County District Attorney Noble D. Walker presented the Heroism Award to Leslie Portillo and Wendy Lopez during Saturday's Public Service Awards, hosted by Greenville Chapter of the Sons Of The American Revolution.

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## 2022

Jun 18           Audie Murphy Parade, Farmersville

Jul 10-15       NSSAR Annual Congress,  
Savannah, GA

Aug TBD       Summer Texas SAR BOM  
ZOOM

Aug TBD       Battle of Medina

Aug 26-27     SAR South Central District Annual  
Meeting, Bentonville, AR

Sep 29-Oct 1   Fall Leadership Meeting  
Louisville, KY

Sep 30-Oct 23 SAR Membership Recruitment Table,  
Jane Douglas DAR House, State Fair  
of Texas, Dallas

Oct 21-23     Fall Board of Managers Meeting,  
McKinney, TX

Nov 11        Various Veterans Day Parades

Nov TBD      MOWW Massing of the Colors

Dec 3         Dickens on the Strand,  
Galveston

Dec 17        Wreaths Across America

Mar 16/17, 2023    DAR State Conference,  
Hyatt Regency Hotel, DFW Airport

2023 TBD      C.A.R. State Conference

# Texas DAR State Conference

Commander Blair Rudy commanded the Texas SAR Color Guard in posting the Colors at the 123rd Texas DAR State Conference in Houston on March 16th and 17th. Participants included (left to right): John Thompson, Loren Johnston, Bob Cohen, Sam Massey, Zack Adriance, Mel Oller, Hugh Ferguson, David Hamaker, Ed Sellards, Don Hayes, Hiram Dunlap, Ron Walcik, Art Bryam, Kneeling (left to right): Bill Myers, Blair Rudy. Not in photo: Chuck Wagner, Frank Rohrbough, Boyd Breyer



# JJJ Memorial Service

As family, friends and members of Texas SAR entered Denton's Trinity Presbyterian Church, they could immediately feel the warmth of James Johnson's spirit throughout the hallowed halls. Many of his eighty plus years of creative sketches and paintings were displayed on the walls and in the Chapel proper for all to view and enjoy. After a formal presentation of the flags and their posting by the North Texas SAR Color Guard, under the command of Robert Kubin; James J. Johnson's (or JJJ as he was lovingly known by) service, lead by Rev. Craig Hunter, provided attendees with a very informative and entertaining celebration of Jim's life.

The Pastor called upon representatives from the professor's membership in various societies, arts and civic organizations, educational and religious institutions (as well as his former students) to share stories and memories of him. Starting off the "background historical tales" was longtime Compatriot friend and SAR traveling buddy John Greer, who regaled the audience with some of Jim's more notable devoted services at SAR events and within/for the community (including being one of the founders of the Texas SAR Archives at University of North Texas library.

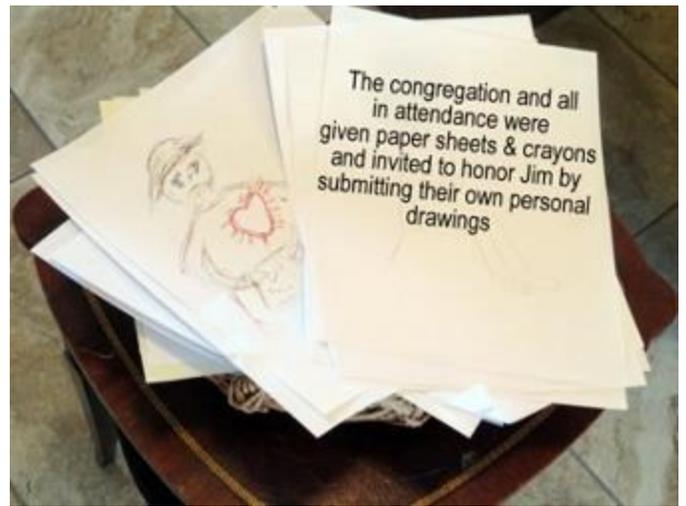
Along with special scripture readings and outstanding choral hymns to highlight the service, the Minister concluded his moving Homily with a request for all to make a unique offering donation, instructing the ushers to distribute sheets of paper and crayons, so that everyone could make – a personal drawing honoring JAMES JEFFERSON JOHNSON, Jr.

Texas SAR Compatriots attended the Memorial Service for James Johnson on Saturday, March 19, 2022.



Left to right: Drake Peddie, Robert Samuel, Jim Akers, John Anderson, Mike Connelley & Sarah Connelley





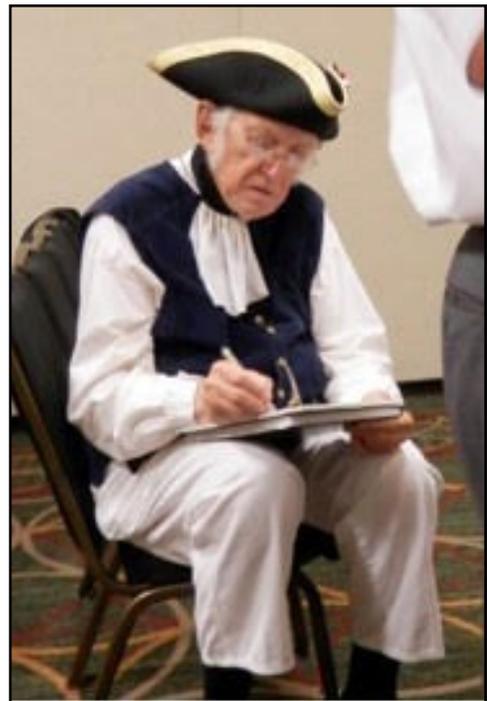
The congregation and all in attendance were given paper sheets & crayons and invited to honor Jim by submitting their own personal drawings



Sometimes the best laid plans of compatriots go astray



Many of Jim's sketch books and drawings adorned the church walls and were displayed on tables throughout the church during his service



## Vietnam Vet Recognition Day

In Sun City on March 13th, the first in what will become a national event throughout the country occurred. The event specifically honored Vietnam Veterans. Alexander Hamilton Chapter participated. Congressional Representative John Carter was the main speaker. There were approximately 200 honorees from throughout Williamson County, Texas. Each person received a commemorative medal and certificate. The Alexander Hamilton Chapter Color Guard posted the colors.

Left to right are Vern Eubanks, Jim Scott, Paul Crown, Congressman John Carter, Darrel Hutchinson, Lane Redwine and Darrin Hutchinson.



North Texas Color Guard at the Funeral for Compatriot Ralph Thompson, McKinney Chapter Treasurer, on Monday, March 28, 2022.

Color Guardsmen (left to right): Bob Kubin, Gary Barker, John Greer, Tom Milson, Ray Hargis, Bob Millwee

## 2022 SAR CONGRESS

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

JULY 10-15, 2022

**Registration for Hotel Rooms at Congress has opened.**

The link for on-line reservations is:

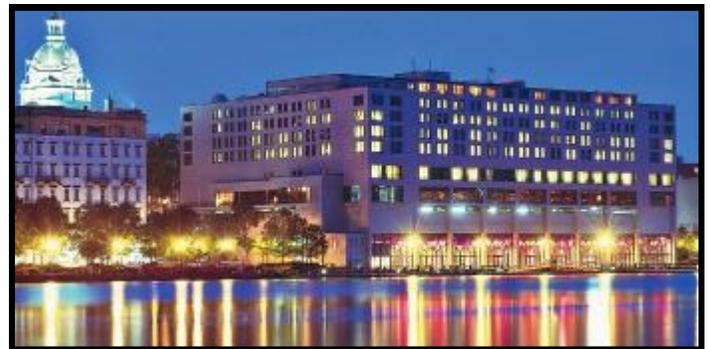
<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/SAVRS/G-NSSA>

For phone reservations, call

877.803.7534

Use the Group Code **G-NSSA**

Hyatt Regency Hotels utilizes a centralized reservations system so be sure to specify the reservation is for the **Hyatt Regency Savannah**



Saturday, 9 July

EXCOM/SAR Foundation

Sunday, 10 July

Tours and Host Reception

Monday, 11 July

Memorial Service, First Ladies Tea, & Rumbaugh Orations

Tuesday, 12 July

Opening Ceremony, Youth Luncheon, & Award Night

Wednesday, 13 July

Ladies Luncheon & PGs Banquet

Thursday, 14 July

Last tour and Installation Banquet

Friday, 15 July

EXCOM/SAR Foundation

## Texas C.A.R. State Conference

Commander Blair Rudy led the Texas SAR Color Guard in posting the Colors at the Texas C.A.R. State Conference in Houston on March 25th and 26th. Participants included (left to right) John Thompson, Ed Sellards, Don Hayes, Blair Rudy, Bill Myers, David Hamaker, Hiram Dunlap, Art Byram, and Bob Kubin.



