

The Chisholm Trail News

MAY 1, 2026

MEETINGS, 3RD SATURDAY, JANUARY – NOVEMBER, 9:00 A.M.

DIAMOND OAKS COUNTRY CLUB

5821 DIAMOND OAKS LANE NORTH

FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76117



ROTC / JROTC Awards

Chapter Registrar Ron Turner kicked off the JROTC Awards Season for 2026 by attending the Hawk Battalion Awards Ceremony in the Cafeteria at Birdville High School on the evening of April 9, 2026. Registrar Turner presented SAR's JROTC Outstanding Cadet Medal and Certificate to Cadet Lt. Col. Paul Silvas. Lt. Col. Silvas is the Brigade Commander, a graduating senior, and earned multiple recognitions and awards during the ceremony. He has been in the JROTC program for three years.



Lt. Col. Silvas was recognized for his participation on the Male Physical Fitness Team, Male Color Guard, Academic Team, Unarmed Drill Team, and Armed Drill Team.



The highlight of the evening was the reenactment by Senior Army Instructor Maj. (Ret.) Bruce Daniel administering the Oath of Enlistment to Lt. Col. Silvas into the United States Army.

Past President Bobby Gresham presented JROTC awards on April 24, 2026, to cadets from Fort Worth ISD high schools: Arlington Heights (Army), Carter Riverside (Army), Benbrook (Army), Diamond Hill (Army), Dunbar (Army), Eastern Hills (Army), North Side (Army), O.D. Wyatt (Army), Pascal (Army), Polytechnic (Army), South Hills (Army), Southwest (Army), Trimble Tech (Army), Western Hills (Air Force), and Young Men's Leadership Academy (Army).



Past President James Alderman presented the Silver ROTC Medal to Cadet Sargeant Major Mary Leshner, Army ROTC, TCU, on April 16, 2026.



Past President James Alderman, assisted by Vice President Jeff Sparks, presented the Bronze ROTC Medal to Cadet Major Jackson Brown, Army JROTC, Haltom High School, on April 20, 2026.



Past President James Alderman presented the Silver ROTC Medal to Cadet Major Matthew R. Sharp, Air Force ROTC, TCU, on April 20, 2026.

Past President Gerry Geiger presented a cadet award at North Crowley High School (Army) on April 24, 2026.

Presentation of awards will continue into the month of May.



The Silver ROTC Medal is presented to deserving ROTC Cadets.



The Bronze ROTC Medal is presented to deserving JROTC Cadets.

Texas SAR 131st Annual Convention San Antonio, Texas

Chapter delegates from across the state of Texas gathered at the Austin Hilton at Southpark Hotel for their annual convention on the weekend of April 16-19, 2026. Approximately 107 members and 42 wives assembled to enjoy a weekend conducting Texas SAR business.

The highlight of the weekend was the Dedication Ceremony of the Texas SAR Monument in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin. [see page 4]

Additional business items included the recognition of the Patriot Medal Class of 2026 at the banquet gala on Saturday evening. The six awardees were Michael Glenn Goode, Sr. (East Fork Trinity), David C. Hamaker (Freedom), Shiidon B. Hawley (Patrick Henry), Joseph (Joe) Paul Sogan (Arlington), William (Bill) R. Sole (Hill Country), and Carl M. Wiggins II (Cradle of Texas). As is the custom, each new awardee walked a gauntlet of existing Patrick Medal members who warmly welcomed each new member. The Patriot Medal is awarded only by a state society. It is the highest award given for service at the state or chapter level. The 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 other important business of the convention was to elect a new slate of officers to guide Texas SAR through the next year.

Position	Name	Home City	Chapter
President	Dustin S. Whittenburg	San Antonio	San Antonio
President-elect	Kevn L. Kanter	New Braunfels	San Antonio
Immediate Past President	Melvin L. Oller	Spring	Freedom
Secretary	Michael G. Goode, Sr.	Terrell	East Fork Trinity
Asst. Secretary	John E. Ray	Celina	McKinney
Communication Secretary	Raymond (Ray) W. Cox	Humble	Pineywoods
Staff Secretary	Richard L. Zdunkewicz	Houston	Paul Carrington
Treasurer	Don E. Hayes	The Woodlands	Freedom
Asst. Treasurer	Ronald (Ron) T. Caret	The Colony	Plano
Registrar Coastal	Gary R. Neal	San Marcos	San Antonio
Registrar Inland	John H. Rose	Seymour	Quanah Parker
Chancellor	J. Brent Harshman	Dallas	Dallas
Chaplain	Dennis P. Brunson	College Station	Independence
Historian	John D. Anderson, Jr.	Arlington	Arlington
Vice President CM&A	David C. Scott	Dallas	Dallas
VP District 1	Wayne A. Courreges, Jr.	Austin	Patrick Henry
VP District 2	OPEN		
VP District 3	Frank L. Kebelman III	San Antonio	San Antonio
VP District 4	Ronald (Ron) J. Walcik	Killeen	Heart of Texas
VP District 5	Arthur (Art) G. Munford	Weatherford	Maj. K.M. Van Zandt

