



Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter
Texas

Texas Society
Sons of the American Revolution

Chisholm Trail News

December 1, 2025

NEXT MEETING: January 17, 2026

TIME: 9:00 am

LOCATION: Diamond Oaks Country Club
5821 Diamond Oaks Dr N, Fort Worth, TX

A monthly publication of Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter, Ron Turner, Editor

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Your 2026-2027 Officers

At the November chapter meeting, the membership elected new officers who will be installed at the January 2026 chapter meeting.

Officers serving the two-year term for 2026 and 2027 are:

- President: Steven James Hole**
- Vice President: Jeffrey Warren Sparks**
- Treasurer: Gregory Alan Riffel**
- Registrar: Ronald Joe Turner**
- Chaplain: Ralph Edward Smith**
- Color Guard Commander: James Vann Cunningham**

The Secretary position was unfilled at the time of the election; however, **Edward Bruce Morgan** stepped forward after the meeting and volunteered to serve as **Secretary**. We will conduct a short election immediately prior to the installation of officers in January.



November Chapter Meeting



Our November meeting was filled with recognitions and awards.

President Turner acknowledged our DOCC server, Isabelle Waltz, with a Certificate of Appreciation.

(Continued on page 2)



President Ron Turner recognized the members of the Nominating Committee with Texas SAR Chapter Service Medals: Chairman James Alderman, Gerry Gieger, Bobby Gresham, and Mike Connelley.



President Ron Turner presented a Certificate of Commendation to the officers that served in his administration during the last two years: Vice President Steve Hole, Treasurer Anthony Walker, Historian John Anderson, Chaplain Ralph Smith, and Color Guard Commander Vann Cunningham.



President Ron Turner and Past Registrar Gerry Gieger received Liberty Medals at the SAR Congress held in July 2025.



Vice President Steve Hole and President Ron Turner received their SAR University Diploma Certificates for completion of the Chapter President course. President Turner also completed the Chapter Registrar course.



President Ron Turner received two newly approved Supplemental Applications for his Patriot ancestors Thomas Brooks and Thomas Whitlock.



President Ron Turner presented Chaplain Ralph Smith with the SAR Bronze Roger Sherman Medal for his outstanding contributions to the chapter.

(Continued on page 3)



President Ron Turner presented Compatriots Joe Wade and Bobby Gresham with their SAR Silver 250th Anniversary medals.



Compatriots Scott Stoddard and Joe Wade entertained the members with a review of their recent Honor Flight DFW #60 trip to Washington, D.C. They encouraged all veterans to apply to take this memorable trip. To learn more about the [Honor Flight DFW program](#), access their website.

Our guest speaker at the November meeting was Mr. Jared Thompson.

Mr. Thompson is currently the Tarrant County Veterans Service Officer and spoke on Veteran Benefits.

Mr. Thompson is also the son of Compatriot Billy Thompson.



President Turner presented Mr. Jared Thompson with a Certificate of Appreciation as our Guest Speaker.

(Continued on page 4)



To conclude November’s celebration of Veterans, Vice President Steve Hole invited all veterans to the front of the room for a photograph. Pictured left to right: Steve Hole, Rodney Buttermore, Gerry Gieger, Mr. Jared Thompson, Billy Thompson, Art Munford, Bruce Morgan, Scott Manning Jr., James Alderman, Greg Riffel, Ralph Smith, Ron Turner, Mark Smith, Jeff Sparks, Joe Wade, Don Woodworth, Jeff Andre, John Anderson, Alan Reich, Wayne Heide, Scott Stoddard, and Bobby Gresham.

Thank you for your service, Compatriots!



Texas SAR 250th Anniversary Monument

The 250th Anniversary Monument Committee is thrilled to announce the installation of our beautiful monument at the Texas State Cemetery.

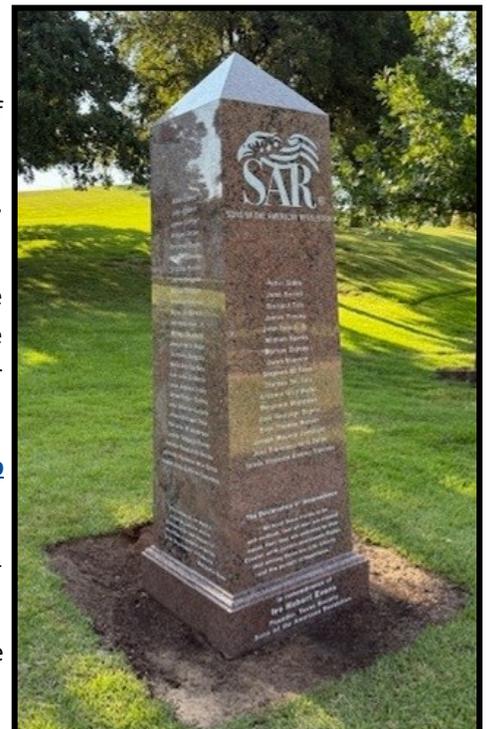
You can see the results of our fundraising efforts, the generosity of our membership, and the committee’s hard work!