## San Antonio Chapter Gala January 13, 2022

Presenting the Colors are (left to right) Frank Rohrbough, Steve Rohrbough, and Larry Loop.



## MOJ “Museum Groundbreaking

Friday, March 25, 2022, was one of those brisk North Texas mornings. Robert Pope Jr., Past President of the Arlington Chapter, Texas SAR, National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, prepared to embark on a short journey to Arlington to join dignitaries from across America who were gathering to begin preparing a place to honor and remember all those special heroes who are Medal of Honor Recipients.

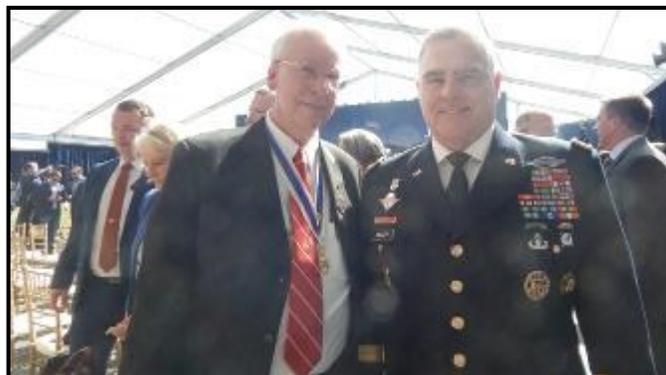
It was a special day; one could feel the excitement in the air. Bob arrived in Arlington, parked his car, and went through security, and picked up his credentials. The Secret Service was very thorough.

The venue set up for the groundbreaking ceremony was an extremely large white canopy. A large stage was erected at one end of the canopy with a video screen running the length of the stage. Images of our troops in action flashed across the screen while Matthew McConaughey narrated. In front of the stage was a large column of earth with the image of the Medal of Honor carved in its center. There were two sections of chairs set up in front of the stage for guests. Fifteen (15) Medal of Honor Recipients were escorted by Marines to the front row and seated. The sections were separated by a single aisle. To one side of the stage, a smaller box was set up where dignitaries and speakers were seated.



The Air Force Band from the West stationed at Joint Air Force Base San Antonio opened the ceremonies with a fanfare and later played the National Anthem as the Dyess Air force Base Honor Guard from Abilene, Texas, presented The Colors.

American journalist, author, and cartoonist, Jake Tapper, hosted the groundbreaking ceremonies, first introducing General Mark Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Milley observed the Museum will feature an education center aimed at sharing the stories of Medal of Honor recipients to young people.



**Bob Pope Jr. with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff,  
Gen. Mark Milley**

Other speakers included Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady. Students in the sixth through twelfth grade were asked to submit essays defining Honor and Miss Rylee Gould presented her award-winning essay. Former President George W. Bush commented “When you look at the Medal of Honor recipient, you are looking at someone who has demonstrated gallantry under impossible odds.”

Other highlights of the event included Medal of Honor recipients mixing soil collected from all fifty states with the Texas soil to signify unity. Also included was a demonstration by the U.S. Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, a military flyover, and presentation by the U.S Naval Academy Glee Club.

The BIG moment arrived. National leaders and Medal of Honor recipients placed their shovels in the dirt and turned it.

Bob Pope was selected by the National Medal of Honor Museum to attend this prestigious event because he has two Medal of Honor recipients in his family.

By Dan Hamilton  
President, Arlington Chapter  
Texas SAR



Bob Pope Jr. stands next to the Medal of Honor Seal



Bob Pope Jr. with Marine Guards



Bob Pope Jr. and Former Secretary of State under Former President Donald Trump, Mr. Rex Tillerson



Dignitaries gathered around the Seal ready to dig up some dirt.



Mr. Ross Perot Jr. and Mrs. Margot Birmingham Perot with Bob Pope Jr.



Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady and Bob Pope Jr.



Bob Pope Jr. with SWAT Officers

## TEXAS SAR HONORS WWII VETERAN

On Saturday morning, convention attendees recognized and honored 98-year-old Clifford “Cliff” Stump. PFC Stump was a member of the 82nd Airborne Division of the United States Army during World War II. He was escorted by a full Honor Guard during his entire time at the convention.

In the very early hours of June 6, 1944, Mr. Stump climbed aboard a wooden glider with eight other men, a jeep, and a small cannon. General Dwight Eisenhower saw them off and the glider with its occupants was towed across the English Channel and cut loose over occupied France. The glider had to find its way to a safe landing space in total darkness and then avoid capture. Their goal was to help support the invasion that would come hours later. They were successful. According to General George Westmoreland, they had no engine, no parachute, and no



President Drake Peddie sat with World War II Veteran Cliff Stump and interviewed him about his experiences landing in France on the day before D Day. Walt Thomas assisted.



An Honor Guard escorted Cliff Stump during his entire visit.

second chance. Cliff told an amazing story during his interview with President Peddie.

Over 100 compatriots hung on his every word. President Peddie presented Mr. Stump with the Silver Good Citizenship medal from Texas SAR. President Peddie also traded challenge coins with Mr. Stump. Mr. Stump received the first new Texas SAR Wounded Warrior coin and President Peddie received a 82nd Airborne coin. Truly an experience that I will remember forever.



Cliff Stump was born in Van Meter, Iowa, on June 13, 1924, and was one of eight children. On December 7, 1941, he was in high school. “Everything got real quiet. We were trying to figure out what this meant for me. It’s something we thought would never happen.” He was drafted into the Army in 1943 and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne artillery.

Cliff landed in Normandy on June 6, 1944, on a glider. These landings were extremely dangerous-canvas wrapped around an aluminum frame and crash landing to the ground. From the beaches of France, he then went on to Holland and into the Battle of the Bulge.

On VE Day, he was in Berlin when he heard the war was over. There was no celebration as there was lots of work to still do. They went house to house looking for weapons. In total, Cliff served three years and was honorably discharged in 1946.

## Two Texas Chapters Experience With the Texas SAR Youth Scholarship Program in 2021/2022

The youth scholarship programs of the SAR organization sit at the top of what we, the membership, does toward promoting the ideals of the American Revolution and providing funding and incentive for our Country's youth to strive for further, more advanced, education. For many of the youth in Texas, a college education can be a distant, difficult goal to attain. Securing full or partial funding toward this educational goal becomes a major hurdle for many high school students as they strive to achieve their dream of a college education.

Each fall, the SAR organization, through its local chapters, begins to reach out to young people to publicize the availability of scholarship money through the programs of the SAR organization. Each year, many chapters face the same hurdles to this goal:

- How do we reach these youth; the schools won't even let you in the front door?
- Teachers aren't interested in promoting these programs; they teach to meet the State mandates.
- Most youth don't want to make the effort and they definitely don't want to write an Essay.
- We are a small chapter and don't have the available funding of Dallas, or Houston, or some of the other bigger chapters in Texas.

While the above arguments may be true, to a certain extent, it is not always the case. There are individual teachers or educational institutions that are more receptive; home-schooled children are one example. Quite often, many individual youth are more drawn to winning the competition rather than the need for funding; it is the process of having a strong academic resumé that draws some students to these programs. And yes, a chapter's presence on various social media platforms, promoting these youth contests, can be a big draw for youth competitors searching for funding and competitive programs.

There are forty-eight chapters in the State of Texas. This article is the tale of two Texas SAR chapters, one relatively large and one small in size. We will see how they intersected with a diverse group of young Texans pursuing college goals. The Major K.M. Van Zandt chapter #6, Fort Worth, TX, is one of the older chapters in the State with around 130 members and in a strong financial

position. Denton Chapter #23 was organized in 1965 and has had a tough time over the years staying active and fully functional. Denton has a membership of around 28 and is not particularly financially well-off.

Both chapters suffered through the COVID issue as meeting locations began to vanish as the country closed down during 2020-2021. It became a struggle to maintain some sense of normality, much less how are we, the chapters, going to reach the youth. Many schools were shut down; others became much more concerned with who was entering the educational facility; COVID was on everyone's mind. Social media and "home grown" candidates became the source of youth program entrants for these two chapters.