VP District 6	David W. Fautheree	Frisco	Plano
VP District 7	Arthur (Art) C. Byram	Klein	Freedom
VP District 8	David C. Hamaker	Montgomery	Freedom
VP District 9	Charles (Chuck) R. Wagner	Mission	Paul Carrington
VP District 10	William E. Sekel, Jr.	Ben Wheeler	Athens
VP District 11	James D. Owsley	Greenville	Ambassador Fletcher Warren
Trustee	Tracy A. Pounders	McKinney	Dallas
Alternate Trustee	Samuel (Sam) P. Massey, Jr.	Huntsville	Paul Carrington
Chairman, Council of Chapter Presidents	Shiidon B. Hawley	Lakeway	Patrick Henry
Editor, <i>The Texas Compatriot</i>	Matthew (Matt) E. Hoffman	Conroe	Freedom
Webmaster	Raymond (Ray) W. Cox	Humble	Pineywoods
Asst Webmaster	John D. Anderson, Jr.	Arlington	Arlington

Dedication Ceremony of the Texas SAR Monument Honoring Texas Revolutionary War Patriots

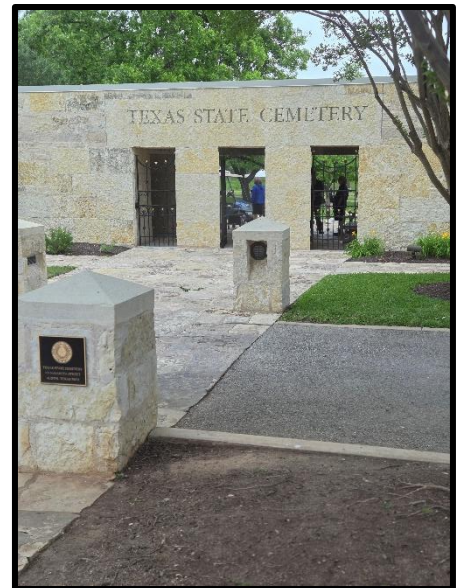
Delegates and distinguished guests assembled on the beautiful grounds of Texas State Cemetery in Austin on Saturday, April 18, 2026, for a 10:00 a.m. ceremony to dedicate the SAR Monument (Cenotaph). This 250th Anniversary event was hosted by Texas SAR President Mel Oller. The Texas SAR Color Guard posted the colors and Texas SAR President-elect Dustin Whittenburg led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S.

Flag.

The Texas A&M Singing Cadets sang *The Star Spangled Banner* which was followed by a musket salute by the Color Guard. Daughters of the Republic of Texas President General Ora Jane Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

President-elect Whittenburg led the SAR Pledge and the SAR Mission Statement. Texas SAR Chaplain Michael Goode offered an Invocation.

President Oller welcomed everyone and recognized the visiting dignitaries. The Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor of the State of Texas, provided his remarks and then President-elect Oller inducted Governor Abbott into the SAR. President Oller then presented Governor Abbott with the SAR Silver Good Citizenship Medal. SAR



Vice President General of the South Central District Philip H. Hunt brought greetings from the National Society SAR and from President General Michael J. Elston, Esq. Richard L. Zdunkewicz, Chairman of the Monument Committee, recognized a short list of donors.

Texas SAR Past President Thomas I. Jackson introduced Dr. Audrey Young, Texas State Board of Education, who spoke on the American Revolution and Children's Education.

Past President Jackson read a list of Patriot names that are inscribed on the Texas SAR Monument. These Patriots are those known to be buried in Texas. The names include John Abston, Bailey Anderson, John Anderson Jr., Louis Antoine Andry, Antonia Rosalia de Armas, Simón de Arocha, Joseph de la



Baum, William Blevins, Juan José Calderón, James Carter, Joseph Antonio Péres Casanova, Benjamin Clark, Adam Cloud, James Potter Collins, José Antonio Curbelo, Mariá Ana Curbelo, William Delafield, Clemente Delgado, Jacinto Delgado, Manuel Delgado, Johann Michael Ehler, Leonor Delgado Flores, Leonardo Hypólito de la Garza, William Gates, Miguel de Gortari, Pedro Granados, Henry Bailey Greenwood, Cayetano Hernández, Francisco Joseph Hernández, José Placido Hernández, Theophilus Hickman, Juana Mariá de Hollos, Thomas Charles Holmes, Zachariah Landrum, Francisco Rafael Leal, Joaquín Leal, James Lemmon, Able Allison Lewis, Carlos Martínez, Alexander McClure, John Parker, Charles Polk, Edmund Quirk, Robert Rankin, Baltazar de los Reyes Pérez, Francisco Xavier Rodríguez, Patricio Antonio Rodrigues, George Ruddle, Francisco Manuel Salinas, Alexandre Le Sassier, José Santiago Sequín, Owen Shannon, Peter Sides, John Sorrell, William Sparks, Richard Tice, James Tinsley, John Tollett Sr., Thomas Del Toro,



