

# The Chisholm Trail News

MARCH 1, 2026

MEETINGS, 3<sup>RD</sup> SATURDAY, JANUARY – NOVEMBER, 9:00 A.M.

DIAMOND OAKS COUNTRY CLUB  
5821 DIAMOND OAKS LANE NORTH  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76117



## February Chapter Meeting

At our chapter meeting on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, we welcomed special guest Texas SAR President Mel Oller. President Oller has been a prominent figure in the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. He has served in various Texas SAR capacities, including as the President Elect, Secretary, District 8 Vice President, and Adjutant for the Color Guard.

He joined SAR on August 5, 2013, through the Freedom Chapter. His Patriot is George Oller who assisted in establishing American Independence while acting in the capacity of a Private in the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Class, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

He has served as Freedom Chapter President for 2017-2019. He has been involved in the Orations contest, JROTC presentations, and the Eagle Scout program, showcasing his commitment to education and community service. He has also been recognized for his contributions to the Masonry Industry and his active role in local and state Masonry Industry groups. He is a twice President of the Texas Masonry Council and a longtime voice on national American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) committees. President Oller was inducted into the Texas Masonry Hall of Fame at a ceremony on March 20, 2025, at the Alamo in San Antonio, TX.



*Texas SAR President Mel Oller*

President Oller is married to Cyndy and is the father of two sons, Virgil and Benjamin.

His dedication to the SAR and his community is evident in his leadership and service, making him a respected figure within the organization.

President Oller spoke about Texas SAR business and then, in honor of George Washington, presented a program regarding Freemasonry in General Washington's army.

# Freemasonry in Early America and General Washington's Army

## A Brief History of Masonic Lodges

- Masonic History is separated into ancient (unwritten) history, and modern Freemasonry.
- Early Masonic history speculates that Masons started in the Builders Guilds of Medieval Europe. The first record of a “gentleman” joining a Lodge is in Edinburgh stonemasons’ lodge in 1599.
- Some speculation exists that Masonic Lodges derived from the Knights Templar, driven underground in 1307 by King Phillip of France and Pope (Born in Blood, Robinson, 1989).
- Grand Lodge of England first written records are in 1720. In “Anderson’s Constitutions”, “A Mason is oblig’d by his Tenure, to obey the moral Law; and if he rightly understands the Art, he will never be a stupid Atheist, nor an irreligious Libertine.”
- “The ROLE of Freemasonry and individual Masons prior to and through the American Revolution was that of the destruction of the traditional social and political order based on an authoritarian philosophy and characterized by inequality and privilege. Speaking generally, in the ancient regime the church and state mutually supported each other in maintaining their respective places of predominance and privilege. Liberalism and liberals, which included Freemasonry and Masons, were declared to be traitorous by the state, and heretical and atheistic by the Church.” *By James David Carter, COMMITTEE ON MASONIC, EDUCATION AND SERVICE FOR THE GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS*

## When did Freemasonry come to the Colonies?

Grand Lodges were founded during the Colonial Era.

Freemasonry spread from the British Isles during the Colonial Era. All of the “original” Grand Lodges began to issue charters to individual lodges in North America, but the two English Grand Lodges (the “Ancients” and the “Moderns”) were the most prolific. Starting in 1730, The Grand Lodge of England (Moderns) began to issue Warrants for Provincial Grand Lodges in the colonies. Initially, these Warrants were issued to individuals, to act as deputies for the Grand Master in a given area for fixed periods of time, and some confusion resulted due to overlapping jurisdictions. To confuse matters further, with the formation of the Ancient Grand Lodge, rival Provincial Grand Lodges were chartered under their jurisdiction.

## George Washington

George Washington, a young Virginia planter, became a Master Mason in 1754. The ceremony was held at Masonic Lodge No. 4 in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Washington was 22 years old and would soon command his first military operation as a major in the Virginia militia.



Washington continued his involvement in Masonry throughout his life, with records of Masonic correspondence and Lodge visitations.