We continue to raise funds for the monument dedication ceremony, which is to take place at 10:00am, Saturday, April 18th, in conjunction with the Texas SAR Annual State Convention. We are a few thousand dollars from having the funds necessary to cover the budgeted costs.

You may donate funds via PayPal when you pay your dues or via the [monument web page](#) on the Texas SAR website.

If you prefer to write a check, please make it payable to: Texas SAR, Attn: Treasurer, 11 Winhall Place, The Woodlands, TX 77354-3313.

If you have any questions, please reach out to [Richard Zdunkewicz](#), Chairman of the Monument Committee.



WAA Thank You!

The Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter, Texas SAR, extends its THANKS to the following individuals or organizations who sponsored wreaths for our 2025 Wreaths Across America program.

Due to your generosity, we sponsored a total of 147 wreaths this year. We extend our grateful thanks to the following individuals and organizations:

James Alderman
Billy Thompson
Anonymous
Steve Hole
Virginia Boyles
Jeff Kennedy

Texas SAR
Ron Turner
Art Munford
Scott Manning, Jr.
Harriet Wade

A. M. Thomas III
Kim Brimer
Allen Reich
Kevin Flaherty
Gerry Gieger

Jeff Sparks
Vann Cunningham
Jerry Crump
Ken Cox
Steve Cashion

Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution
Ephraim Merrill Daggett Chapter, Sons of the Republic of Texas
Col. E. W. Taylor Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans



Wreaths Across America Ceremony

On December 13, 2025 at 11:00 am, Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter will be helping Oakwood Cemetery to Remember and Honor our veterans by laying Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes. Please help us honor and remember as many fallen heroes as possible by volunteering on Wreaths Day, or inviting your family and friends to attend with you.



Veterans Day Parade

Chapter members participated in the 2025 Veterans Day Parade in Fort Worth, which returned to a pre-Covid parade route that included downtown Fort Worth and was hosted by the Tarrant County Veterans Council.

Fort Worth's annual Veterans Day celebration began 106 years ago as an armistice procession through downtown in 1919 to honor those who had fought in World War I.

Ladies from the Fort Worth Chapter NSDAR joined us for this year's parade.

President Ron Turner drove the tow vehicle while Compatriots

Gerry Gieger, James Alderman, Bruce Morgan, and Bobby Gresham rode on the trailer.



DUE NOW! 2026 DUES

Your 2026 Texas SAR Dues Invoice should be arriving shortly at your registered address with Texas SAR. If you would like to get a jump on paying your dues, you can access and print your dues invoice from the Texas SAR private website.

Go to texassar.org/!!TXS!!SAR!!/invoice.htm.

You will be asked to input the private website login credentials. On the Dues Invoices screen, enter your National Number and then press **Click** for your invoice. Do not press the **Enter** key as this will result in an error message. You must press the **Click** button. Print your invoice.

If paying by check, mail your payment to the address on the invoice.

If paying by credit card or Paypal, return to the Dues Invoice page and select **click here** towards the bottom of the text and complete the necessary blanks. When done, press **Continue** and complete the payment information and submit the form.

Please note all of the additional donations you can make using the online payment form, including DUAL Chapter memberships. Any considerations of donating to unrestricted funds or specific award programs will be greatly appreciated.

If your application was approved on or after September 1st, 2025, you have already paid your 2026 dues so no action is required on your part.

ALL 2026 DUES MUST BE PAID NO LATER THAN 31 DEC 2025.

DO IT NOW SO YOU DON'T FORGET!!!



2026 Patriot Medal Class

The Patriot Medal is awarded only by a state society. It is the highest award given for service at the state or chapter level. This medal is presented only to individuals and may be received ONLY once. It represents long, faithful and outstanding service at the state and/or chapter level.