In the fall of 2020, the Denton Chapter had contact from a young man in the North Texas area who found the Denton Chapter website. The young man, J.B. Lilley, wanted to enter the Knight Essay contest through the Denton Chapter. J.B. didn't live in Denton but resided in a small community north of Denton. He was searching through various social media platforms, looking for non-profit organizations that had youth scholarship programs. The Denton Chapter had an updated, modernized, and active website and J.B. found it.

He presented his Essay to the chapter; the membership was impressed by his maturity and he was urged to enter both the Essay Contest and the Knight Essay Contest the next year, i.e. fall 2021. In the fall of 2021, J.B. entered both the Essay Contest and Oration Contest with the Denton Chapter. He was their only entrant and moved forward to the next level of competition, which was regional contests for the State of Texas competition.

In the fall of 2021, the Van Zandt Chapter in Fort Worth began to have scholarship entrants approach their chapter. One young lady, Haleigh Buse, a home-schooled student, lived in Graham, Texas, about 60 miles west of Fort Worth. Haleigh, like J.B., found the scholarship programs on the web and picked the Fort Worth Chapter website since it was the closest to her residence. She also was urged to enter both the Essay Contest and the Oration Contest, which she did. Haleigh was the Knight Essay winner for the chapter and turned out to be the only chapter entrant in the Oration Contest for the Van Zandt chapter.



The Oration contest in Texas is organized into six regions with the Fort Worth Chapter and the Denton Chapter in the same region, Region Three. Both entrants, J.B. and Haleigh, presented their orations before a judging panel composed of members from both SAR chapters. In this event, which was held in December of 2021, J.B. was determined to be the stronger participant and was designated as the Region Three winner which then sent him forward to the State competition to be held at the Texas SAR Convention in April 2022. Haleigh, a strong candidate herself, was selected to represent Region One that had no entrants. Now, both Haleigh and J.B. were set up to compete for a portion of the State Oration Contest scholarship at the Texas State Convention to be held in April 2022.

The Van Zandt Chapter had other contest winners by early in 2022. The C.A.R. Essay contest (Texas Society Children of the American Revolution) winner was Brooke Walker, the daughter of the Van Zandt Chapter Treasurer. Her essay went forward to the State competition. The Eagle Scout scholarship winner at Van Zandt Chapter was a young man named Preston Davis who, along with his two brothers, had been recently inducted as SAR members of the chapter. Preston had an impressive list of accomplishments both in school and in his activities with the scouting organization. The chapter now waited to see how he does at the State competition.

The K.M. Van Zandt Chapter had its youth awards meeting in March where they honored each of the winners at the chapter level; Haleigh for the Oration Contest and the Knight Essay Contest, Brooke for the C.A.R. Essay Contest, and Preston for the Eagle Scout Contest. Each winner received a check for \$300.00 to help them with their educational pursuits.

At the same time, the Denton Chapter honored J.B. for winning both the Essay Contest and the Oration Contest at the chapter level. The Denton Chapter, with a lesser financial position, does not give a monetary prize. Does the lack of a financial incentive keep some youth away? Maybe, but for some young people, it is the act of winning “first place” in a youth contest that is the goal. They feel the victory makes their college application stronger, more appealing to college admissions personnel.

The announcement of youth competition winners for the year are done at the Saturday luncheon meeting. All the winners from around the State are generally present at

this event where they receive their monetary reward for winning. Preston, the Eagle Scout winner from K.M. Van Zandt Chapter was announced as the winner of the Texas Eagle Scout award. His college goal is to attend Texas A&M. J.B., the Denton Chapter representative, was announced as the State winner of the Knight Essay and his collegiate goal is Cambridge University in Great Britain. Brooke, who represented the Van Zandt Chapter, placed second in the Texas State C.A.R. Essay Contest and received a scholarship monetary award that will go to her when she enrolls in college. Haleigh plans to attend an Oklahoma university for a nursing degree.

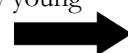
Both Haleigh and J.B. presented their orations at the luncheon meeting on the Saturday of the State Convention. There were seven entrants from around the State and J.B. and Hailey finished with a group of entrants who tied for 4th place money. Each did well and both came away with additional funding for their college plans.

J.B. and the Denton Chapter now wait to see how he does at the National SAR competition for the Knight Essay in July. The Van Zandt Chapter in Fort Worth also waits to see how Preston will do at the National Eagle Scout competition.

Now is also the time when the SAR organization looks forward to the coming youth scholarship competitions for 2022-2023. Chapters, both large and small, need to update their chapter websites, increase the scholarship money, if possible, and have a plan to reach the youth who WANT to participate. The days of walking into a school to promote these programs may not be a workable approach in today's environment. The chapters need to think of new, more creative approaches to reach the interested youth.

Think “social media”; chapter websites, Facebook pages, Instagram, and the home-grown, readily available children and grandchildren of your chapter members. Don't forget the children of chapter SAR members who may be in the educational field. This provides the chapter that direct access to a “teacher.”

There is also a new competition from the SAR organization that is in the implementation stages. It involves the youth making a short, concise, historical-themed “cell phone video/You Tube approach.” While many schools and young people in particular, are short of supplies for some of these other scholarship projects; every young



person has a cell phone at his or her disposal and definitely knows how to make a video.

There are other youth out there waiting for the opportunity to enter one of our youth programs. They may not be named J.B., Haleigh, Brooke, Preston, etc., etc. but they have the same zeal/interest to pursue academic competitions. Our task, as individual chapters, is to reach them and make available the programs that fit their interest and capability and let them do the rest.

Mike Connelley, author  
Immediate Past President, Denton Chapter  
Past President, Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter



Van Zandt Chapter President Bobby Gresham, Denton Chapter Immediate Past President Mike Connelley, and Eagle Scout Contest winner Preston Davis.



Van Zandt Oration Contest winner and Rumbaugh Essay Contest winner Haleigh Buse and Denton Chapter Oration Contest winner and Rumbaugh Essay Contest winner J.B. Lilley



Van Zandt Chapter President Bobby Gresham, Van Zandt Chapter Treasurer Anthony Walker, C.A.R. Essay Contest winner Brooke Walker, and Denton Chapter Immediate Past President Mike Connelley



The judging panel at Region Three competition, composed of members of the Denton Chapter and the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter

## Color Guardsman of the Year



Congratulations to Frank Rohrbough of the San Antonio Chapter of the Texas SAR who was formally named the 2021 Texas Color Guardsman of the Year, and was presented the Gold Texas Bernardo de Galvez Color Guard Medal at the 127th Convention of The Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution held in Richardson, Texas, March 31 thru April 3, 2022. Frank's SAR membership dates back to 1996 in West Virginia, when he served in the U.S. Air Force. Frank has been a member of the San Antonio chapter since 2005, serving selflessly as a member of the chapter's Color Guard and as the chapter's Color Guard Commander.



## SAR South Central District Annual Meeting

SAR is comprised of multiple districts or groupings of state societies. Texas, along with Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Kansas, make up the South Central District, or commonly referred to as MOKAT.

The South Central District (SCD) Annual Meeting will take place in Bentonville, AR, on August 26-27, 2022. The speaker for the Banquet will be presenting information on the U.S. Marshals Museum in Fort Smith, AR. The building has been completed but not all of the exhibits have been installed. The grand opening will take place later this fall or early 2023. A private showing of the museum will be available for participants on Saturday afternoon after the conclusion of the SCD meeting.

The hotel for the meeting is the Double Tree Suites by Hilton, 301 SE Walton Blvd., Bentonville, AR 72712, 479.845.7770. Hotel reservations must be made directly with the hotel before July 27, 2022, and rooms are limited. You must identify yourself with the "SAR" or "Sons of the American Revolution" and request the special rate to obtain the discounted rate of \$129.00 plus taxes.

You can download the Registration Form at:

[https://txssar.org/SCD/scdsar\\_files/SCD%202022%20Registration.pdf](https://txssar.org/SCD/scdsar_files/SCD%202022%20Registration.pdf)

The meeting schedule will follow that of previous years. A National Office Candidate Forum is scheduled to kick things off at 4:00 pm on Friday, August 26th. At 5:30 pm, the Color Guard will have the Flag Ceremony. A Reception with Cash Bar at 6:00 pm opens the evening festivities and the South Central District Banquet begins at 6:30 pm.