At his first inauguration in 1791, President Washington took his oath of office on a Bible from St. John's Lodge in New York. During his two terms, he visited Masons in North and South Carolina and presided over the cornerstone-laying ceremony for the U. S. Capitol in 1793.

Nine of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were Freemasons during their lifetime, though not necessarily in 1776: William Ellery, Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, Joseph Hewes, William Hooper, Robert Treat Paine, Richard Stockton, George Walton, and William Whipple.

The nine known Masons who signed the Constitution were: Gunning Bedford, Jr., John Blair, David Brearly, Jacob Brown, Daniel Carrol, John Dickinson, Benjamin Franklin, Rufus King, and George Washington.

## **Benjamin Franklin**

Benjamin Franklin was a devoted Freemason, occupying for many years places of official prominence within the Fraternity.

Franklin was initiated into Masonry in 1731, probably at the February meeting of St. John's Lodge in Philadelphia. The esteem in which he was held is evidenced by the fact that he was elected Grand Master just a few short years later in 1735.

Franklin printed the first Masonic book printed in the Colonies, "The Constitutions of the Free-Masons" (1734), a reprint of the 1721 Grand Lodge of England rules.



## **Generals of The American Revolution**

74 men were commissioned as Generals in the U.S. Continental Army from 1775 through 1783  
33 (46%) were Freemasons.

Prominent among the Masonic Generals:

- Nathanael Greene, Rhode Island, MSA (Masonic Service Association) says he was a mason, as do his descendants.
- Henry Knox, Massachusetts, Major General, later Commander in Chief of the Army and later Secretary of War. It was not clear where or when he became a Mason, but he visited Masonic Lodges and Grand Lodges.
- Marquis de LaFayette, France, Major General (last surviving General of the Revolutionary War when he died in 1834). No documentary evidence shows where or when he became a Mason, but he said he was, presented himself, and was universally accepted as a Mason; visited numerous Masonic lodges.
- Peter Muhlenberg (Black Robe Brigade), Virginia, Brigadier General, Brevet (honorary) Major General, Member of Royal Arch Lodge No. 3, Philadelphia, 1779.

- Israel Putnam, Connecticut, one of the 1<sup>st</sup> four Major Generals appointed, and the only one to serve throughout the Revolutionary War. Became a Mason at Crown Point in a military lodge in 1758, visited some Lodges, buried with Masonic honors in 1790.
- Benedict Arnold, Major General, deserted to the enemy in 1780 and fought against the United States. Affiliated with Hiram Lodge No. 1 in New Haven, Connecticut, 1765 – not clear where he became a Mason.

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## Photos and other details of our February Chapter Meeting



*The lovely view from our meeting room at Diamond Oaks Country Club (DOCC).*



*DOCC does an outstanding job in hosting our Chapter Meetings.*



*We are now using a new entrance for all Chapter Meetings. DOCC signage will reflect the new entrance.*



*Breakfast is served!*

The February Chapter Meeting was well attended with 23 members, 7 guests, and 4 Prospective Members. Members were especially pleased to welcome our Guest of Honor, Texas SAR President Mel Oller.

Eddie Scott and Bob Jacobs have met the qualifications for the Bronze 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Medal. Jeff Andre has met the qualifications for the Silver 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Medal. Texas SAR leads SAR with 41 Gold 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Medals earned. As of today, our chapter is proud to have 27 bronze, 15 silver, and 5 gold 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Recognition Medal earners!