*Texas A&M Singing Cadets
SAR President General Nathan White, Texas Past President The Honorable Ed Butler, C.A.R. Senior President Kurt Brown, Texas Past President Sam Massey*

de la Baum, William Blevins, Juan José Calderón, James Carter, Joseph Antonio Péres Casanova, Benjamin Clark, Adam Cloud, James Potter Collins, José Antonio Curbelo, Mariá Ana Curbelo, William



Texas SAR President Mel Oller inducts The Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor of the State of Texas, into the SAR

Tomás Antonio Alvarez Travieso, Evan Thomas Watson, Benjamin Wrightman, Stephen Williams, Antonio Gil Y'Barbo, Joseph Macario Zambrano, Marcos Zepeda, and José Francisco de la Zerda.

The Monument was dedicated with a Prayer of Remembrance by Texas SAR Past President Tracy Pounders. Wreaths of Remembrance were laid by representatives from the Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, Children of the American Revolution, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Sons of the Republic of Texas, Sons of the Revolution, General Society of the War of 1812, The Order of the Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez, and the Order of the Founders of North America.

The Texas A&M Singing Cadets sang *Texas, Our Texas* and President-elect Whittenburg led the SAR Recessional. Chaplain Goode offered the Benediction, and the Color Guard retired the Colors. The ceremony concluded with the Texas A&M Singing Cadets singing *God Bless America*.

The Monument Committee offered its deepest gratitude to a list of major donors.

George Washington Donors: National Society Sons of the American Revolution George Washington Endowment Fund, Daughters of the Republic of Texas

Thomas Jefferson Donors: Joseph W. Dooley, Thomas I. Jackson, Jim Kuykendall, Charles R. Wagner, Paul Carrington Chapter, Piney Woods Chapter

Benjamin Franklin Donors: Dennis Brunson, Capt. William Barron Chapter, Larry Casey, Dallas Chapter, Mark M. Ellison Family, Freedom Chapter, Heart of Texas Chapter, Charles Herder, Samuel Massey, Jeffrey Miers, Dr. Arthur G. Munford, Mel Oller, Patrick Henry Chapter, Plano Chapter, William Sole, Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, Richard Lee Zdunkewicz

Bernardo de Galvéz Donors: Alexander Hodge Chapter, Canary Islands Descendants Association, Ray Cox, Independence Chapter, McKinney Chapter, William Myers, Newsom Family Holdings, Jerry Pinkerton, Tracy Pounders, Texas SAR Ladies Auxiliary, Ron Turner, Ron Walcik, William B. Watts



South Central District Vice President General Phillip H. Hunt



The Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor of the State of Texas



Texas SAR President Mel Oller



Dr. Audrey Young, Texas State Board of Education



Figure 1 Texas SAR Color Guard

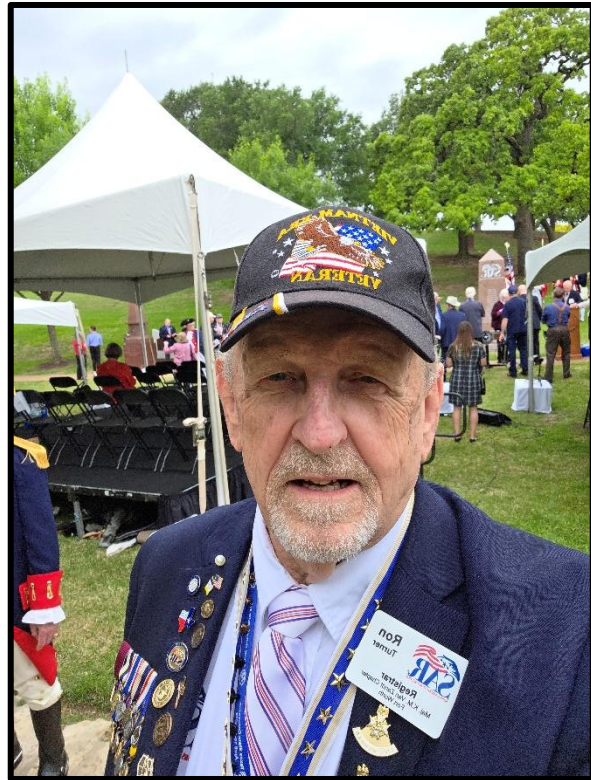


Texas SAR Past President Thomas I. Jackson

The Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter was represented by Chapter President Steven J. Hole, Chapter Registrar Ronald J. Turner, and District 5 Vice President Dr. Arthur G. Munford.