On Saturday morning, breakfast is available at 7:30 am with the business meeting called to order at 9:00 am. Every effort is made to conclude the meeting around 12:00 pm to afford participants plenty of time to travel home on Saturday afternoon.

All members of the Texas SAR are invited to attend our District meeting, especially if you are also a member of the Color Guard. This meeting counts as a National Event for the Color Guard.

HUZZAH!

## Texas SAR Historian's Corner

by John Anderson; [historian@txssar.org](mailto:historian@txssar.org)

### Chapter Yearbook Judging

Congratulations to the following chapter winners for their 2021 Chapter Yearbooks as judged at the April 2022 Convention.



Small Chapters (49 or less members)

1st—Edmund Terrill #34

Medium Chapters (50-99 members)

1st—Robert Rankin #62

2nd—McKinney #63

3rd—Piney Woods #51

Large Chapters (100+ members)

1st—Dallas #2

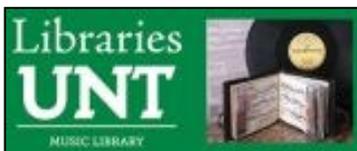
2nd—Plano #37

3rd—Paul Carrington #5

Digital (all sizes)

No Entries

### UNT Archives



In late April, I delivered several documents to the library. Most were chapter documents, yearbooks, photos, etc., some were state level documents, redacted rosters, chapter officers, etc. A mixture of paper and digital files were included. However, I observed more and more digital files are being donated. Thanks to our Treasurer, David Kinsey, for allowing me to deliver our annual library donation.

I also had a conversation with the UNT Head of Special Collections, Morgan Gieringer, where she shared some library news.

The bad news is with the economic crunch UNT and most universities are experiencing, she says this year and perhaps some following years will experience some cutbacks, specifically the student labor towards scanning historical documents is suspended. As the UNT library is the archive repository for several corporations and non-profits, the cutbacks will impact them all and not just Texas SAR.

The good news is the indexing effort of digital documents will continue and our donation dollars will be used there. As we've stated in the past, your donations can be paper or digital, but digital is preferred. That is because the level of effort to digitize and place documents online is much less with previously scanned items; only the indexing effort is needed.

I encourage all future donations to be digital. This is not a requirement, only a recommendation.

### Next Committee Meeting

This Archives/History/Yearbook committee meets several times through the year and not just at state meetings. Some great ideas have evolved from both new and old members into some great projects. Breakout meetings by project are sometimes called.

The next committee meeting will be via zoom in late summer, probably two weeks prior to the summer Texas SAR zoom meeting. Our committee attendance has grown over the covid period. Whether in-person or otherwise, our committee meetings are open to all members, past Texas Historians, and Chapter Historians. Send me an email and I'll send you the link. We welcome your participation.



# North Texas SAR

## New Member Orientation Meeting

Nestled in a corner of the “Metroplex” in North Texas are three chapters that have, over the years, developed a close working relationship: K. M. Van Zandt #6 in Fort Worth, Arlington #7, and Denton #23. Van Zandt #6 has been around since about 1931 and has continued in operation as one of the older chapters in the Texas Society.

Several early members of Van Zandt resided in Arlington which resulted in a chapter being formed in Arlington in 1935. Over the years, that chapter struggled to maintain solvency with a pattern of closing and reopening and closing again. This continued until January 1994 when the Arlington Chapter #7 was re-chartered. It began to struggle again and by 2010-2011 was almost dissolved. The diligent efforts of three different chapter presidents from that timeframe worked diligently to keep it functioning as a viable Texas SAR chapter today.

The Denton Chapter #23, formed in 1965, suffered a similar fate to that of Arlington. A pattern of going from active to inactive and back to active over the years. Denton went through a reorganization and reinvigoration in 2019 which appears to have stabilized the chapter into a growing and active chapter by 2022. The early 2022 membership numbers within all three chapters consists of 130 active members in Van Zandt #6, Arlington #7 with 70 active members, and Denton #23 with 32 active members.

The presidents of the three chapters communicated and decided to have a new member orientation meeting together; but where? The decision was made to choose a restaurant “somewhere in the middle.” A barbeque sandwich, coke, and potato salad; what could be better for strengthening the learning atmosphere?

Eighteen SAR members met at Coker’s BBQ in Arlington, Texas, on Saturday, April 30th, for a new member orientation. Chapter officers attended and the meeting was led by Compatriot Mike Connelley. Five members from Arlington, four from Denton, eight from Van Zandt, one Van Zandt/Denton dual member, and one Van Zandt/Arlington dual member participated.

Mike Connelley welcomed the new members and distributed copies of the new member guides. Mike gave an overview of the Texas SAR website, security cautions, and encouraged new members to be involved by attending meetings and volunteering for some of the chapter events. Accept or volunteer for one of the officer positions within the chapter. We always want the members / new members to be connected to one of the activities of the chapter: color guard / youth program / Public Service Awards / veterans’ activities. **Make your choice, talk to a chapter officer.**

Chapter events consist of youth programs, public service awards, patriotic observances, chapter meetings, and regional or state meetings. The chapters also participate in parades.

Van Zandt Color Guard Commander Vann Cunningham spoke about the chapter color guards and the types of uniforms available which include Militia (hunting shirts), Civilian clothes, and Continental Army uniforms.





# President Jim Kuykendall's Address to the 127th Convention

Thank you. It is a blessing and a privilege to stand before you as your 2022 – 23 State President. I believe that there are no accidents, and that God puts us where He wants us to be, and I am humbled to be called your President.

I am here by the grace of God and the permission of my bride JJ. She has put up with my activities and endeavors for 44 years and I am thankful to have her here tonight by my side.

As I stand before you tonight, I stand on the foundation that many Past Presidents of this great State Society have built. I want to especially recognize the work of the past three State Presidents. Some four years ago several of us started discussing the need for a strategic long-range plan whereby we could build upon our great past and create a better future for the Society.

Tom Jackson, David Temple, and Drake Peddie have been, and continue to be, key catalysts in leading the changes in our organization for the better. Each of these men brought their own unique talents and abilities to the job, and slowly but surely, we are changing the culture for the better.

I think the best thing we accomplished is that we have made common sense more common in our society. I know about all our accomplishments because I and so many other committed Compatriots have been fortunate enough to have been a part of it. I have had a front row seat in the change, and I am proud to have been a part of it. In a time when the world basically shut down and hunkered down, President Peddie said we were not going to do that. Instead of it being one of the worst times for our Society, it was the best of times. I want to personally thank President Peddie on his leadership over the past two years.

The work is not done. It only continues. As the past three Presidents have done, I will now carry the mantle of change forward and build upon what they have started. We will continue to build and enhance our programs with emphasis on youth and our Veterans. As we have started the training for state and local officers in the past two years, we will now expand this program to train our members.

- Our emphasis will be on new members - starting from the time they turn in their application.
- We will develop and emphasize the Mentor process and develop a special lapel-pin to recognize our Mentors.
- We will customize the New Member workbook to make it a Texas Society product and include it in the new member packet.

To have Mentors we will need new members. So, this year will be the year of recruiting and retaining members.

We live in a time that is ever changing for the good or the bad. I believe that now is the time when the Sons of the American Revolution can and will make a positive difference. We have a Message that America badly needs, and I believe wants. We have History, Patriotism and Education. We have programs that need to be promoted and communicated to everyone. This will not be done with a magic one-time event, but rather by one-on-one communication – by speaking at schools, civic groups, doing youth awards programs, marching in a parade in a uniform, presenting the colors, or presenting a Good Citizenship medal to a community member.

We also do this by handing out a brochure or a card, one step and one person at a time. This is how we will do our part for growth. To get a member you must ask someone – In short, TO GET ONE – ASK ONE.

We have the tools to do the job and I intend for us to use every tool and every opportunity to find members. We are going to bring back the Texas SAR lapel pin that was developed by Past President Bob Cohen.

- Each Compatriot must be ready to talk to people about our great Organization. When they ask about it – and even when they don't ask about it! Remember – TO GET ONE – ASK ONE!
- Each Compatriot should have business cards made to hand out to others that invite them to find out about us. I want you to include our web site address TXSSAR.ORG.
- Each Compatriot should get and use the revised brochures that talk about the Texas SAR. Be ready to hand one out to a prospect. Place them in public places such as a doctor's office. Remember TO GET ONE – ASK ONE!
- Every Compatriot must follow up with your prospects, talk with them, and invite them to our meet-

tings. Following up is essential!

