



Sons of the American Revolution

East-Fork Trinity Chapter 47

President's Message:



Good morning gentlemen for the last time,

I has been a pleasure to serve as your President over the last 2 plus years.

First, I would like to reminisce about where we have had our meetings. We have seen what could be considered the good, the bad and the ugly in terms of where we have met during my term as president. When I took over in the middle of 2023 we were meeting at TLC by the Lake prior to their closure and then moved for several torturous months of slow service to IHOP. I think that David Routh is still waiting on his last meal from there... and then we have Soulman's Bar-B-Que. I am extremely thankful they were able to take us back after our brief and eventful hiatus. I don't know about you but I look forward to that Double Barrel Baked Potato and Ice Cream every month.

Second, We have made some big changes that will help our chapter in the years to come. One of which is the ability of our President to serve 2 years in a row. As many of you know from past experience as President you really only start to understand all of your responsibilities after about 6 months and then you only have 6 months left in your term. I am extremely thankful for Tom Van Fossen and Bob Vickers for all the work they did on our Chapter bylaws to ease this restriction.

Third, for all the members and wives I want to thank. To David and Connie Jackson thanks for your support as our Secretary and for opening your house to us for our Executive Committee Meetings. To Gary and Mindy Lovell for all the support you have show to my family and I throughout the last several years even while fighting battles of your own. To Walt and Barbara Thomas I am grateful for all the encouragement. To David and Barbara Powell thank you for your long dedication as our Registrar, sound truck support and the reminder that not all Brits are bad. To Bob and Della Vickers I always knew who to ask for wisdom on the tough questions. To Paul and Dottie Ridenour thank you for the friendship you have shown D'auna and I. to Michael and Cynthia Goode your mentorship and direction has been instrumental in providing guidance when needed and to Bob and Darlene Kubin for the up-lifting prayers and taking me under your wing as Color Guard Commander.

Finally, and most importantly I want to thank my wife D'Auna and my kids Karalynn and Reagan for their love and support over the last 2 and a half years.

I look forward to seeing you at our meetings and am confident that our next slate of officers will continue to lead our chapter in the right direction to make us one of the top chapters in the Texas SAR. Let me leave you with a quote from our first President's Farwell Address in 1796, "Labor to keep alive in your breast that spark of celestial fire, called conscience."

Randall van Heyst

President

East Fork Trinity Chapter No. 47

2020Officers

President:
Randall van Heyst

Vice President:
Paul Ridenour

Registrar:
David Powell

Treasurer:
Gary Lovell

Secretary:
David Jackson

Chaplain:
Walt Thomas

Historian:
Michael Goode

Color Guard Commander:
Randall van Heyst

DAR Liaison:
Michael Goode

JROTC Coordinator:
Harmon Adair

Quartermaster
Medals & Awards
Coordinator:
David Routh

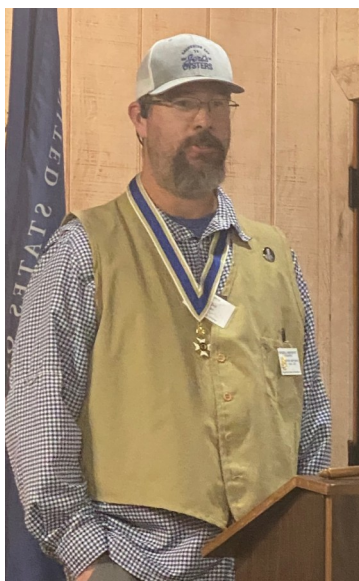
Webmaster:
Paul Ridenour

Veterans Coordinator:
Michael Goode

Education Coordinator:
Gary Lovell

Community Service
Coordinator:
David Routh

Newsletter Editor:
David Jackson



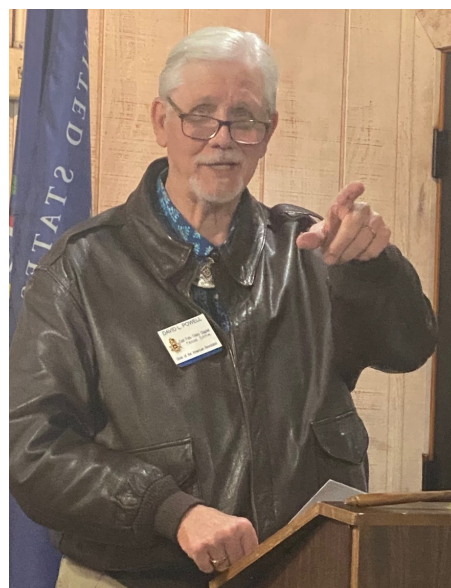
**Randall van Heyst
Opens December
Meeting**



**Michael Goode Presents Ameri-
canism Moment with the Shot
Heard Around the World**



**Michael Goode Presents David
Powell With Liberty Medal**



**David Powell Gives His
Last Registrar's Report**



**Gary Lovell Gives the
December Treasurer's
Report**



**Barbara Thomas
Invites Us to an Event
Honoring World War
II Veteran John
Preston King**



**Pat Newell Wins the Door Prize!!
(And Makes the Best Wedding
Cookies Ever!)**



Tarrytown Revolutionary War Heros Monument Located in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery

Happy New Year!!!!