*Texas SAR Monument Committee Chairman
Richard L. Zdunkewicz*



*Chapter Immediate Past President and Chapter
Registrar Ron Turner*



Chapter President Steven Hole





Figure 2 Texas SAR Chaplain Michael Goode, SAR President General Joe Dooley, SAR Executive Director Phil Boyd, SAR Registrar General Keith Weissinger, Texas SAR Past President Thomas I. Jackson, DAR, Texas Board of Education Dr. Audrey Young, and SAR Vice President General South Central District Phillip H. Hunt



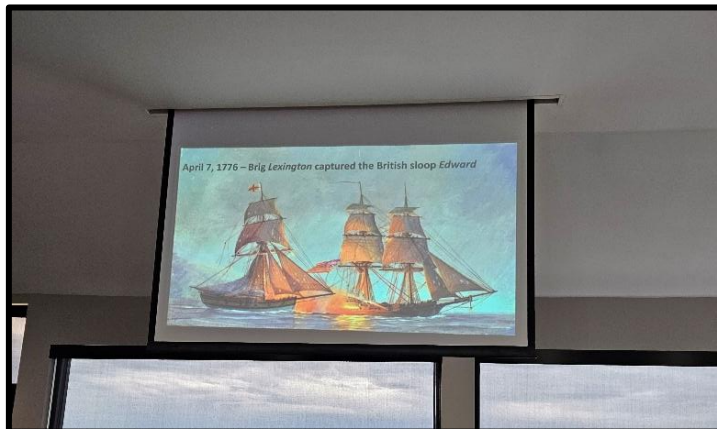
Governor Greg Abbott, DRT President General Ora Jane Johnson, President-elect Dustin Whittenburg, and SAR Historian General Jeffrey D. Thomas

April Chapter Meeting



The April 16th Chapter Meeting was presided over by Vice President Jeff Sparks. There were 11 members in attendance and 4 guests.

Vice President Sparks presented a program on *John Barry, The Lexington and Beyond*.



John Barry, *The Lexington* and Beyond

John Barry was an Irish-born American Naval Officer who served in the Continental Navy during the American Revolutionary War and in the United States Navy during the Quasi-War. He has been credited by some as “The Father of the American Navy”, sharing that moniker with John Paul Jones and John Adams, and was appointed as a captain in the Continental Navy on December 7, 1775. Barry was the first captain placed in command of an American warship commissioned for service under the Continental flag. After the Revolutionary War, he became the first commissioned American naval officer, at the rank of commodore, receiving his commission from President George Washington in 1797.



1972 portrait of Barry by V. Zveg after an 1801 portrait by Gilbert Stuart

Early life and education

John Barry was born on March 25, 1745, in Ballysampson, Tacumshane, County Wexford to a Catholic family. When Barry's family was evicted from their home by their landlord, they moved to Rosslare on the coast, where his uncle worked a fishing skiff. As a young man, Barry determined upon a life as a seaman, and he started out as a cabin boy on commercial experience. Being raised in the Barony Forth, his first language was Yola, as that was the only language used for daily communication at that time in the area.

Barry eventually left his native country and immigrated to the American colonies, where merchant fleets were in need of experienced sailors. When the American Revolution began, Barry found himself sympathetic to the Patriot cause and decided to volunteer his services.

Career

Barry was formally commissioned as a captain in the Continental Navy on March 14, 1776; his warrant was signed by John Hancock, president of the Second Continental Congress. Barry, a Catholic, was a religious man and began each day at sea with a reading from the Bible. He had great regard for his crew and their well-being, making sure they were properly provisioned while at sea.

During his naval career, Barry commanded the U.S. warships *Delaware*, *Lexington*, *Raleigh*, *Alliance*, and *United States*.

Command of *Lexington*

Captain Barry's first American command was USS *Lexington*, of 14 guns, which began on December 7, 1775. He was the first officer, army or navy, to receive a commission from the Continental Congress. *Lexington* sailed on March 31, 1776. On April 7, 1776, off the Capes of Virginia, Barry fell in with *Edward*, a ship's tender servicing the British frigate HMS *Liverpool*, and after a desperate fight of one hour and twenty minutes captured and brought *Edward* into Philadelphia.

On June 28, the Pennsylvania brig *Nancy*, carrying 386 barrels of powder in her hold, ran aground while attempting to elude the British ship-sloop *Kingfisher*. Barry ordered the precious poser rowed ashore during the night, leaving only 100 barrels. A delayed action fuse was left inside the brig, exploding and killing seven members of a boarding party from *Kingfisher* which had just climbed aboard *Nancy*. This engagement became known as the Battle of Turtle Gut Inlet.