In the area of retention, I am charging each Chapter President to take the lead in ensuring our current and new members get to the meetings, and to help get them involved.

- We must establish a process where members call or email reminders about meetings. We are all busy and a reminder helps!
- We need to emphasize better meetings with solid topics. To that end Compatriot Jason Chall, the Chairman of our Education Committee, has added many excellent videos about revolutionary war topics to our website. It is a first-class effort, and we need to use them! Excellent job, Jason!
- We are going to start using a short questionnaire for members to check what they are interested in. This will give us some direction and help us plan.
- Our District and local Officers will be accountable for their membership.
  - We must know who they are, when they are absent, and follow up to get them back into the fold. Constant communication is essential.
  - It is all our responsibility to look out for each other, invite and encourage each other. It is basic friendship!
- I am counting on all State and Local Officers to keep track of the membership and assist with the yearly reconciliation efforts by working with the State Secretary. We must know our members and ensure they don't drop out. We will be proactive and not reactive.
- I am counting on each Chapter to do all the projects and programs they have planned, and ensure their efforts are reported in a timely manner. If you do a project, you must report your efforts to the state.

For too long the efforts of the Texas Society have not been recognized at National. It's time for Texas to step up and to again take our place as a national leader.

When we look at what a successful Organization looks like, we don't need to look any further than the Daughters of the American Revolution. They really have it all together, and we can and should learn from their success. I am asking every chapter to reach out to the DAR groups in their area to work together for everyone's

benefit. Together we must promote patriotism, education, and history.

As you can tell I am very concerned about membership. Recently I saw numbers that over 70% of our members were over 60 years of age. Many statistics on growth tell us that IF an organization does not have at least 20 percent of younger members, they are dying. That fact holds true for churches, and I believe it holds true for our Society. We need to emphasize younger members.

- There are many reasons we tell ourselves about why younger men won't join us.
  - Too busy with work and family.
  - This generation does not get involved.
  - It's not convenient - etc., etc.

I don't believe those excuses apply to everyone in any single generation. Many times, the reason they don't join is that they are not asked. We need to reach out and ask. I've always heard that for every 10 questions you ask, nine will say no, and one will say yes. We need to ask a lot of questions! TO GET ONE – ASK ONE!

- To help us reach out to the younger generations, I am asking our IT people to investigate a way we can use social media to our absolute advantage. Social Media is ever-changing and we need a constant and continued presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tic Tok, and the other social media platforms.

This is a big undertaking, and it also won't happen all at once, but we need to start making progress in this area. I believe we have the people, led by our IT committee to move us in that direction. This will directly benefit the state and all the local chapters. Even if it costs money. I believe the ends will justify the means.

Finally, we will continue planning our celebration for the 250th anniversary of our country. This involves a five-year plan developed by the National Committee. We have a committee that is headed up by Sam Massey. This is going to be a local, state, and national event, where we can join with other lineage societies for a once in a lifetime event.

I am excited about the future of the Texas Society. I believe that our greatest days are ahead of us! We have a lot of irons in the fire, a lot of programs, and a lot of dedicated Compatriots working hard and making a difference. We have a lot of goals and a common vision.

“To make the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution the absolute best it can be.”

I believe that history calls us for such a time as we have today – “To remember our obligations to our forefathers who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court, and a nation of free men.”

Thank you and may God Bless you and our great Organization.



President Jim Kuykendall gives his address to the 127th Annual State Convention



National SAR Treasurer General John Dodd administers the Oath of Office to President Jim Kuykendall

## Grave Marking

Frank Kebelman of San Antonio Chapter and Blair Rudy of William Hightower Chapter participated in compatriot grave marking ceremonies at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio on May 21st.



## Is Your Chapter Publicizing Its Activities?

Every Texas SAR Chapter has many activities and events that are NOT being shared outside the respective chapter.

Is this your chapter?

Every Chapter President should appoint a member of the chapter to report chapter news, activities, or events (especially Color Guard) to the editor of *The Texas Compatriot* for inclusion in the quarterly newsletter.

Information on how to submit articles and photos is located on the last page.

# Texas SAR Color Guard Rally

## Armed Services Day

On Saturday, May 21st, a cloudy day that started out warm but was later pleasantly cooled by an unseasonable cold front for mid-May, the Texas SAR Color Guard mustered in Denison, Texas, in front of the Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial to recognize Armed Services Day. Chapters from throughout North Texas were represented and included junior members to senior members of the SAR.

Lt. Col. Gary Barker, Texas Northern Commander, organized the event and served as Master of Ceremonies, in addition to commanding the Color Guard unit.

Following the Presentation of Colors and pledges to the Flags of the United States and the State of Texas, Commander Barker welcomed guests and dignitaries and provided a background of the Color Guard.

Honored guests included the Mayor of Denison, the Vice-Mayor of Sherman, the Denison Police Department, the Sherman Police Department, and Compatriot Gen. T.L. Holden (U.S. Army Ret.). The Honorable Janet Gott, Mayor of Denison, presented a Proclamation from the City of Denison and Commander Barker accepted it on behalf of Texas SAR. Additionally, the Vice-Mayor of the City of Sherman extended a warm welcome on behalf of the Mayor and the City Council. Both police department represents extended their thanks for Texas SAR promotions of history. Commander Barker & Commander Kubin presented SAR Certificates of Appreciation to both mayors and both police departments.

The event was the lead story on ABC KTEN (Channel 10), Sherman, at 10:00 pm.

<https://www.kten.com/story/46541508/texomans-recognizing-armed-services-day>

Color Guardsmen participating: (L to R in the photo) Ron Turner, Ted Wilson, T.L. Holden, Kevin Shellman, Chuck Brennaman, Doug Schwetke, Dave Fautheree, Mark Harrison, Randall Van Heyst, Bob Millwee, Gary Barker, Jerry Pinkerton, & Tom Whitelock. Junior SAR members kneeling were (L to R): Riley Pinkerton, Aiden Pinkerton, & Reagan Van Heyst. Not pictured were: Bob Kubin & Bill Watts



Following the event, Commander Barker hosted a musket firing and cleaning/maintenance event at his home. Those attending were: Gary Barker, Bill Watts, Ted Wilson, Jerry Pinkerton, Riley Pinkerton, Aiden Pinkerton, Randall Van Heyst, Reagan Van Heyst, & Mark Harrison.

Although this event was a “State Event,” Armed Services Day is also on the list of approved National Events for the Color Guard, so, each participant earned 20 points.



## Patriot Medal Presentation

At 2:00 p.m. on May 14, 2022, in front of the cannon at Old Velasco, Surface Beach, Texas, Texas SAR President Jim Kuykendall, assisted by Secretary Mel Oller, presented Michael Bailey with his Patriot Medal. Michael Bailey, of Angleton, Texas, is a member of the Cradle of Texas Chapter #33, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), Texas Society, and was unable to attend the recent Texas SAR State Convention.

The Patriot Medal is the highest award that a member of the Texas Society of the SAR can receive. Only six Patriot medals are awarded each year to members of the Texas SAR. There are about 3,000 currently active SAR members in the Texas Society. The other five awards were presented in April at the annual Texas SAR Convention in Richardson, Texas.

This May 14th was significant because it was the 186th anniversary of the signing of the Treaties of Velasco.



Texas SAR President Jim Kuykendall (left) presents the Patriot Medal and Certificate to Michael Bailey (center), with the assistance of Texas SAR Secretary Mel Oller.

## Treaties of Velasco and beyond

Two treaties were signed by interim Texas president, David G. Burnet, and Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna, commander of the Mexican forces, at Velasco on May 14, 1836, about three weeks after the battle of San Jacinto. The public treaty was to be published immediately, and

the secret agreement was to be executed when the public treaty had been fulfilled.

The public treaty provided that:

1. Santa Anna would not again take up arms against Texas
2. All hostilities would cease on land and water
3. Mexican forces would withdraw south of the Rio Grande
4. The Mexican army in retreat shall not take the property of any person without their consent
5. Restoration of property confiscated by Mexicans including cattle, horses, Negro slaves or other indentured persons would be made
6. The Texas army would not approach closer than five leagues to the retreating Mexicans
7. The Mexican army shall not make any unnecessary delay in its march to Mexico
8. These present agreements will be immediately dispatched to Gen. Filisola and Gen. Rusk and they will exchange agreements to comply
9. Texian and Mexican prisoners will be exchanged on an equal basis
10. Gen. Santa Anna would be sent to Mexico as soon as deemed proper.