*The food served by DOCC is outstanding quality!*



*John Cook (PM), Texas SAR President Mel Oller, Meg Anderson (Regent, Lucretia Council Cochran Chapter DAR), John Anderson, DVP5 Art Munford*



*Scott Stoddard, Mike Connelley, Sarah Connelley, Mary Jane Riffel*



*Chaplain Ralph Smith, Allen Reich, Wayne Heide, Dan Hamilton (Arlington Chapter), Bob Pope (President-elect, Arlington Chapter)*



*David Fleming, Bob Jacobs, James Alderman, Secretary Bruce Morgan, William Ray (PM), Jeff Andre*



*Bob Templeton (PM), Joe Wade, Bobby Gresham, Treasurer Greg Riffel, Mark Smith, Charles Richard (PM)*

The Texas SAR 2026 State Convention opens in Austin, TX, on April 16<sup>th</sup> and concludes on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Hotel Registration for the Austin Southpark Hotel is open. Cutoff date for booking the blocked rooms is Wednesday, April 1, 2026.

Convention Registration will open shortly, and the agenda should be posted by the end of February.

**[Convention details are here.](#)**



*Gerry Gieger, Yvette Baird, Eddie Scott, Vice President  
Jeff Sparks, Matthew Sparks*



*Color Guard Commander Vann Cunningham prepares  
to present & post the colors at the beginning of the  
business meeting.*



*Texas SAR President Mel Oller presents a program on  
"Freemasons in Early America and General  
Washington's Army*



*President Steve Hole presents Texas SAR President Mel  
Oller with a "Thank You" bag of goodies.*



*President Steve Hole requested Texas SAR President  
Mel Oller present his 2nd Patriot Grave Marking Medal  
and his 1st Compatriot Grave Marking Medal.*



*President Steve Hole presented Dan Hamilton  
(Arlington Chapter) with the Bronze Henry Knox Medal of  
Achievement*

Did you know that Roger Sherman is the only signer of all four of our country's founding documents – Continental Association (1774), the Declaration of Independence (1776), the Articles of Confederation (1777), and the United States Constitution (1787)?



*Dan Hamilton (Texas Color Guard Northern Command Adjutant) presents Bobby Gresham with the Hannah White Arnett Bronze Medal on behalf of DAR Members in Vernon, TX*



*President Steve Hole presents Meg Anderson (Regent, Lucretia Council Cochran Chapter DAR, with the SAR 250th Anniversary Bronze Medal Certificate*



*President Steve Hole displays the Proclamation issued by the Town of Trophy Club on the 250th Anniversary of the Evacuation of Boston - March 17, 1776*



*Bob Pope, President-elect, Arlington Chapter, invites all members of the chapter to the June 7th America 250 Celebration.*



*Texas SAR President Mel Oller greeted chapter members and answered questions prior to delivering his presentation on Masonry.*

# The Medal Congress Created for General George Washington, March 1776

In March of 1776, at one of the most fragile and uncertain moments of the American Revolution, the Continental Congress took a step that was both symbolic and unprecedented: it voted to honor General George Washington with a specially struck gold medal. This was not merely a gesture of praise—it was a declaration of national identity, leadership, and confidence in the cause of American independence.

This act made Washington the first person in United States history to receive a congressional medal, establishing a tradition that continues to this day.

## A Nation in Peril, a Commander in Command

The winter of 1775–1776 had been brutal. The Continental Army, poorly supplied and still untested, faced the greatest military power on earth. British troops occupied Boston, and morale in the colonies wavered. Yet Washington, commanding a ragged but determined force, executed one of the most important strategic victories of the early war.

Through daring engineering and logistical ingenuity, Washington arranged for heavy artillery to be dragged from Fort Ticonderoga across frozen rivers and mountains to the hills overlooking Boston. In early March 1776, American cannons were placed on Dorchester Heights, giving Washington control of the city’s harbor and forcing the British fleet into an untenable position.

On March 17, 1776, British forces evacuated Boston. For the first time, a major American city had been liberated from British control.

## Congress Responds

The news electrified the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. More than a battlefield success, the evacuation of Boston proved that the Continental Army could defeat British forces through discipline, planning, and leadership. On March 25, 1776, Congress passed a resolution thanking Washington and awarding him a gold medal for his “wise and spirited conduct” in driving the British from the city.

The wording was formal and restrained, but its meaning was profound. In an age when medals were reserved for kings and aristocrats, Congress bestowed one upon a citizen-soldier—a man who embodied republican virtue rather than royal privilege.