The medal is sterling silver and bears the portrait of Compatriot General of the Army Douglas MacArthur on the obverse within the inscription, "The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution." The reverse is inscribed "Awarded to (blank) for Patriotic Service by the Society SAR, 20". The medal is suspended from a chest ribbon of royal blue color. The design for the medal was selected by Compatriot MacArthur. He received the first medal, presented posthumously at his tomb in Norfolk, Virginia, on October 19, 1964, where it is on permanent display.



The 2026 Class consists of:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michael G. Goode, Sr. | East Fork Trinity Chapter |
| David C. Hamaker | Freedom Chapter |
| Shiidon Hawley | Patrick Henry Chapter |
| Joseph "Joe" P. Sogan | Arlington Chapter |
| William "Bill" R. Sole | Hill Country Chapter |
| Carl M. Wiggins II | Cradle of Texas Chapter |

Texas SAR will recognize these worthy Compatriots at the Annual Convention in April 2026.

Revolutionary War Rarities

The American Revolution is an incredibly interesting period in our history. There are so many people, so many places, and so much knowledge available for us to all learn about our founding. This week’s episode is a test. We ask questions and provide answers to some well-known people and events and some not so well-known people and events. So, put your thinking cap on and watch this episode. Please subscribe to this YouTube Channel and hit the bell so that you will be notified when another episode is posted. Please join our Facebook Group and also listen on your favorite podcast application. Thank you for being a part of Revolutionary War Rarities. The podcast from the Sons of the American Revolution. The link to this episode is below.

<https://youtu.be/DB403UYZoSk>

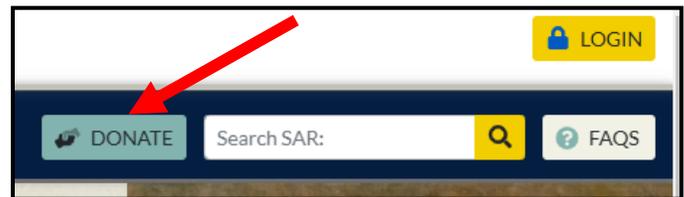


Year-End Giving for Tax Purposes

If you are trying to determine what SAR programs to support during your end-of-year giving for tax purposes, please consider the **SAR Genealogy Committee Endowment Fund**.

This fund is specifically aimed at supporting Genealogy Staff training and recruitment at such meetings as RootsTech and the National Genealogical Society.

The fund is available under the DONATE button on the SAR website. On the dropdown menu, look for **Genealogy Committee Endowment Fund**.



Other worthy SAR programs you might consider include:

- SAR Education Center and Museum
- Friends of the Library
- George Washington Endowment Fund
- SAR 1776 Society Campaign

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2025

- December 6 Dickens on the Strand, 11:00 am, Galveston **(CG-S)**
- December 13 Wreaths Across America, 11:00 am, Oakwood Cemetery, Fort Worth **(CG-N)**

2026

- January 17 Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
INSTALLATION OF 2026-2027 OFFICERS
- February 21 Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
- March 11-14 Texas DAR State Convention, Dallas
- March 21 Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
- April 16-19 Texas SAR State Convention, Austin **(CG-S)**
- April 18 Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
- May 16 Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
- May 25 Memorial Day

(CG) = Color Guard event, **(C)** = Chapter, **(S)** = State, **(N)** = National

SAVE THE DATE

Texas SAR 2026 State Convention

Dear Texas Compatriots,

On behalf of the Patrick Henry Chapter of the Texas Sons of the American Revolution, we invite you all to the **Texas 2026 State Convention** to be held in Austin, Texas, on **April 15-19, 2026** at the **Austin Southpark Hotel**.

Event registration will soon be live on the texassar.org website. Go to Events>>.

Make your room reservations **NOW !** at the **Austin Southpark Hotel** by calling the hotel directly at **512-448-2222**. When calling, it is important that you identify yourself as a part of the **Texas SAR group**, to receive the group rate and ensure that the group is credited for the room nights.

Or CTRL + CLICK the following booking link: <https://group.hilton.com/3u6rt1>

NOTE: The default date range on the booking link is April 12th – 21st. You must change the dates to your desired booking dates and CLICK "UPDATE" for the system to accept your desired date!!

Hotel Rate \$ **149.00** USD/Night plus tax. Rates are offered 3 days pre/post event.

Cutoff date for booking the blocked rooms is **Wednesday, April 1, 2026**.

Cancellation must be done 24 hours before date of arrival to avoid charges.