USS Lexington captures the Edward on April 7, 1776

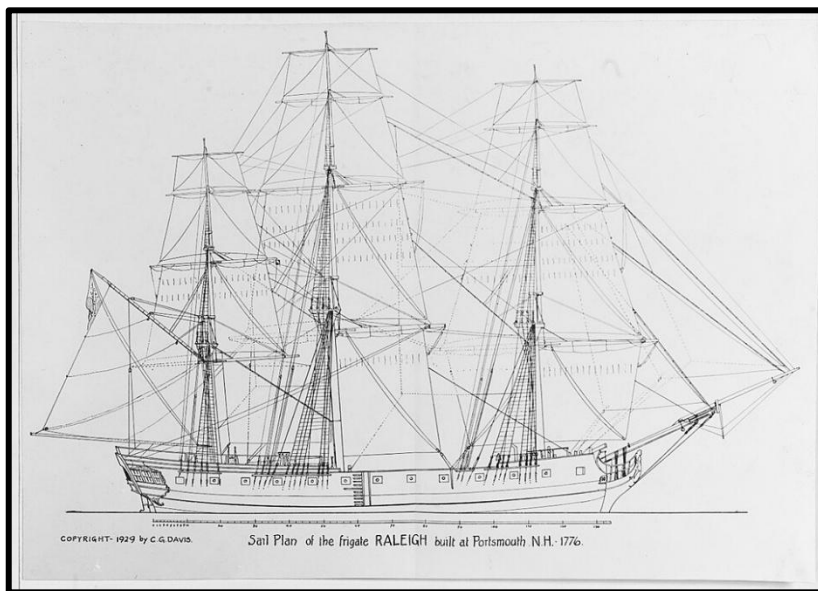
Barry retained command of *Lexington* until October 18, 1776. He was noted for his success in capturing several privateers operated by Loyalist crews to help enforce the British blockade.

Command of *Delaware*

In 1777, Barry was assigned to command USS *Delaware*, a brig which participated in ultimately unsuccessful American naval operations in the Delaware River.

Command of *Raleigh*

In 1778, Barry assumed his third command, USS *Raleigh*, capturing three prizes before being run aground while fighting an action on September 27, 1778. He and crew escaped and scuttled the ship, but she was raised by the British, who refloated and converted her into a Royal Navy vessel. Eager to improve the fighting capabilities of the Continental Navy, Barry authored the first American navy signal book, published in 1780, to improve communications at sea among American vessels traveling in formation.



1929 sail plan of USS Raleigh

Command of *Alliance*

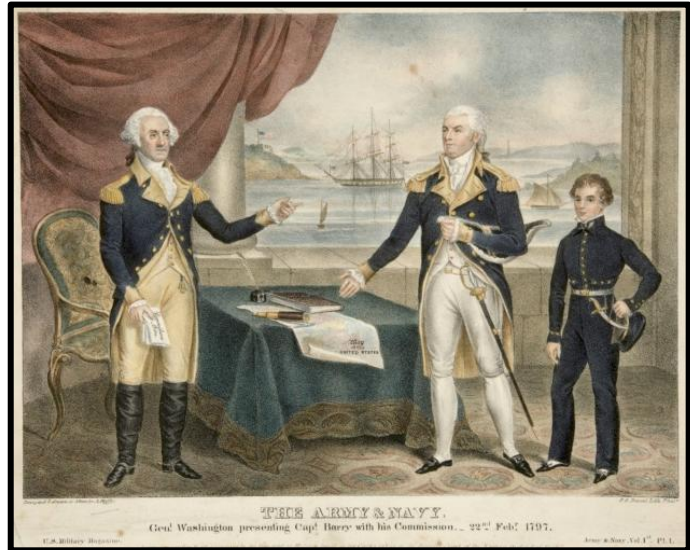
Barry was seriously wounded on May 29, 1781, while taking part in the capture of HMS *Atalanta* and her sister ship *Trepassey*.

He and his crew of the USS *Alliance* fought and won the final naval battle of the American Revolution 140 mile south of Cape Canaveral on March 10, 1783.

Barry was successful in suppressing three mutinies during his career as an officer in the Continental Navy.

Commodore Commission

On February 22, 1797, he was issued Commission Number 1 by President George Washington, backdated to Jun 4, 1794. His title was thereafter “commodore”. He is recognized as not only the first American commissioned naval officer but also its first flag officer.



Barry receiving commodore commission from Washington

Command of *United States*

Appointed senior captain upon the establishment of the U.S. Navy, he commanded the frigate *United States* in the Quasi-War with France. This ship transported commissioners William Richardson Davie and Oliver Ellsworth to France to negotiate a new Franco-American alliance.

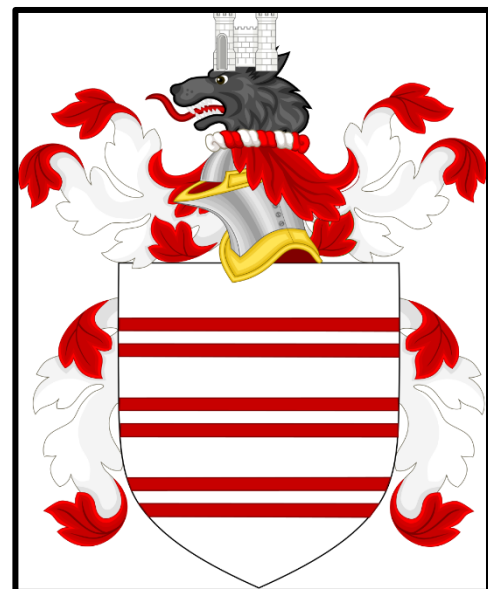
Later Life and Death

Barry died at Strawberry Hill in present-day Philadelphia on September 13, 1803, and was buried in the graveyard of St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church.