*The earliest authenticated portrait of George Washington shows him wearing his colonel's uniform of the Virginia Regiment from the French and Indian War. Artist: Charles Willson Peale.*

## The First American Military Medal

The Washington medal was modeled on European traditions, particularly the classical medals of ancient Rome and Renaissance Europe. Congress commissioned a design that would portray Washington in profile on one side, dressed in contemporary military uniform. The reverse would depict the British evacuation of Boston, with enemy ships sailing away as American forces stood victorious on shore.

Latin inscriptions added a sense of dignity and permanence, linking the young American republic to the long tradition of republican Rome.

Yet even in its formality, the medal reflected revolutionary ideals. It celebrated not a monarch but a commander accountable to a civilian government.



## A Long Journey from Idea to Gold

Because the colonies had no mint capable of producing such an artwork, the medal had to be designed and struck in Paris. The war, diplomatic delays, and the complexity of the work meant that Washington did not receive his medal until 1790—fourteen years after Congress voted to honor him.

By then, the Revolution had been won, and Washington was President of the United States.

When the medal was finally presented, it represented not only the victory at Boston but the entire arc of the American struggle for independence.

## Why It Mattered

The March 1776 medal was more than a personal honor. It was Congress's way of defining what leadership meant in the new republic. Washington was not being rewarded for conquest, ambition, or personal glory. He was honored for restraint, strategic intelligence, and service to the public good.

In that sense, the medal was as revolutionary as the war itself.

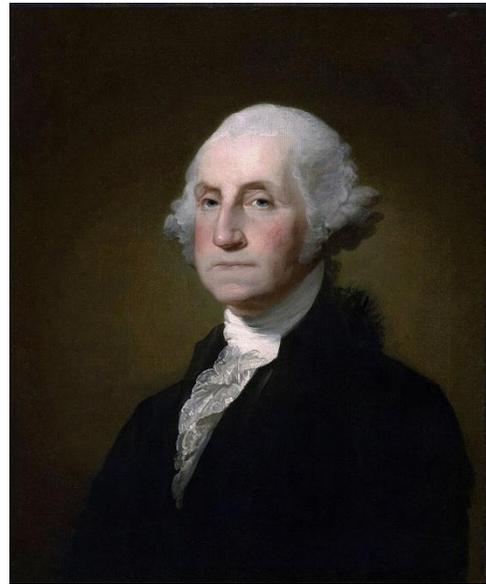
It established the idea that the highest honors of the nation would come not from inherited status but from demonstrated service.

## A Legacy That Endures

Today, Washington's medal is preserved as one of the most important artifacts of early American history. It stands at the beginning of the long tradition of Congressional Gold Medals, awarded to military heroes, civil rights leaders, explorers, and innovators.

But in March 1776, it was something even more powerful: a fragile nation's declaration of faith in its commander and in its own future.

In honoring George Washington, Congress was also honoring the idea of America.



*President I George Washington*

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## 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 and to the National Office in Louisville.

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## Chaplain Smith Available for 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](mailto: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."

Lucretia Council Cochran, NSDAR  
and Arlington Chapter, Texas SAR



7<sup>th</sup>  
of JUNE



**AMERICA 250!**

**Celebration**

**Featuring TXDAR State Regent Susan Johnston,  
SAR Dignitaries and Speaker Bill Covington**

**Texas Rangers Golf Course  
701 Brown Blvd., Arlington 76011**

**1:30-4:00 PM**

**Reservations Limited** Deadline May 11,2026

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Filet Mignon \$50 # \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken Brushetta \$45 # \_\_\_\_\_

Mushroom Tortellini \$40 # \_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Zelle to [Lccctreasurer6065@gmail.com](mailto:Lccctreasurer6065@gmail.com) OR

Check to LCCC, Meg Anderson 2205 Fall River Dr.