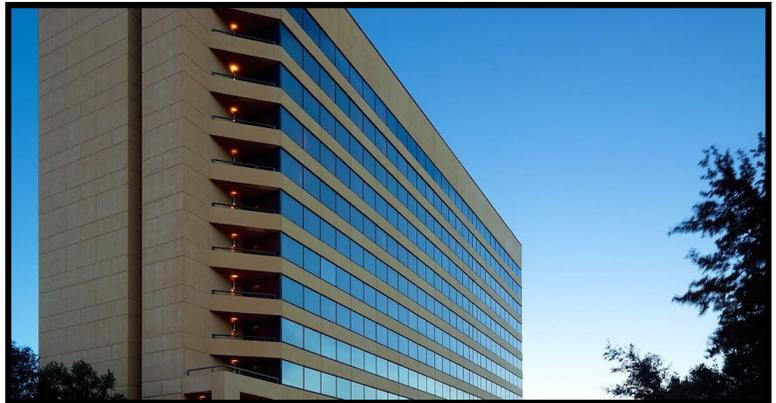
If you have any issues booking a room, contact Dennis Brunson @ 979-324-8552 or e-mail dpbrunson@gmail.com

If you need additional information or assistance, please feel free to contact the following:

- [Mark Ellison](#)
- [Shiidon Hawley](#)
- [Joseph Burton](#)

Austin SouthPark Hotel
[4140 Governors Row, Austin Texas 78744](#)

P: 512-448-2222



Need Pastoral Care?

Chapter Chaplain Ralph Smith wants to encourage compatriots to contact him with any concerns for which they would like prayer.

Chaplain Smith writes, "Doesn't matter if the issue is personal or for any family member. I'm available by text or call, 817-808-1420. Texts are better when [you] are not in my contacts. Or by email at rsmithj74@gmail.com.

I'll be happy to pray for and/or with [you]. If [you] would like a personal visit, I will do my best to comply. I want to be more connected and available to serve [you] personally and confidentially."

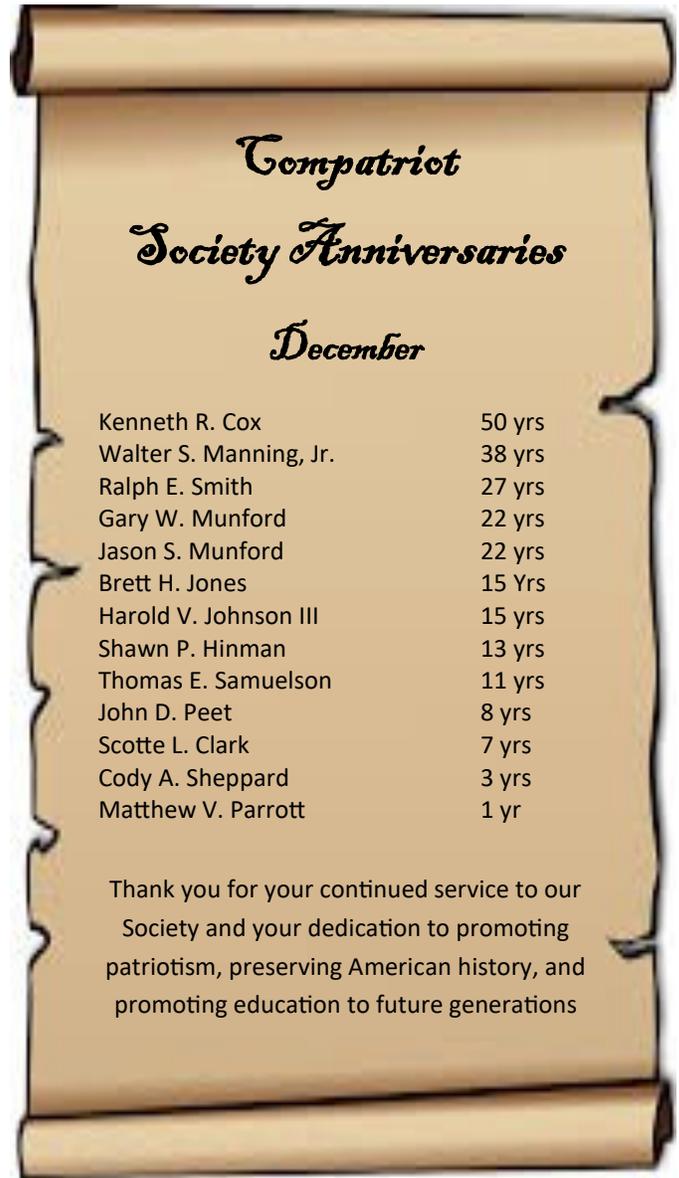


| | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| December 3 | David N. Boyd |
| December 7 | James R. Herman III |
| December 8 | Charles W. McHenry |
| December 10 | Andrew K. Walker |



The SAR Mission Statement

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our country.