The executors of his estate were his wife Sarah, his nephew Patrick Hayes, and his friend John Larny.

Personal Life

On October 24, 1768, Barry married Mary Cleary, who died in 1774. On July 7, 1777, he married Sarah Austin, daughter of Samuel Austin and Sarah



Coat of Arms of John Barry



Barry and John Paul Jones on a U.S. postage stamp, Issue of 1936

Keen of New Jersey. Barry had no children, but he helped raise Patrick and Michael Hayes, children of his sister, Eleanor, and her husband, Thomas Hayes, who both died in the 1780s.

Commemorations

- The U.S. Revenue Cutter *Commodore Barry*, captured off Maine during the War of 1812
- Commodore Barry Park in Brooklyn, New York. It is the oldest park in the borough. It was renamed for Commodore Barry in 1951, due to its location next to the Brooklyn Navy Yard, which Barry helped found.
- A large statue of Barry stands directly in front of the formal entrance to Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Four U.S. Navy ships
 - USS *Barry* (DD-2) (1902-1920)
 - USS *Barry* (DD-248) (1921-1945)
 - USS *Barry* (DD933) (1956-1983)
 - USS *Barry* (DDG-52) (1992-present)
- In World War II, the United States Liberty ship SS *John Barry* was named in his honor.
- There is a large portrait of Commodore Barry at the Rhode Island State House in Providence; and Title 16 of the Rhode Island Statutes (§ 16-20-3 – Days of special observance) requires observing September 13 as Commodore John Barry Day.
- A statue of Barry overlooks the Crescent Quay in Wexford town in Ireland. It was a gift to the town from the United States and was delivered by a United States Navy destroyer, USS *John R. Pierce* (DD-753). The statue was unveiled in 1956, and each year a parade and wreath-laying ceremony takes place at the statue to celebrate “Barry Day”, commemorated by the Irish Naval Service and the Minister for Defense.
- A statue of Barry by Eugene Kormendi is placed in the west court of Dillon Hall at the University of Notre Dame.
- Commodore Barry Bridge, which crosses the Delaware River from Chester, Pennsylvania to Bridgeport, New Jersey.
- John Barry Hall at Villanova University, hosting University ROTC programs
- Commodore Barry Club (Philadelphia Irish Center) Emlen Street and Carpenter Lane, Mount Airy, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Barry Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania
- Commodore John Barry Elementary School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Commodore John Barry Elementary School in Chicago, Illinois
- Commodore John Barry Division of Ancient Order of Hibernians, Annapolis, Maryland



Statue at Independence Hall



1956 statue of Barry in Wexford

- Commodore John Barry Division of Ancient Order of Hibernians, National Park, New Jersey
- Commodore John Barry Division of Ancient Order of Hibernians, Syracuse, New York
- John Barry Bar, Grand Hyatt Muscat, Muscat, Oman
- September 13, Commodore John Barry Day in New Jersey public schools
- Commodore John Barry Memorial Plaque at Staten Island Borough Hall
- A new plaque with a cannon was dedicated on March 10, 2007, in Port Canaveral.
- A plaque stands in the city of Boston on Boston Common.
- A plaque commemorating Barry and his crew of the *Alliance* for the final naval battle of the American Revolution is located at Jetty Park in Cape Canaveral, Florida.
- A stone plaque commemorating his grave site is located at Old St. Mary's Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- A six-foot bronze statue of Commodore John Barry stands in Franklin Square (between I and K streets on 14th St. N.W.) in Washington, D.C.
- Barry Hall is one of six military barracks facilities at the United States Merchant Marine Academy in commemoration of him.
- The visitor entrance to the United States Naval Academy, from Downtown Annapolis to the Visitor Center, commemorates Commodore John Barry. Inside the entrance is a monument to Commodore Barry with a plaque with an image of his commission, Number 1 in the United States Navy. Both the gate and the monument were erected by the Ancient Order of Hibernians.
- There is a plaque and bust commemorating Commodore Barry on the main floor in the Rickover Hall classroom building at the United States Naval Academy.