A second “secret” treaty was to be implemented after the terms of the public treaty were fulfilled. In essence, the secret treaty provided for Santa Anna’s immediate release in exchange for his recognition of Texas as an independent nation.

Gen. Vicente Filisola, in pursuance of the public treaty, began withdrawing the Mexican troops on May 26; the Texas army, however, refused to let Santa Anna be sent to Mexico and prevented the Texas government’s carrying out the secret treaty. On May 20, the government in Mexico City declared void all of Santa Anna’s acts done as a captive. With the Velasco treaties violated by both governments and not legally recognized by either, Texas independence was not recognized by Mexico and the southern boundary of Texas was not determined as the Rio Grande River until the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1848, after Texas statehood and the conclusion of the Mexican – American War, also known as the U.S. – Mexican War. Sunday, May 2, 2022 is the 176th anniversary of this war. Besides establishing the southern border of Texas and the United



States with Mexico, this treaty also more than doubled the size of the United States, adding California, Nevada and Utah, most of Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona and parts of Oklahoma, Kansas and Wyoming.

For more information, see the article: [“Forgotten war” to be remembered with ceremony at South Texas site](#), Joe Holley, Houston Chronicle, Monday, May 2, 2022, pgs. A3 and A7.

## Memorial Day at Mt. Gilead

Members of the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter Color Guard participated in the 12th Annual Memorial Day Celebration at Mt. Gilead Cemetery in Keller, Texas, on Monday, May 30, 2022. The memorial service was hosted by the Golden Triangle Rotary Club and the Keller Rotary Club.

As a lead-in to the memorial service, the audience was entertained by the Frontier Brigade Band for 30 minutes prior with period music. The Band also provided the music for the National Anthem.

Boy Scout Troop 32 performed the Flag Raising duties and Troop 1910 conducted a U.S. Flag Retirement Ceremony. The names of all veterans buried in Mt. Gilead Cemetery were read and a rousing, patriotic speech was provided by the keynote speaker, US Air Force Chaplain Maj. T. Nathan Tucker, 136th Airlift Wing, Fort Worth, Texas. He based his speech on the song “God Bless America.”

The Firing Squad completed three volleys and was composed of:

- The Sons of the American Revolution—Compatriot Vann Cunningham and Compatriot Kevin Shellman
- The Sons of the Republic of Texas—Michael Edwards
- The Sons of Confederate Veterans—Compatriot Robert Gresham and Joe Wade
- The First World War—Paul Porter
- The Second World War and Korea—Compatriot James Alderman
- The Vietnam War—Jake Behringer

All photographs are courtesy of Compatriot Ron Turner.

Following the service, all attendees were provided a “hot dog lunch.”



Kneeling (l to r): Jake Behringer, James Alderman, Paul Porter

Standing (l to r): Kevin Shellman, Michael Edwards, Robert Gresham, Joe Wade, Vann Cunningham, Ron Turner



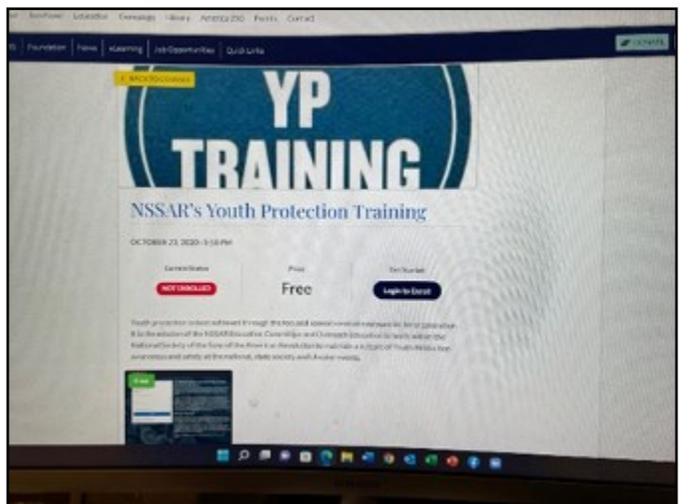
# SAR Youth Protection Act

## It is There for a Reason!

The SAR emphasis on the education of our Nation's youth about the events and importance of the American Revolutionary War is very important. History must be understood to be appreciated and this can be developed through youth involvement in the various youth scholarship programs. This, by nature, brings many of our members in close contact with participating youth. This interaction should be carefully monitored with the protection of our Nation's youth the paramount goal. One emphasis of the SAR Organization toward this goal is the SAR Youth Protection Training program. This option is available to members via the National SAR website.

I recall first taking this training session through the website about 4 or 5 years ago and it was rather straight forward and not complicated to navigate. I have seen and heard from various speakers at SAR conventions and State meetings that it should not take more than a few minutes of time to complete. I decided it is time for me to do this again and to document my efforts along the way.

On Friday, May 13th; yes, I did it on a Friday the 13th- hope this doesn't turn out to be bad luck. I went to the public Texas SAR website (we all know how to do this) and scrolled down at the bottom of the screen; on the left side of the webpage there is a link for Member Training. I clicked on that and it immediately took me to the login for the "Texas SAR Private Website" which is where this Youth Training link is located.



## REVISED

### Youth Permission Form

A revised Youth Permission Form is now available on the Texas SAR websites. The old form was missing several of the contests and did not afford the ability to indicate Other type events.

TEXAS SOCIETY, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION YOUTH AWARDS, CONTESTS, and EVENTS		
PARENTAL/GUARDIAN PERMISSION FORM AND RELEASE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Adams Brochure Contest	<input type="checkbox"/> Americanism Poster Contest	<input type="checkbox"/> C.A.R. Essay Contest
<input type="checkbox"/> Rumbaugh Orator Contest	<input type="checkbox"/> Knight Essay Contest	<input type="checkbox"/> JROTC Cadet Award
<input type="checkbox"/> Videography Contest	<input type="checkbox"/> King Eagle Scout Contest	<input type="checkbox"/> Cohen 4-H Public Speaking Contest
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		

An example of an Other event would be a Junior Member Induction Ceremony in which photos wish to be published. As a reminder, Texas SAR Policy now dictates that any use of a youth's (under 18 years of age) name or photo requires a Youth Permission Form signed by the Parent or Legal Guardian. This policy is applicable at all levels of the organization, i.e. state or chapter. The form should be kept on file by the chapter as well as forwarded to the Editor of *The Texas Compatriot*. Please ensure you are using the REVISED Youth Permission Form.

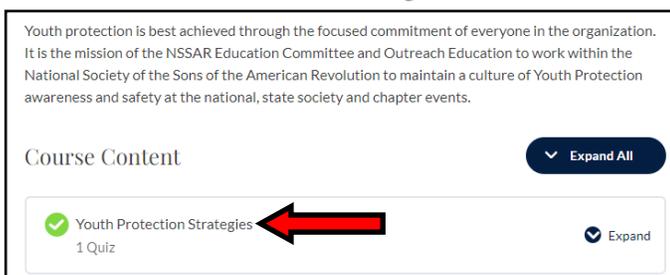
[https://txssar.org/pdf/Permission\\_Youth.pdf](https://txssar.org/pdf/Permission_Youth.pdf)



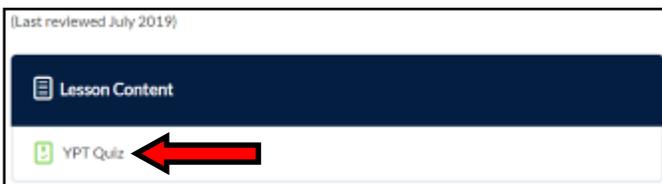
Now, if you are a chapter member and have been to some meetings and/or attended one of the “new member training sessions,” then the Private website is no big mystery. You have the login information to get to this website. If not, reach out to a chapter officer or get back to me for this login information.

Since the Youth Training site is actually on the SAR National Website, I bypassed the Texas SAR website link and went via the National Website. For new SAR members, you need to set up your own account on the National website. If I recall correctly, when you are finally accepted in the SAR organization, your National SAR number is your initial link to enter and set up your own account. I logged onto my National SAR account, looked around on the webpage, and went to the “eLearning” page and found the “NSSAR Youth Protection Training” link.