The next meeting will be Thursday, January 8th at **Soulman's Barbeque at 691 East Interstate 30 in Rockwall.**

Dinner is at 5:30ish and the meeting will start promptly at 7:00.

David Jackson, Editor



Thank you to our Chapter members who again this year showed generosity to our Veterans. At our Christmas meeting, we collected \$1080 in listed items and cash. Appreciate everyone of you.

**Michael G
Veterans Chairman**



Left: Aristotle Gray, Father of Our Own Jason Gray, was Inducted into the SAR by Michael Goode at the Wreaths Across America Ceremony in Kaufman, Texas on December 13, 2025.



Spotlight

Arvis Dean Gray

His 4th great-grandfather was Captain Charles Polk of the North Carolina Militia. He descends from Charles Polk through his paternal grandmother Melissa Caledonia (Mathis) Gray.

Charles Polk's widow, Philipena Helms Polk, received a widows pension. Their son George W. Polk provided sworn testimony on behalf of his mother's pension application.

In it George stated that his father was in many engagements, but distinctly remembers his father being in the Battle of Eutaw Springs, South Carolina. He also stated that his father was the brother of Ezekiel Polk who was the grandfather of President James K. Polk, that would make Charles the great-uncle of President James K. Polk. Ezekiel Polk served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the South Carolina Militia and was a Captain in the 3rd South Carolina Continental Line.

In addition to Ezekiel, Charles had two other brothers who were active in the Revolution.

Thomas Polk was a Colonel of the 4th North Carolina Regiment of Continental Line and was one of the leaders of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence signed on May 20, 1775. This was over a year prior to the American Independence and the date as well as the Halifax Declaration of Independence are on the North Carolina state flag. There was a recent article in the Spring 2025 SAR Magazine titled "Mecklenburg County 1775 Declaration of Independence" pp. 18-19. The article references Thomas Polk and his leadership as the convenor of the meeting. Recently a book was written by David Fleming and titled "Who's Your Founding Father?". In it he describes the importance of the event and characters that were largely lost to more prominent names in Virginia, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania.

Charles other brother was John Polk who was a captain in the North Carolina Militia. John married Eleanor Shelby sister to Isaac Shelby who along with John Sevier led Patriot forces to victory at the Battle of Kings Mountain. Isaac Shelby would serve as governor of Kentucky from 1812 to 1816.

During the war General George Washington assigned troops to remove the church bells around Philadelphia to prevent the British from seizing them and melting them for cannon balls. Thomas Polk was put in charge of removing the Liberty Bell to safety in Allentown, Pennsylvania. During his presidency George Washington toured the southern states and made a stop at Charlotte, NC where dined at Colonel Polk's home.

George Polk stated in the pension that brothers Thomas and Ezekiel were wealthy, while the other two brothers were not.

Bonham Needs Listing Winter 2024-2025



We appreciate your interest in wanting to serve Veterans and below is an updated needs listing. All items must be new and in original packaging.

Clothing & Comfort Items:

- Sweatshirts (medium – 3XL)
- Sweatpants/Tops (Men – Medium – 3XL)
- Flannel Shirts Men (Small – 3XL)
- Coats & Jackets (Med-3XL)
- Body Wash (no bar soap or hotel/motel toiletries)
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Razors (disposable double to triple blade)
- Electric razors (for patients on blood thinners)
- Shaving Cream
- Nail clippers
- Brushes and combs
- Chapstick
- Diabetic socks with bigger tops, for diabetics and less restrictive for Veterans with larger legs

Refreshments: Individually wrapped snack items to include ingredients are welcome, but no homemade food items. Items such as the following:

- Bottled Water
- Coffee & Supplies
- Juices (small boxed)
- Individually wrapped snacks (no homemade)
- Chips
- Cookies
- Candy
- Danishes, donuts

Miscellaneous:

- 12 oz Coffee Insulated cup/tumbler with lids & handle. (larger sizes get too heavy for our older Veterans once filled with coffee)
- Plastic Models (Cars, Airplanes, Ships, Etc.)
- Leather crafts
- Dominoes (Big)
- Journals, notebooks
- Adult coloring books, with colors or colored pencils
- Paint by Stickers



The Registrar's Corner

January 2026

NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS

- 1. Prospective Regular Member:** Roy Semtner was referred to EFT by State Secretary Ray Cox. Patriot researched, Application Completed, signed and mailed to State on 3 Sept 2025. Received at National on 20 Oct 2025. (ACN: 120189). **First Line Sponsor: Dave Powell. Awaiting National Review.**
- 2. Prospective Regular Member:** John Martin was referred to EFT by member Russ Martin. Patriot researched, Application completed, and mailed to State on 29 Sep 2025. Received at National on 20 Oct 2025, (ACN: 120184). **First Line Sponsor: David Powell. Awaiting National Review.**
- 3. Prospective Regular Member:** Matthew Martin was referred to EFT by member Russ Martin. Patriot researched, Application completed, and mailed to State on 29 Sep 2025. Received at National on 20 Oct 2025, (ACCN: 120185), **First Line Sponsor: David Powell, Awaiting National Review.**
- 4. Prospective Regular Member:** Bobby Moorehead was referred to EFT by Debbie West. Bobby's Patriot is George Miller. **First Line Sponsor: David B. West.** We are working to get Expedited Processing because Applicate is 91 years old. **Awaiting State Review.**
- 5. Prospective Regular Member:** Nathaniel Bendorf was referred to EFT by Dave Powell at a Masonic Lodge meeting. His application was completed, signed and

mailed to State on 25 Nov 2025. Nathaniel's Patriot is John Stanley. **First Line Sponsor: Bob Vickers. Awaiting State Review.**

6. **Prospective Regular Member:** Ben Derryberry was referred to EFT by the State Communications Secretary. We are working with the applicant to complete the application. **First Line Sponsor: Bob Vickers. Application in Work.**
7. **Prospective Regular Member** Seth Dowdle was referred to EFT by his father (Member) Jeff Dowdle. Application in Work. **First Line Sponsor: David Powell. Application In Work.**
8. **Prospective Regular Member** Chase Dowdle was referred to EFT by his father (Member) Jeff Dowdle. Application in work. **First Line Sponsor: David Powell. Application In Work.**
9. **Prospective Regular Member:** Brandon Kobel was referred to EFT by the State Communications Secretary. Working with the applicant to complete his application. **First Line Sponsor: Jeff Witt. Application in Work.**
10. **Prospective Regular Member:** Connor Humphrey was referred to EFT by the State Communications Secretary. Jeff Witt is working to complete the application. **First Line Sponsor: Jeff Witt. Application in Work.** *Catherine Marie Mader Humphrey DAR finder Referral.
11. **Prospective Regular Member:** Cole Humphrey was referred to EFT by his brother Connor Humphrey. Jeff Witt is working to complete the application. **First Line Sponsor: Jeff Witt. Application in Work.** *Catherine Marie Mader Humphrey DAR finder Referral.

12. Prospective Regular Member: Jowell Peden was referred to EFT by the State Communications Secretary. We are working with the applicant to find a Patriot and Lineage. **First Line Sponsor: Jeff Witt. Research in Progress.**

13. Prospective Regular Member: Steve Summers was referred to EFT by the State Communications Secretary. Welcome Email sent. **Awaiting a Reply.**

14. Prospective Regular Member: Doug Lockwood was referred to EFT by the State Fair. Welcome Email sent. **Awaiting a Reply.**

15. Prospective Regular Member: Nelson Hughs was referred by the State Fair. The provided Email did not work. Welcome Email sent. We called him on 11/17/2025 and we are waiting for a reply. **Awaiting a Reply.**

16. Prospective Regular Member: Drake Pledger was referred to EFT by the State Fair. Welcome Email sent. **Awaiting a Reply.**

NOTE: A Time-To-Review assessment was made by the East Fork Trinity Registrar to determine how long it takes the SAR to review applications.

We took the last 10 East Fork Trinity approved applications for the year 2025. The assessment was the amount of time it took National to review an application using the "Received" date and the "Registered" date. Three of the ten applications took 102 days. Seven of the ten applications took 124 days.

If we look at one of our new applicants, Bruce Leithead, we completed his application and mailed it to State on 21 May 2025. The State Registrar reviewed and mailed it to National. National "Received" Bruce's application on 21 Jul 2025 (61 days). National then took 102 days to review the application and then after approval, it takes about 30 + days to get back to State and mailed to the Chapter.