The Commodore John Barry statue by John Boyle has been exhibited in Washington, D.C.'s Franklin Square since 1914



Plaque and Bust of Commodore Barry at Rickover Hall, United States Naval Academy



Barry on Irish postage stamps,

~ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Barry_\(naval_officer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Barry_(naval_officer))



MARY ISHAM KEITH *Chapter*



*You are cordially invited
to attend the*

*Mary Isham Keith Chapter
America 250!
Patriots Marker Dedication*

May 9, 2026

10:00 am

*Historic Oakwood Cemetery Chapel
701 Grand Avenue
Fort Worth, TX 76164*

*rsvp: Patricia Sinclair, Regent
mikregent2025@gmail.com
(817) 925-8204*

Our chapter Color Guard will post the Colors at Oakwood Cemetery for this America250 Patriots Marker dedication. Additional Color Guardsmen are always welcome. We have a team of four Color Guardsmen currently: James Alderman - National Flag; Bob Gresham – musket; Vann Cunningham - State Flag; and Steve Hole – musket.

Susan Johnston, the DAR State Regent, has been invited to attend. President Steve Hole would love to see more of us involved with our DAR sisters in their activities. Come out and support this event.

White Settlement Officers Awarded Life Saving Medal

On Thursday afternoon, April 23, 2026, chapter officers visited the White Settlement Law Enforcement Center to recognize four White Settlement officers with the SAR Life Saving Medal and Certificate. White Settlement Chief of Police Christopher Cook hosted the award ceremony in his office. White Settlement PD staff and family were present for the ceremony.

Chapter President Steve Hole, assisted by Vice President Jeff Sparks, presented each officer with the Life Saving Medal and Certificate. Immediate Past President and Registrar Ron Turner followed with the presentation of the chapter's challenge coin to Chief Cook and to each of the officers.

What happened?

On March 26, 2026, at about 1654 hours, Sergeant Frank Blaustein #441, Officer Jonathan Loser #550, Officer Thomas Hale #574, and Officer Luke Osborne #588 of the White Settlement Police Department were dispatched to a structure fire call at 7888 I-30 West Freeway, the Studio 6 Hotel. Sergeant Blaustein and Officer Loser, who were already nearby, arrived about 30 seconds later. While approaching the hotel they could see a large amount of smoke and flames coming from a room on the 3rd floor of the east side of the building.

Officer Loser drove to the east side and exited his patrol unit and immediately began to climb the stairs to reach the 3rd floor. When he arrived on the floor, he ran down towards the room that was clearly engulfed in flames. As he approached the room, he observed a male lying on the ground against the 3rd floor railing just past the room that was engulfed in flames. Officer Loser moved past the room that was bellowing smoke and flames to get to the male. After determining that the male was unresponsive, gasping for breath, was unable to get up or communicate, Officer Loser, with the help of an unknown citizen/possible resident of the hotel, carried the male back to the top of the stairwell where he transferred the male to another Officer to take him downstairs so Officer Loser could stay on the 3rd floor to locate and/or aid other victims.

Sergeant Blaustein then arrived on the east side of the building as well where he was able to discern the exact location of the fire on the 3rd floor. He then began to relay pertinent information to dispatch and other Officers that were in route to the fire via radio.

Sergeant Blaustein saw that Officer Loser was already on the 3rd floor by the location of the fire assisting an individual so he relocated his vehicle as not to block fire apparatus access and then exited his vehicle and proceeded through the south end breezeway, where the smoke was the thickest, to access the west side of the involved building and began evacuating the occupants of the rooms.

While Sergeant Blaustein was evacuating rooms and assisting the occupants he was simultaneously relaying instructions to other arriving Officers and keeping dispatch advised of everyone's locations and duties. Recognizing the severity of the situation and how many potential victims there could be, Sergeant Blaustein requested that all partnering agencies come to the location to assist with the evacuation of the hotel.

Upon Officer Hale's arrival he parked on the west side of the building and immediately ran towards and into the smoke coming from the stairwell on the north end of the west side of the building.

Officer Hale entered the stairwell and ran up to the 3rd floor where the fire was located. When he arrived at the top of the stairs, he was met by Officer Loser who was carrying an unresponsive male with the assistance of an unknown citizen. Officer Hale took the male and as he was beginning to become responsive, he was able to escort him down three flights of stairs where he placed him in a safe location until medical personnel could arrive and render aid.

Officer Hale returned up the stairs to the 3rd floor where he was met by Officer Loser who was carrying a small child. He took the child from Officer Loser and carried the child downstairs where he was able to reunite the child with their mother. When going back up the stairs again, he encountered an elderly female in a wheelchair. He aided the female and assisted her down the stairs and got her away from the smoke and to a safe location while giving her words of reassurance. Officer Hale returned upstairs numerous times where he assisted in getting additional occupants with strollers, their possessions and animals to safety.

Officer Osborne arrived and immediately asked where he was needed. Officer Osborne assisted Sergeant Blaustein, Officer Loser, and Officer Hale with the continued clearing and evacuation of all the rooms from all three floors of the hotel resulting in no occupants sustaining any physical injuries other than a few mild cases of smoke inhalation.