Click on “Youth Protection Strategies” and it should take



you to a page entitled “Recognizing Signs of abuse and Neglect.” At this point, you will see some dialogue to read and several YouTube videos. The five videos range from 5 minutes 1 minute. Take a look at them in addition to reading the text that comes with each video. Remember, you will take a short 12 question test after going through this material. Obviously, the test questions will be based on this material you are reading. Pay attention to what you see in the videos and what you are reading in the text. Once you finish the lesson content, there is a button to enter the “YPT Quiz” portion.



At that point, 1 of 12 questions came up; each having a yes/no or true/false question. Finish all the questions while the system automatically grades your responses and gives you the certificate (see photo below) at the end. How long does it take? Maybe 15-20 minutes by the time you read the course material, watch the 4 or 5 YouTube videos and then take the 12-question test.

It is important that our chapter members take this course. In September or October of 2022, we will begin again with the Youth scholarship programs offered by the Organization. We want to have positive responses from young people interested in competing in one, or more, of the programs. Their safety in completing any of the SAR Youth Scholarship programs and interacting with the chapter is most important to us as a chapter. The grading, judging, and interaction with the Youth comes from our members: we want this to always be positive and safe for all involved.

~ L. Michael Connelley  
Past President

Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter & Denton Chapter



## Memorial Day in Denison

Texas SAR Color Guard Northern Commander Gary Barker led the SAR Color Guard, assisted by the Boy Scouts, in the Memorial Day Parade in Denison, Texas, on May 30, 2022.



## Memorial Day in Austin

Texas SAR Color Guard Southern Commander Shiidon Hawley led the Patrick Henry Color Guard in Memorial Day Remembrances at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin, Texas, on May 30, 2022.



# Remembering Our Departed

**Henry Fisher Jr.**  
**January 3, 2022**

SAR #121859  
Member Since March 3, 1983  
Paul Carrington Chapter #5

**George Baseke Jr.**  
**January 8, 2022**

SAR #168696  
Member Since September 7, 2007  
Bluebonnet Chapter #41

**James Edward Fraser**  
**March 9, 2022**

SAR #113897  
Member Since February 22, 1978  
Col. Turner R. Sharp Chapter #9

**Richard Sylvester Miller**  
**March 19, 2022**

SAR #161159  
Member Since October 1, 2003  
Bluebonnet Chapter #41

**Mark Allen Nelson**  
**March 20, 2022**

SAR #212316  
Member Since July 18, 2019  
Plano Chapter #37

**J. Ralph Thompson**  
**March 24, 2022**

SAR #179737  
Member Since June 2, 2011  
McKinney Chapter #63

**Frank Young Hill, Jr.**  
**April 12, 2022**

SAR #169048  
Member Since March 29, 2007  
Boerne Chapter #64

**Luis Valenzuela Juarez**  
**April 20, 2022**

SAR #206475  
Member Since February 16, 2018  
McKinney Chapter #63

**Michael Lee Boland**  
**29 Apr, 2022**

SAR #155629  
Member Since April 20, 2001  
San Antonio Chapter #4

**Hugh Dixon McKay, Jr.**  
**May 2, 2022**

SAR #114655  
Member Since May 31, 1978  
Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter #6

**William Ray Belcher**  
**May 4, 2022**

SAR #218768  
Member Since April 2, 2021  
Bernardo de Galvez Chapter #1

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.

## Ambassador Warren Grave Marking

On Wednesday, May 1st, at Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Wolfe City, Texas, Texas SAR Immediate Past President Drake Peddie was Master of Ceremonies for the Grave Marking of Ambassador Warren Fletcher. Texas SAR affixed a bronze SAR Medallion to the headstone marking Ambassador Warren's grave. Dr. Ronald Weeks, last living relative of Ambassador Warren, gave a history of the life of Fletcher Warren. Texas SAR Color Guard members attending were Ted Wilson, T.L. Holden, John L. Greer, and Bill Watts. Compatriot James Owsley, President of the Ambassador Fletcher Warren Chapter, represented the Chapter.

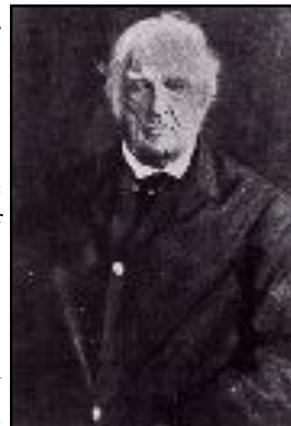


## The Last Veteran of the Revolutionary War

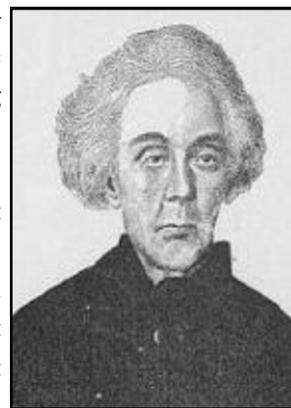
**DANIEL F. BAKEMAN** (October 10, 1759 - April 5, 1869) may have been the last surviving veteran of the Revolutionary War. On February 14, 1867, the United States Congress passed a special act, which granted a Revolutionary War pension to Bakeman. A special act of Congress was required, because Bakeman could not prove that he served in New York. The oldest veteran who was on the pension rolls since the beginning was Lemuel Cook of Clarendon, New York. Burial: Sandusky Cemetery, Freedom, Cattaraugus County, New York



**LEMUEL COOK** (September 10, 1759 – May 20, 1866) was the last verifiable surviving veteran of the American Revolutionary War. Enlisting in the Continental Army at the age of sixteen, he fought in the Virginia campaign against Charles Cornwallis, receiving an honorable discharge signed by George Washington on June 12, 1784. After the war, Cook married Hannah Curtis. They had seven sons and three daughters. Cook died at the age of 106 and was buried with full military and Masonic honors. He was the last survivor of 2nd Continental Light Dragoons.



**JOHN GRAY** (January 6, 1764–March 29, 1868) was one of the candidates for last surviving U.S. veteran of the American Revolutionary War. He was advertised as such by journalist James Dazell and as of 1876 was believed by the Pension Office of the U.S. Department of the Interior to be the last surviving veteran.



His claim to the "last surviving veteran" of the War depends primarily on the failure of his competitors Daniel F. Bakeman and George Fruits, who died a year, and several years, after him. Bakeman and Gray had been granted pensions, by special act of the U.S. Congress (on February 14, 1867, retroactive to June 1, 1866). The special act was required because the two had not previously applied for pensions or service land grants and Bakeman was unable to prove his service; Gray, while able to prove his service, had only served six months; Fruits had never had any pension.

Gray was born on Mount Vernon plantation, home of George Washington, "hero of the Revolution." His father fought in the war and was killed in the Battle of White Plains. Gray joined at age 16 in 1780, and was eventually present at the Battle of Yorktown. After the war he moved to Northwest Territory, and lived out most of his life in Noble County, Ohio. He had three



wives during his life and fathered at least four children. He died at age 104 years, 2 months, 23 days and is buried in McElroy Family Cemetery, Brookfield Township, Noble County, Ohio.

**GEORGE FRUITS** (1762? or 1779-1876) claimed to be the last known surviving soldier of the American Revolutionary War. According to data from the Daughters of the American Revolution, George Fruits died in 1876 at the age of 114. However, Fruits was never on a pension roll. Fruits' birth date was more likely 1779 than 1762, as indicated in recent studies. Subsequent research indicates that he was more likely taking on the identity of his father. The George Fruits of this article was born in Baltimore, Maryland; his parents were George and Margaret Fruits, young immigrants from Germany. His father was known as "Flag Bearer George" during the Revolutionary War, and purportedly fought in numerous important battles. Some of the exploits attributed to George Fruits may have been performed by his father. In 1865 the U.S. government paid out the last claim for the American Revolutionary War. Fruits, however, did not apply for a war pension. He died at the attributed age of 114 years, 7 months, and 4 days. He is buried in Bunker Hill Cemetery, two miles east of Alamo, Indiana. Commencing with the 1979 edition, the Guinness Book of World Records said "new research released by A. Ross Eckler, Jr. in 1978 has shown him to be 17 years younger than the age shown on his gravestone."