Arlington TX 76006

817-832-2506

# Chapter Registrar's Report

Updated 28 Feb 2026

<b>Compatriot</b>	<b>Patriot</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>2026 Approvals</b>			
Steven J. Hole	Thomas Bishop	Supp	06 Feb 2026
<b>Pending National Review and Approval</b>			
Clarence B. Kloppe III	Robert Lem(m)on	NEW Regular	Received 28 Jan 2026
Kyle T. Kloppe	Robert Lem(m)on	NEW Regular	Received 28 Jan 2026
Steven J. Hole	Winifred Wiggins	Supp	Pended 03 Sep 2025
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	Benjamin Brimer	Supp	Received 20 Oct 2025
Steven J. Hole	John Eddy	Supp	Received 28 Jan 2026
Steven J. Hole	Joseph Eddy	Supp	Received 28 Jan 2026
<b>Pending State Review</b>			
Ian R. Billington	John Bradley	NEW Regular	
Robert S. Morris	William Morris	NEW Regular	
William M. Ray	Asa Douglas Sr	NEW Regular FP	
Charles A. Ray	Asa Douglas Sr	NEW Regular FP	
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	Robert R. Coleman, Sr.	Supplemental	
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	John Roe	Supplemental	
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	John Holcomb	Supplemental	
<b>Pended Application by National Genealogist</b>			
Joseph P. DeWoody	James Alexander	Supp	Pended 09 Sep 2023
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	Joseph Benton	Supp	Pended 17 Jul 2023
G. Thomas Bransford	William Bransford	NEW	Pended 22 Jan 2024
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	John King	Supp	Pended 06 May 2024
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	Thomas Connelley	Supp	Pended 16 May 2024
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	James Wooten	Supp	Pended 12 Nov 2024
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	John Childress	Supp	Pended 12 Nov 2024

As of February 28<sup>th</sup>, the Registrar has received a total of 8 inquiries for membership in 2026.

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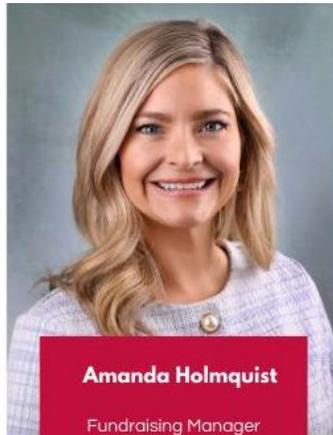
## DAR Record Copy Price Increase

Effective March 16, 2026, the NSDAR Executive Committee is raising the price of record copies. Online and in person requests will be going from \$10 to \$15 each. Mail orders for record copies (orders sent on paper via mail) will increase to \$20. Also, the fee for search services will increase to \$50 per hour for DAR members, and \$75 per hour for non-members.

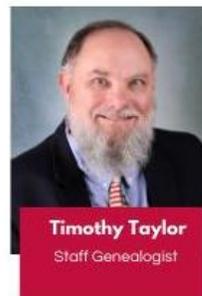
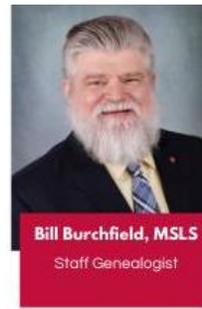
# Meet the SAR Team

Recently, it was “Picture Day” at the SAR headquarters! Here’s your opportunity to put faces with names.

The dedicated team works each day to support and strengthen SAR compatriots across the country, and their goal remains the same—to faithfully serve the needs of SAR members. Headquarters is proud to introduce (or reintroduce!) the people who help make that mission possible!



