



Thank you George for a job well done !!

DECEMBER 10, 2016 Minutes of the Dallas Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

President **George Ramphrey** called monthly meeting to order at 8:30am in the dining room of the Presbyterian Village North retirement community in Dallas, Texas. He asked FCP **Robert Kittrell** to lead the membership in the pledge to the **United States Flag** which was followed by Chaplain **Frank Ponders** rendering the morning's Invocation. Pledge the **Texas Flag** was led by **Warren Johnson**. President Ramphrey led the Affirmation to the **SAR**. Compatriot FCP **Tracy Ponders** next led the attendees in "My Country Tis of Thee."

Head Greeter FCP **Ralph McDowell** acknowledged his assistant for this morning was **Glenn Toal**, who had just recently returned with a great suntan from a visit to Hawaii. They greeted 24 Compatriots and 6 guests.



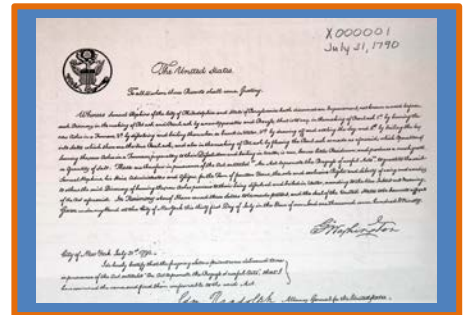
FCP **Charles Baker**, the chapter's teller of humorous tales, unveiled biblical history of how Pharaoh's army was destroyed (under 10" of water) by Moses at the Red Sea.

AMERICANISM



Compatriot < **Ralph McDowell** again presented both an interesting and educational program for all to enjoy. He spoke on *America's First Patent*. He pointed out that the *Constitution* contains a provision (Article I – Section 8) "**To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the Exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;**"

Ralph then passed out sample copies of the very first patent issued in 1790 – It was for a chemical called potash and the official document *No. X000001* was signed by non-other than *George Washington* himself.



The first person credited a patent was Samuel Hopkins, who burnt hard wood and the resultant substance was used to create potash. It was not until 1802 that the official patent office was established after having been under the original review of Thomas Jefferson and the Secretary of State office.

Ralph also handed out copies of Philadelphia, PA 's 1790 census noting that individuals had their occupation listed alongside their name – similar to Jefferson above.



< **Robert Tanner, Jr. & his Dad** informed Ralph that their family (way back when) was linked to the first "washing machine" patent. *Ralph rewarded the Sr. Tanner later on this morning by singing Happy Birthday to him as well as giving him a gift of four quarters to use at a nearby laundromat.*

Guest Speaker



Vice President of Programs, Warren Johnson next introduced the honorable < **Ken Tapscott** Judge of the County Court of Law #4.

Prior to his presentation on the topic “*Right To Trial By Jury*” he handed out booklets containing **The Constitution of the United States and Declaration of Independence**. The Judge proceeded to outline the format of his speech as being a simple tracing English Common Law and jury trials, how it came to America as well as how we made it broader. He also passed out copies of a 2007 poll titled “God and the Constitution.”

He started off by explaining that his particular court operates with six person juries instead of the common known twelve members. It was Thomas Jefferson that pointed out that it was the King who limited jury trials thus riling the colonists. In fact they wanted more jury trials in all civil cases related to personal and property rights.

Judge Tapscott’s very informative speech not only was educational and occasionally humorous, but generated a large number of questions from the attendees.



OFFICER’S REPORTS

President Ramphrey stated that he was now reporting the Nominations Committee list of proposed Officers for the year 2017 and accepting any additional nominations from the floor.

By a show of hands (with a quorum present) the following Compatriots were elected:

President Mike Petridis, *1st Vice President/Programs* Robert Kittrell,
2nd Vice President/Awards Robert Tanner, Jr., *Secretary* Vacant
Treasurer Carl N. Harper *Registrar* Jerome R. Brown
Historian Robert Tanner, Jr., *Chaplain* Frank H. Pounders

Volunteers: George Ramphrey/Color Guard Commander, Robert Tanner, Jr./Sgt.-at-Arms

1st VP Johnson thanked all for their support over the last year and stated that he looks forward to being a regular “GREETER” (better look over your left shoulder Ralph)

Secretary Tom Whitelock stated minutes of previous meeting were published and copies distributed to attendees. They were approved by voice vote.

Registrar Jerry Pinkerton introduced two prospective members whose signed applications are soon to be sent on the State Registrar : **Tom Van Fossen & Alan Prather** also new prospects

Mark Harrison
&
Bill Johnson



Treasurer Nick Harper surveyed the members for verification of perfect attendance. Those that qualified are:



Ralph McDowell * Frank Ponders * Tom Smith * Tom Whitelock

A goodly number of others only missed one meeting and will be recognized next month.

Ralph McDowell reported current membership has dropped to 265 and we face having to again, campaign for retention of nearly seventy-five unpaid dues members in the new year.

American History Teacher Contest Chairman John Morton reminded us that he has invited our 2016 Chapter winner to come next month to receive her award and deliver her essay speech. In February, he plans to bring and display all the Elementary School **Poster Contest** entries for us to vote on. Also as **VA Chairman**, he alerted us to special clothing needs of vets at the hospital.



CAR Chairman Nick Harper mentioned that the youth will be participating in the “*Wreaths Across America*” event during December.

BSA Chairman Hank Voegtle stated that he had presented two Eagle Scout Certificates this last week.

State Oration Contest Chairman Tom Whitelock reported that the TXSSAR competition was held in Austin during the BOM and Tristan Ferguson from Tyler won first place and will compete at the NSSAR Congress July of 2017.

Essay Committee Chairman William Richardson said that we still haven’t received any entries for this year.

Prior to the Benediction by Chaplain Ponders, the Treasurer held drawings for door prizes (with many suspect repeat winners from meetings past.)

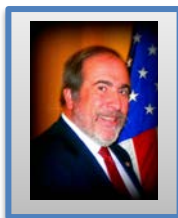


The President led the attendees in the SAR closing recessional and the meeting was adjourned at 10:18am.

Respectfully submitted by
Tom Whitelock –Secretary

CONGRATULATIONS

Michael Petridis
President



To our new Officers

Robert Kittrell

1st VP/Programs

Carl Nick Harper

Treasurer

Jerome Brown

Registrar

Robert Tanner, Jr.

Historian

Robert Tanner, Jr.

2nd VP/Awards

TBA

Secretary

Frank H. Ponders

Chaplain

TBA

Newsletter Editor &
Sgt.-at-Arms (appointed)