Com Patriot Society Anniversaries

December

| | |
|------------------------|--------|
| Kenneth R. Cox | 50 yrs |
| Walter S. Manning, Jr. | 38 yrs |
| Ralph E. Smith | 27 yrs |
| Gary W. Munford | 22 yrs |
| Jason S. Munford | 22 yrs |
| Brett H. Jones | 15 Yrs |
| Harold V. Johnson III | 15 yrs |
| Shawn P. Hinman | 13 yrs |
| Thomas E. Samuelson | 11 yrs |
| John D. Peet | 8 yrs |
| Scotte L. Clark | 7 yrs |
| Cody A. Sheppard | 3 yrs |
| Matthew V. Parrott | 1 yr |

Thank you for your continued service to our Society and your dedication to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and promoting education to future generations

Member Contact Information Change

Please complete and submit [this form](#) to report changes to your contact information. When submitted, this information is sent to the Texas SAR Secretary

Chapter Registrar's Report

Updated 29 Nov 2025

| <i>Compatriot</i> | <i>Patriot</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Action</i> |
|--|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| <i>2025 Approvals</i> | | | |
| Timothy William Ulrich | Ezra Pratt | NEW | Approved 24 Jan 2025 |
| William Anton Ulrich | Ezra Pratt | NEW | Approved 24 Jan 2025 |
| Jonathan Gardner Gift | Abraham Knepper | NEW | Approved 14 Feb 2025 |
| Anthony James Eldridge | Stephen Caudill | NEW | Approved 22 Aug 2025 |
| James Stanley Reid | Edward Carter | NEW | Approved 22 Aug 2025 |
| John Clay Reid | Edward Carter | NEW | Approved 22 Aug 2025 |
| Dr. Bobby Quentin Lanier | Lewis Lanier | NEW | Approved 05 Sep 2025 |
| Steven Stewart Fuller Sr | Thaddeus Fuller | NEW | Approved 12 Sep 2025 |
| Austin Stewart Fuller | Thaddeus Fuller | NEW | Approved 12 Sep 2025 |
| Steven Stewart Fuller Jr | Thaddeus Fuller | NEW | Approved 12 Sep 2025 |
| Walter Scott Manning Jr | Moses Manning | Supp | Approved 02 May 2025 |
| Kenneth Kimberlin Brimer | Robert Coleman | Supp | Approved 29 Aug 2025 |
| Kenneth Kimberlin Brimer | Also Collier | Supp | Approved 29 Aug 2025 |
| Kenneth Kimberlin Brimer | Thomas Hill | Supp | Approved 29 Aug 2025 |
| Ronald Joe Turner | Rowland Cornelius | Supp | Approved 05 Sep 2025 |
| Steven James Hole | Joseph Barclift | Supp | Approved 05 Sep 2025 |
| Steven James Hole | Joshua Skinner | Supp | Approved 05 Sep 2025 |
| Steven James Hole | Richard Hoskins/Haskins | Supp | Approved 05 Sep 2025 |
| Steven James Hole | Charles Blount | Supp | Approved 05 Sep 2025 |
| Ronald Joe Turner | Thomas Brooks | Supp | Approved 24 Oct 2025 |
| Ronald Joe Turner | Thomas Whitlock | Supp | Approved 24 Oct 2025 |
| <i>Current National Review</i> | | | |
| Steven James Hole | Thomas Bishop | Supp | Received 21 Jul 2025 |
| Kenneth Kimberlin Brimer | Benjamin Brimer | Supp | Received 20 Oct 2025 |
| <i>Pending State Review</i> | | | |
| Clarence Bryan Kloppe III | Robert Lemon | NEW | |
| Kyle Thaddeus Kloppe | Robert Lemon | NEW | |
| <i>Pended Application by National Genealogist</i> | | | |
| Joseph Paul DeWoody | James Alexander | Supp | Pended 09 Sep 2023 |
| Kenneth Kimberlin Brimer | Joseph Benton | Supp | Pended 17 Jul 2023 |
| Guy Thomas Bransford | William Bransford | NEW | Pended 22 Jan 2024 |
| Kenneth Kimberlin Brimer | John King | Supp | Pended 06 May 2024 |
| Kenneth Kimberlin Brimer | Thomas Connelley | Supp | Pended 16 May 2024 |
| Kenneth Kimberlin Brimer | James Wooten | Supp | Pended 12 Nov 2024 |
| Kenneth Kimberlin Brimer | John Childress | Supp | Pended 12 Nov 2024 |
| Steven James Hole | Winifred Wiggins | Supp | Pended 03 Sep 2025 |