#### Claimed service record

If claimed earlier year of birth and the subsequent service record are correct, George Fruits joined the militia belonging to Captain George Miars (of Washington County, Pennsylvania) as a private on November 2, 1781, aged 19. Fruits' war record indicates he received pay in 1781 and 1783 while in the Revolution. He states that he was not involved in any battles because the war was almost over when he joined and that his service involved "just mopping up operations" in 1781-83. In 1787, George Fruits joined a company under Captain Kennedy to fight the Indians in Kentucky and along the Ohio River. While in Kentucky, he became acquainted with Daniel Boone. During this service, Fruits was cut off from his company. To avoid capture, he purportedly swam across the Ohio River to the other side with his boots on, not losing his knapsack or rifle. George Fruits enlisted in the War of

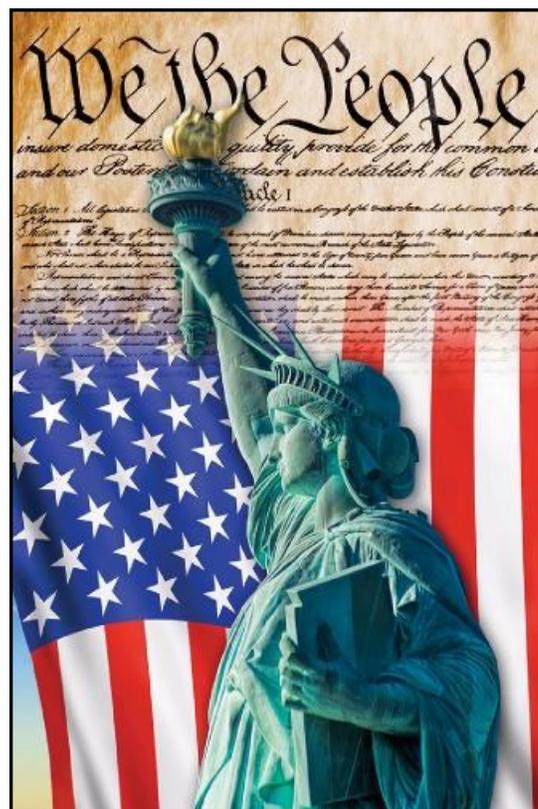
1812 and was in the Battle of the Thames where the Indian chief Tecumseh was killed. In this battle, George Fruits was wounded by an Indian musket and carried to his grave the one ounce lead ball lodged in his hip.

<http://genealogytrails.com/main/lastveterans.html>



## Memorial Day in Georgetown

The Color Guard for the Alexander Hamilton Chapter in Georgetown presented the Colors at Williamson County Veterans Memorial Plaza on Memorial Day. More than 700 people attended. In the photo, from left to right, are: Paul Crown, Vern Eubanks, Jim Scott, Darrin Hutchinson, Steve Hodges, and Lane Redwine.



## Texas SAR awards Outstanding Military Instructor Award

MSgt Christopher Soto was recognized in front of 692 seniors and the faculty of Cypress Woods High School in Cypress Fairbanks ISD with a Silver Good Citizenship Medal on May 27, 2022. The presentation was made by Texas SAR JROTC Chairman Staff Sgt. Randy Hall and former Texas SAR President Tom Jackson, as the seniors and faculty members were in the conference room preparing for graduation ceremonies that morning. Compatriot Hall is a retired USAF Staff Sgt. and JROTC military instructor while Compatriot Jackson is also school board president of CFISD.

MSgt Soto was selected for his exemplary service as a JROTC military instructor and of shouldering the burden largely by himself during the two plus years of Covid-19. MSgt Soto joined Cypress Woods in August, 2019. He began his career as an Aerospace Instructor for the Air Force JROTC program in August 2013.

He is a retired Air Force MSgt. with 25 years medical experience as a medical technician and as an Independent Medical Technician. He served in over 10 different countries in either as the sole medical provider or in a medical facility.

In 2018 Compatriots John Thomson and Tom Jackson initiated a program to recognize one active JROTC military instructor in the State of Texas with a Silver Good Citizenship Medal on an annual basis. An automatic qualifying event is if the military instructor is recognized by their national military governing body as an outstanding assistant or senior instructor. An additional qualifying event is the instructor's support of SAR JROTC programs.

Those previously honored with this selection include Lt Col Porfirio Munoz (2018-2019) Aldine ISD David High School, SMSgt James Core (2019-2020) of Cypress Ridge HS in CFISD, and SMSgt Joel Barnett (2020-2021) of Waller HS in ISD.

A new recognition program was initiated this year through a collaboration of Compatriots Hall, Thompson, and Jackson to recognize a retired military instructor. The honoree for 2021-2022 was Lt. Commander, retired, and Freedom Chapter Compatriot Ed Sellards. Ed served 18

years as a Senior Naval Science Instructor at Stephen F. Austin HS in Fort Bend ISD. Noteworthy accolades including four military academy appointments by his cadets, eight consecutive Distinguished Unit Awards, and the cadet booster organization establishing in perpetuity an annual scholarship in his name. Compatriot Thompson, a civilian employee of the USN, was Chair of the Texas JROTC committee for ten years ending in March 2022. Texas SAR President Jim Kuykendall authorized the awarding of these two medals.



From left to right, CFISD Board President and former Texas SAR President Tom Jackson, MSgt Christopher Soto and Texas Chair JROTC Randy Hall.



From left to right, Texas Chair JROTC Randy Hall, Freedom Chapter Compatriots 1st Vice President David Hamaker and Ed Sellards

# **RULES FOR THE ROSS L. SHIPMAN NEWSLETTER COMPETITION**

The Ross L. Shipman Newsletter Competition Award is presented to a Texas SAR Chapter with the Best Newsletter for the calendar year. The Award is presented for three categories.

1. **The Multi-sheet Newsletter** - This competition is for the best newsletter using the multi-sheet format and **issuing at least 8 issues a year.**
2. **The Single-sheet Newsletter** - This competition is for the best newsletter using the single-sheet format and **issuing at least 6 issues per year.**

3. **The Electronic Newsletter** - This competition is for the best newsletter using the electronic format and **issuing at least 6 issues per year.**

Copies of the newsletter should be sent to the Editor, *The Texas Compatriot*, and the Chairman, Ross L. Shipman Newsletter Committee **after every publication.** The Chairman will file the newsletters and use them when time to evaluate them. The evaluation will occur in February of each year to determine the winning chapters in each category.

Announcement and awards are presented during the state annual convention.

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## **Texas SAR Directory 2022 - 2023**

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Editor, *The Texas Compatriot*, **Ronald J. Turner**  
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## How to Submit Items to

### *The Texas Compatriot*

*The Texas Compatriot* welcomes submissions from compatriots. Here are some tips on getting your story published.

1. Keep your article as short as you can while still telling the story. Send stories in Microsoft Word format to [compatriot@txssar.org](mailto:compatriot@txssar.org).
2. Send digital photographs as attachments and not embedded into the Word document. They also should be sent to [compatriot@txssar.org](mailto:compatriot@txssar.org).
3. Make sure your images are high resolution, at least 300 DPI, and that no time or date stamps appear on the images.
4. Limit the number of photographs to those you would most like to see published.
5. Meet the deadlines published for and in each issue.

## New Picture Policy

To publish photos of children under the age of 18 in *The Texas Compatriot*, your local chapter newsletter, or on your chapter website, you must have a signed parental form that gives us (the Texas Society SAR) permission to publish the child's name and photo. You can find the form on the Society's public website under **Contest/Programs > Permission/Release Form**.

[https://www.txssar.org/pdf/Permission\\_Youth.pdf](https://www.txssar.org/pdf/Permission_Youth.pdf).

Before the child's picture can appear in *The Texas Compatriot*, the signed consent form must be on file in the editor's office.

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## Publishing Deadlines

Deadlines for content inclusion in *The Texas Compatriot* are: **February 28th, May 31st, August 31st, & November 31st each year**. Planned publication dates for *The Texas Compatriot* are no later than the last day of the months of March, June, September, & December each year.

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## Newsletter Committee

Ron Turner, Chairman of the Texas Society Newsletter Committee, is seeking members of the society who have an interest in serving on the committee.

The Mission of the Newsletter Committee is to insure the history of the Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution, is reported and preserved in a timely manner in a publication named *The Texas Compatriot*. It is a goal of this committee to publish newsletters featuring member activities at the National, State, and Local Chapter level, and to report on educational, public, and veteran activities, our Youth Programs, and those events honoring our public servants in each issue.

Compatriot Turner desires that every chapter in the Texas Society have a representative on the Newsletter Committee. Every chapter president should ensure that his chapter is represented on the committee. If your chapter has a newsletter, the editor of said newsletter should be on the committee as your chapter's representative.

All interested parties should contact Ron Turner at [rjturner0815@gmail.com](mailto:rjturner0815@gmail.com).

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