## ***SAR Foundation***



## ***Membership***



**Rae Ann Sauer**  
Director of  
Education & Outreach



**Zac Distel**  
Curator and  
Director of Collections



**Jacob Kahler**  
Collections and  
Education Coordinator

***Education and Museum***



**Tricia Ferree**  
Merchandise Manager



**McKenzie Raatz**  
Merchandise Associate



**Avery Schad**  
Merchandise Associate

***Merchandise***



**Drew Hight**  
Marketing and  
PR Manager

***Marketing and Public Relations***



**Joe Alexander, MPA**

Library Services  
Manager



**Robin Christian**

Library Assistant  
and Cataloger



**Maria Lewis**

Library Cataloger and  
Reference Specialist



**Gina Possanza**

Imaging Specialist

***Library***



**Phil Bloyd**

Executive Director



**Kelly Moore**

Administrative  
Coordinator



**Sydney O'Rear**

Administrative  
Assistant

***Administration***



**Megan Krebs, MBA**

Director of  
Finance



**Brittany Austin**

Staff Accountant



**Sydney O'Rear**

Administrative  
Assistant

***Finance***

# The Service Flag: America's Quiet Banner of Sacrifice

In neighborhoods across the United States—tucked behind glass in living-room windows, hanging near church memorials, or pinned to a jacket lapel—flies a small but powerful emblem known as the **Service Flag**. With its white field, red border, and blue or gold stars, it is one of the most meaningful symbols of American military life. Unlike grand national flags flown over government buildings, the Service Flag belongs to families. It speaks not of nations, but of sons, daughters, husbands, wives, and siblings who serve.

## A Flag Born of War

The Service Flag originated during World War I, when families sought a simple way to show that a loved one had gone to fight overseas. In 1917, U.S. Army Captain Robert L. Queisser created the design after two of his sons were deployed. The idea spread rapidly, and soon millions of American homes displayed Service Flags in their windows.

By the Second World War, the tradition was so widespread that the federal government formally recognized and regulated the design. Today, it remains protected by law and overseen by the U.S. Department of Defense.



## What the Stars Mean

Every element of the Service Flag is rich with meaning.

- Blue Star – Each blue star represents one immediate family member serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Multiple Blue Stars – If more than one family member is serving, multiple stars are displayed.
- Gold Star – If a service member dies while serving, a gold star is placed over the blue one, transforming the family into what is known as a Gold Star Family.

The transition from blue to gold is one of the most emotionally powerful moments in American symbolism: a visual acknowledgment that service has become sacrifice.

## The Gold Star Legacy

When a blue star becomes gold, the meaning changes forever. Gold Star Families are honored across the nation through memorials, ceremonies, and organizations. The gold star itself dates to medieval times, when families hung gold stars in windows to honor warriors lost in battle.

In America, the Gold Star has become one of the most sacred emblems of military sacrifice.



*Display of Service Flags at the National Museum of the United States Air Force*

## Why the Service Flag Still Matters

In an age when fewer Americans have direct ties to the military, the Service Flag remains a visible bridge between civilians and those who serve. It reminds communities that behind every uniform is a family carrying both pride and worry.

Quiet, dignified, and deeply personal, the Service Flag continues to do what it has done for over a century: tell the world that someone inside that home is standing watch for the nation.

## Vietnam War Era Veteran Widow Recognition

President Steve Hole and Immediate Past President & Registrar Ron Turner attended the monthly meeting of the Fort Worth Chapter DAR on Thursday evening, February 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens. The purpose of the visit was to bestow the Vietnam War Era Veteran Widow's Pin and Certificate on Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Harris Thompson. Mrs. Thompson is the widow of James Victor Thompson, IC3, United States Navy. Mr. Thompson was born on July 24, 1945, and passed into eternity on April 21, 2023.

He joined the Navy in February 1966 and served on two different aircraft carriers during the Vietnam War, working in communications until November 1969. Upon discharge from the Navy, he joined the FBI in Los Angeles and in July of 1970, he joined the LAPD and worked as a policeman for 22 years. After retirement, he worked as a retired policeman for the movie industry in Los Angeles.



*Registrar Ron Turner, President Steve Hole, Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson, & Shea Dersham, Regent, Fort Worth Chapter DAR*

Sadly, this pin is the last one presented by the chapter as it is no longer available.

