



Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

“Chisholm Trail News”

Major K.M. Van Zandt Chapter

Fort Worth, Texas

8 November 2017



NEXT MEETING: November 18, 2017 **TIME:** 9:00 am **LOCATION:** Woodhaven Country Club

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK:

We had a good October meeting, including the presentation of the slate of chapter officers for the two years beginning in January 2018. The chapter will vote on this slate of officers at the November meeting. (see page 2)

We will be highlighting our military / chapter veterans at the November meeting, so I hope many will attend. Our speaker for the day will be a Vietnam War Veteran / combat photographer who is now working with military veterans who are on hospice.

We will see changes to our chapter newsletter and website over the next couple of months. Paul Valentine, who has handled the website for years, will be turning this responsibility over to Ron Turner. Ron will be making some changes to the format and content of the website.

Massing of the Colors

On Sunday, November 12th, the Military Order of the World Wars will host the annual “Massing of the Colors” at 2:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1000 Penn Avenue, Fort Worth. This is a very impressive ceremony which lasts about one hour. You will be witness to an array of flags and banners from many military, school districts, and patriotic organizations that are presented in a very professional and respectful manner – please plan to attend.

National SAR Congress

Don’t forget; the National SAR Congress will be held in Houston during the month of July 2018. If you are planning to attend (and we hope many of you are), you should make hotel reservations as early as possible. Click here for [hotel information](#). Registration for Congress is not yet open; however, you can find full details for [Congress](#) as they become available at this link. Please add this link to your favorite bookmarks for easy access to the information.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Russell Leavens, Ray Leftwich, and James Alderman were appointed as the nominating committee to identify and recommend a slate of new officers for the 2018-2019 term that begins in January. The slate of officers recommended to the chapter is:

Chapter President: Gerald A. (Gerry) Gieger
Vice President: Charles O. (Chase) Sanger IV
Secretary: Ronald J. (Ron) Turner
Treasurer: L. Vaughn Oliver
Registrar: David R. Davidson
Sergeant at Arms &: Robert (Bobby) Gresham
Color Guard Commander

The chapter will elect new officers at the November 18th meeting.

New Member Inducted

The chapter inducted and welcomed a new member at the October 21st meeting - Paul E. Ming. Paul was joined by his wife, Bobby Ruth, and one of their daughters. Paul was a Law Enforcement Officer for 38 years until he retired in 1993. Paul's Patriot Ancestor was Col. William C. Whitley, 1749-1813, who served as a scout in the Revolutionary War with Gen. George Rogers Clark in the west. He was killed in the War of 1812 at the Battle of the Thames in Canada.



Fire Safety Commendation Award

The Chapter's 2017 Fire Safety Commendation Award was presented to Ft. Worth Fire Chief Rudolph "Rudy" Jackson, Jr. Chief Jackson is the 12th Fire Chief since the city went to a professional fire service in 1893. He has been serving as interim Fire Chief since September 23, 2006 due to the sudden death of then Fire Chief Charles Gaines. He is a proud native of Fort Worth, and a graduate of Everman High School. He began his service career with the Fort Worth Fire Department in 1982 and rose through the ranks. Pictured here with his wife, Lisa, and Chapter President Mike Connelley and Compatriot Bobby Gresham. Chief Jackson also provided an update on the Fire Department.



Spouse of Vietnam War Veteran Award

President Mike Connelley presented Sharon Gieger, wife of Gerry, with the Spouse of a Vietnam War Veteran lapel pin at our October meeting. Sharon is the first of our chapter spouses to receive the pin that is designed specifically for this purpose. The chapter hopes to have the opportunity to present these pins in the future.



Distinguished Service Award

Compatriot Robert Truitt receives the chapter's "Distinguished Service Award" for service beyond the call of duty and for years of service to our chapter.



Conclusion of Revolutionary War Battle Series

Ned LaRowe of the Plano SAR Chapter was our guest speaker in October. He presented a great visual and auditory presentation on the Battle of Yorktown, with an emphasis on the naval aspects of the last large battle of the Revolution.



Re-designed Website

Very soon you can expect to see a re-designed website for the chapter. Ron Turner is assuming the webmaster role from Paul Valentine. The chapter owes Paul a huge debt of gratitude for stepping in when needed to perform the necessary webmaster duties several years ago. Ron has a history of creating and maintaining various websites during his career and is looking forward to working on the chapter's website. Ron will give a short demonstration of the new site at the November meeting. He is interested in your input as to what you would like to see on the website so feel free to contact him at rjturner0815@gmail.com.



To the left is chapter member, Mason Watkins, whose mother is a member of DAR chapter Captain Nathaniel Mills. Mason assisted the DAR chapter in loading and moving 35 boxes of books collected for the USO Library located at DFW Airport. This was part of the 2017 National Day of Service for veterans.



The above photo are the entrants for the 2017 Oration Contest which was held at the Board of Managers meeting, Galveston, Texas during October 2017. A good group of entrants representing the future leaders of Texas and the Nation.



Our own Gerry Gieger (right) and David Davidson (center) are standing with a Dallas area SAR member at the State Fair of Texas. A recruiting effort occurs each year during the time of the State Fair of Texas in Dallas.