General Information

The Sons of the American Revolution is the leading male lineage society that perpetuates the ideals of the War for Independence.

As an historical, educational, and patriotic non-partisan, non-profit corporation organized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, *we seek to maintain and expand the meaning of patriotism, respect for our national symbols, the value of American citizenship, and the unifying force of “e pluri-bus unum” that was created from the people of many nations—one nation and one people.*

The *Chisholm Trail News* is published for members and friends of the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter #6, Texas SAR.

The American’s Creed

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States, a perfect union, one and inseparable, established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

William Tyler Page, 1917, accepted by the U.S. House of Representatives on April 3, 1918.

Please consider a tax-free donation to the Chapter’s Youth Funds which support Chapter Youth Contests. Contact the Chapter Treasurer.

IMPORTANT LINKS

Visit and bookmark our chapter website at <http://www.texassar.org/KMVanZandt/index.htm>.

Join our Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/292616193535075/>

Visit and Like/Follow our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/vanzandtsar/>.

Join our Google Group for emails at <https://groups.google.com/forum/?hl=en#!forum/sar-km-van-zandt>.

Visit and Like/Follow the Texas Society Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/txssar>.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

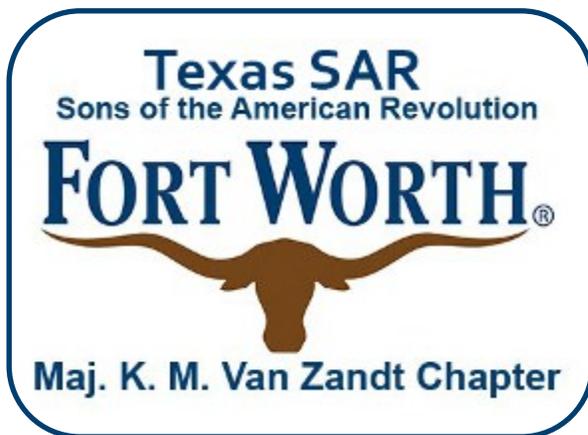
Our chapter membership levels as of October 31, 2025, are:

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Active / Current Member..... | 102 |
| NSSAR Life | 11 |
| TXSSAR Perpetual | 11 |
| Active/New Member..... | 10 |
| Active/Reinstated (current yr) | 11 |
| Active/Reinstated (Over 1 yr) | 0 |
| Deceased (current yr) | 1 |
| Deceased Perpetual (current yr)..... | 0 |
| Dual w/Other Primary State | 2 |
| Emeritus (50+ years)..... | 0 |
| Junior Member/Reinstated..... | 0 |
| Junior SAR Member | 2 |
| Non-Paid Junior Member..... | 0 |
| Not Paid (Current Year)..... | 13 |
| Not Paid Dual State..... | 1 |
| Reinstated/Transferred In..... | 0 |
| Transferred In | 2 |
| Dual Members (other chapters) | 3 |

Our active membership currently is **127**.

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 Vann Cunningham, at email address: b155549@gmail.com.



CHAPTER OFFICERS

2024-2025

PRESIDENT

[Ronald J. TURNER](#)

VICE-PRESIDENT

[Steven J. HOLE](#)

SECRETARY

Vacant

TREASURER

[M. Anthony WALKER](#)

ACTING REGISTRAR

[Ronald J. TURNER](#)

ASSISTANT REGISTRARS

[Steven J. HOLE](#)

[Arthur G. MUNFORD](#)

CHAPLAIN

[Ralph E. SMITH](#)

HISTORIAN

[John D. ANDERSON, Jr.](#)

QUARTERMASTER

[John D. ANDERSON, Jr.](#)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

[J. Vann CUNNINGHAM](#)

COLOR GUARD COMMANDER

[J. Vann CUNNINGHAM](#)

*Thank you for your continued support
of the Chapter and the SAR*

God Bless America