# Town of Trophy Club



## Office of the Mayor Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, organized in 1889 and chartered by Congress in 1906, is commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America and has designated 2023–2033 as the Decade of the American Revolution; and

**WHEREAS,** the Sons of the American Revolution honor their Revolutionary War ancestors by promoting patriotism, preserving American history, serving their communities, and educating future generations about the founding principles of our Nation; and

**WHEREAS,** during the winter of 1775–1776, a young bookseller named Henry Knox, later a Major General in the Continental Army, organized the Noble Train of Artillery, transporting heavy cannon over great distances from Fort Ticonderoga to support the Siege of Boston; and

**WHEREAS,** the successful emplacement of this artillery on Dorchester Heights enabled General George Washington and the Continental Army to command Boston Harbor and compel British forces to evacuate the city on March 17, 1776, marking the first major American victory of the Revolutionary War; and

**WHEREAS,** this achievement demonstrated the ingenuity, perseverance, and sacrifice of citizen-soldiers and strengthened the American cause for independence; and

**WHEREAS,** the Major K.M. Van Zandt Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution commemorates this milestone as part of the events leading to our Nation's Semiquincentennial on July 4, 2026.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Jeannette Tiffany, Mayor of the Town of Trophy Club, Texas, and on behalf of the Trophy Club Town Council recognize March 17, 2026, as the

### **“250th ANNIVERSARY of the Evacuation of Boston – March 17, 1776”**

and encourage all Citizens to join with the Sons of the American Revolution and other patriotic, community, and Veterans organizations to commemorate this momentous event in the history of our great country.

**PROCLAIMED AND SIGNED** on this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.



  
Jeannette Tiffany, MAYOR

# *Declaration of Independence Word Search*

## **The Declaration of Independence**

I R O C N O Q E S Y E E E N H B T E S S  
E O O R H P A P H R R O W N P R N U N E  
V N Q R V A O G T C E A A P N I I Q E T  
G O E E S W T O U E N S I I P T E R Z U  
O H T C E E T T R A R P I R N A O G I E  
V D R R L I I I T E N C A L L I N N T G  
E E S C P T R E A L R P E A E N O T I D  
R R E C I T S U J E U C U P L I R C C E  
N C P D C N T R A R U Q P D R O O N Q L  
M A R E N N A T U R E S G O D N R E E P  
E S O C I D O I G N I V I N D L N N I N  
N O V L R R E N D O W E D I A N D P D O  
T M I A P S I R E C P V T R S I C I S I  
S W D R C K N O T O H I E G S D D E N T  
E H E A T Y T Y C N O N N O N C I C A A  
N O N T E T R N R N E S V I U N T A R R  
D E C I E A A O S G A A K R O D S E E A  
A T E O N I C O N N A N R L A N I P R P  
H E O N P S A C I E A T O G S R S N C E  
P R Y N V S R I O M S C C E N P T I N S

**NATURES GOD  
EQUAL  
PRINCIPLES  
TYRANNY  
CITIZENS  
PLEDGE**

**MANKIND  
ENDOWED  
GOVERNMENT  
JUSTICE  
BRITAIN  
SACRED HONOR**

**OPINIONS  
CREATOR  
COLONIES  
POWERS  
DECLARATION  
GENERAL**

**TRUTHS  
CONDITIONS  
KING  
PEACE  
PROVIDENCE  
SEPARATION**



Mar 2	James J. Davis
Mar 3	Kenneth K. Brimer Jr. Walter S. Manning Jr.
Mar 8	John W. Wheat
Mar 16	William W. Gunn III
Mar 18	Gregory A. Riffel
Mar 22	Shawn P. Hinman
Mar 23	Clayton C. Smith
Mar 26	Preston S. Davis
Mar 29	Nathaniel D. Williams
Mar 30	Joseph P. DeWoody
Mar 31	Allan V. Gillmore