This Month during the Revolutionary War

The month of November generally saw a slowdown in military action during the War; the weather was just too inclement for movement of troops and equipment. November 1776 saw the Hessians capture Fort Mifflin in New York and Lord Cornwallis capture Fort Mifflin the same month. November 1779 began Washington's 2nd winter at Morristown, NJ, the harshest winter of the 18th Century.

By November 1783, things were definitely looking up for America. On November 25, 1783, British troops leave New York City.

Philadelphia's Unknown Soldier

Philadelphia's Washington Square is the home of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. While it's obvious why this one is a mystery, it's a fascinating history nonetheless.

The area where the monument now stands has a long history with the unknown and long-forgotten dead. Before it was turned into a park, it was a potter's field, a place where the forgotten would be buried. It was unconsecrated ground, too, and one family that's buried there, the Carpenter family, chose to do so because it was the only place they could bury one of their own, who had committed suicide.

It was John Adams who was overcome by this sense of absolute despondency while walking through the area. At the time of the war, it saw countless deaths from battle injuries and the ravages of illness and disease. Area



hospitals couldn't cope with all the injured, ill, and dying, so camps sprang up all around Philadelphia. People died in the camps and were buried in the camps. The land was used as a mass burial plot again in 1793, after yellow fever swept through the population.

In the beginning of the 19th century, it was turned into the park that stands today. After another century or so, a memorial honoring the man who led the troops was erected, as was another for the ordinary soldiers who had died in the Philadelphia field.

It wasn't until 1954 that archaeologists started digging for their unknown body. They uncovered a series of graves before they found one of the mass graves they were looking for. Based on the area around their body, the age of the boy (about 20), and his cause of death (a head wound probably made by a musket shot), they're pretty sure he's a Revolutionary War veteran. Which side he fought for is anyone's guess, as colonist and British soldier alike died side by side on the old cemetery grounds.

Member Bio

With the upcoming election of a new slate of chapter officers, this is a good time to take a look back at the life of Gerry Gieger, the President-elect of the Major K. M. Van Zandt chapter.

Gerald Allen Gieger, first child of James and Fannie (Brown) Gieger, was born 30 September 1936, in Fort Worth, Texas. He attended Paschal High School in Fort Worth, where he was a JROTC Cadet Major and a three-year competitor in the corps' precision Drill team.

Gerry earned a Bachelor of Science degree in History from Texas Wesleyan University, an Associate of Applied Science degree in Mid-Management from Tarrant County College, and a Master of Business Administration degree from Texas Christian University. He held positions of increasing responsibility in various Defense Industries and retired from full-time duties in 2000. He has held short-term Contract assignments since that time. In 1964, he was ordained to Christian Ministry by Gleaner Missionary Society and is active in his church's Mission programs, both inside the USA and abroad.



On 17 June 1955, he married Frances Loraine Axline in Fort Worth. They had four sons and three daughters, and presently have seven granddaughters, ten grandsons, and nine great-grandchildren. Frances passed away in 1998.

Gerry is a fourth & fifth generation Native Texan, a compatriot of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Sons of the Republic of Texas, the Society of the War of 1812-14, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, a candidate for the Society of Colonial Wars, a lineal member of the Georgia Salzburger Society, an Associate member of First Families of Muskingum County, Ohio, a retired Director of the Fort Worth Genealogical Society, and Associate-Editor for the Society's quarterly journal, FOOTPRINTS, and Vice-President of the Everman Texas Historical Society. He is actively involved in the US DOD program for recognizing Vietnam Veterans, and delivers Meals on Wheels for Tarrant County each week.

Gerry has been a long time, active member of the Van Zandt chapter. For ten years, Gerry served as Chapter Registrar for the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt chapter of the SAR in Fort Worth, and is Vice-President for 2016-2017. He is the President-Elect for the term 2018-2019. He has received the SAR National Liberty Medal five times, the Service to Veterans Medal, the Patriot Medal, the Texas' Society Bronze, Silver, and Gold Bernardo de Galvez

Medals for Color Guard, and the North Texas Color Guard Commander's meritorious Service Award in 2011 for serving as Sr. Staff Adjutant.

Gerry has been active with the Texas SAR Color Guard for many years. He served as Western Regimental Commander for the North Texas' Color Guard in 2015-2016 and participated in the Honor Guard for more than twenty-five burials at DFW National Cemetery of service members who were Killed-in-Action.

On 12 August 2017, he married the widowed Sharon Eleanor (Thrower) Hughes, a native of Ridgeville, South Carolina. Sharon has six additional grandchildren to add to the count. Sharon and Gerry reside in Burleson, Texas, USA.

Gerry continues to be an active and involved member of the K. M. Van Zandt chapter.

The Color Guard is always recruiting

Several times a year the Chapter is asked to present the colors or provide a color guard or honor guard for various civic functions. We are always looking for new members. Please contact the chapter color guard commander, Compatriot Bobby Gresham, at email address: "gresham817@att.net"

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING!!!

Visit our chapter website at <http://www.txssar.org/KMVanZandt/SARFTW/Welcome.html>