## 2026 Calendar of Events

March 5-7	NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting, Galt House Hotel, Louisville, KY
March 12	DAR/U.S. Naturalization Ceremony, 10:00 am, DFW Hyatt Regency, <b>(CG-C)</b>
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 <b>(CG-S)</b>
April 18	SAR Monument Dedication, Texas State Cemetery, Austin <b>(CG-S)</b>
April 18	Medal of Honor Parade, Gainesville <b>(CG-S)</b>
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 Service, Mt. Gilead Cemetery, Keller <b>(CG-N)</b>
June 7	America 250 Celebration, 1:30 pm, Texas Rangers Golf Club, Arlington <b>(CG-N)</b>
June 20	Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
June 20	Audie Murphy Parade, 9:30 am, Farmersville <b>(CG-S)</b>
July 10-16	136 <sup>th</sup> SAR Annual Congress, Greensboro, NC <b>(CG-N)</b>
July 18	Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
August 15	Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
August TBD	Battle of Medina, San Antonio <b>(CG-S)</b>
August 21-22	Southeast Central District Conference, Dallas <b>(CG-N)</b>
September 19	Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
October 1-3	NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting, Galt House Hotel, Louisville, KY
October 17	Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
October 18	NHRA Fall 2026 Nationals, 12:00 pm, Ennis <b>(CG-C)</b>
November 21	Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth

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

# Compatriot Society Anniversaries in January

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

Mar 3	46 yrs	Warren C. Russell
Mar 24	29 yrs	Jeffrey D. Pray
Mar 16	27 yrs	Andrew T. Hebert
Mar 19	23 yrs	William W. Gunn III
Mar 28	12 yrs	Jimmy D. Tom
Mar 29	10 yrs	Todd E. Samuelson
Mar 6	6 yrs	Mark D. Parkison
Mar 5	5 yrs	Robert A. Jacobs
Mar 5	5 yrs	William S. Taylor Jr.
Mar 19	5 yrs	Conrad J. Kimble
Mar 31	5 yrs	Allen R. Reich
Mar 18	4 yrs	Austin E. Davis
Mar 18	4 yrs	Nathaniel J. Davis
Mar 18	4 yrs	Preston S. Davis
Mar 18	4 yrs	Marcus L. Smith
Mar 24	3 yrs	Richard L. Vandever
Mar 24	3 yrs	Colton L. Williams
Mar 24	3 yrs	Nathaniel D. Williams
Mar 24	3 yrs	Samuel C. Williams



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## 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.*



# 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 pluribus 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.

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## Membership Status

Our chapter membership levels as of January 19, 2026, are:

Active / Current Member.....	110
NSSAR Life.....	10
TXSSAR Perpetual.....	11
Active/New Member .....	10
Active/Reinstated (current yr) .....	2
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 .....	3
Dual Members (other chapters).....	2

**Our active membership currently is 129.**

## 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>.

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## Chapter Officers

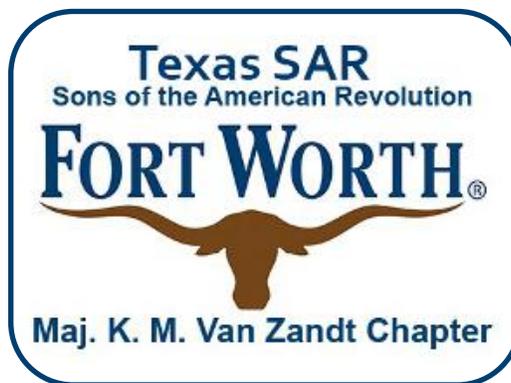
### 2026 & 2027

President	Steven J. HOLE
Vice-President	Jeffrey W. SPARKS
Secretary	E. Bruce MORGAN
Treasurer	Gregory A. RIFFEL
Acting Registrar	Ronald J. TURNER
Assistant Registrars	Arthur G. MUNFORD
Chaplain	Ralph E. SMITH
Sergeant-at-Arms	J. Vann CUNNINGHAM
Color Guard Commander	J. Vann CUNNINGHAM

## 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.

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Ron Turner, Editor & Publisher*