These four Officers' actions exemplify the department's commitment to safety and the strength of coordinated teamwork. Through clear communication and a focus on protecting both the public and fellow officers, they contributed to a successful and safe resolution of the incident. They all demonstrated extraordinary courage, decisive action, and an unwavering commitment to the preservation of life. Their conduct reflects the highest traditions of the law enforcement profession and brings great credit upon themselves, the White Settlement Police Department, and the community they serve.



Left to right: White Settlement Police Chief Cook, Mike Connelley, Jeff Sparks, Steve Hole, Officer Hale, Officer Osborne, Sgt. Blaustein, Ron Turner, and Officer Loser

Requiescat in Pace

Floyd Marvin Cox

Compatriot Floyd Marvin Cox passed into eternity on March 9, 2026. He was a Life Member of SAR and a longtime member of the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter, having joined SAR on November 14, 1983.

Floyd Marvin Cox

January 18, 1942 – March 9, 2026

FORT WORTH - Floyd Marvin Cox, 84, passed away Monday, March 9, 2026.

Graveside Service: 1 p.m. Friday, March 20, 2026, at Mount Olivet Cemetery. Visitation: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, March 20, 2026, in the Breyley Suite at Mount Olivet.



Memorials: In lieu of flowers, please consider making donations in Floyd's honor to the Village Creek Church of Christ at 2570 NW Green Oaks Blvd. Arlington, Texas, 76012.

Floyd was born on January 18, 1942, in Fort Worth, to Emma Josephine Floyd and Loyd Marvin Cox. After graduating from Eastern Hills High School as part of its first graduating class in 1960, Floyd continued his education at Arlington State College for two years before transferring to Texas Tech University, where he earned a five-year Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1967. Following graduation, Floyd began his professional career at General Dynamics, where he worked for two years as a design engineer on the General Dynamics F-111 Aardvark fighter-bomber. Realizing his passion for public architecture, Floyd joined the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in 1970. His career with HUD took him to several cities, beginning in New Orleans before transferring to Houston in 1976, where he was happy to be back in Texas. In 1984, Floyd transferred to the Fort Worth office, where he faithfully served for the remainder of his career until his retirement.

Outside of his work, Floyd had a deep love for history and enjoyed studying many subjects, including the Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Revolutionary War, Texas history, and Biblical history. He also had a lifelong appreciation for automobiles and fondly enjoyed working on cars while growing up.

Floyd was preceded in death by his parents, Loyd Marvin Cox and Emma Josephine Cox.

He is survived by his sister, Carolyn Perry and husband, Fred; niece, Leigh Ann Culpan and husband, Alpay; nephews, David Ladd Palmore and Ryan Christopher Perry and wife, Tiffany; great-nieces, Alma Leigh Culpan and Edith May Culpan; great-nephew, Jaxson Ross Perry; and cousins, James Floyd, Guy Floyd and wife, Carla, and Gregg Floyd and wife, Beverly.

The family wishes to express their heartfelt gratitude to Floyd's many loving and compassionate high school friends and the members of Village Creek Church of Christ for their kindness, support and comfort during this time.

Martin Sessler Bachner

Compatriot Martin Sessler Bachner passed into eternity on November 23, 2025. He joined SAR on August 19, 2003.

Martin Sessler Bachner

August 11, 1956 – November 23, 2025

Martin Bachner was born in Fort Worth, Texas, to Thomas Edgar and Irene Ewing Hoss Bachner. He graduated from Richland High School and studied at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

Captain Martin “Cornbread” Bachner joined Republic Airlines on June 24, 1985. During his flying career he flew as a First Officer on the Convair, DC-9, and A-320 at Republic/Northwest Airlines. After the merger with Delta Airlines, he flew as a Captain and eventually retired from Delta Airlines. Cornbread Martin wanted no fuss, funeral, or celebration of life.



John Clay Patterson, Jr.

Compatriot John Clay Patterson, Jr., passed into eternity on August 15, 2025. He joined SAR on June 30, 2003.

John Clay Patterson, Jr.

May 24, 1945 – August 15, 2025

John Clay Patterson, Jr., a beloved father, grandfather, and brother, passed away peacefully on August 15, 2025, in Jacksboro, Texas, at the age of 80.

A Visitation honoring Clay will be held on August 20, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM at Hawkins Funeral Home located at 405 E Main St, Decatur, TX 76234. This will be followed by a funeral service starting at 10:00 AM. Clay will then be laid to rest in Oaklawn Cemetery.



Born on May 24, 1945, in Norman, Oklahoma, he grew up in a loving family that shaped his character and values. Clay was proud to have earned his Bachelor's degree from Stephen F. Austin College, which laid the foundation for a successful career as an insurance agent. He dedicated many years to serving his clients with integrity and professionalism, becoming a respected figure in his field. Clay was also a World Champion as well as a holder of numerous world records in the

sport of powerlifting. One of his proudest moments was being inducted into the Guinness Book of World Records for the 2-man deadlift with his brother, Douglas Clay was also very proud of his time with the Civil War reenactment group in Ft. Griffin, Texas as well as being a member of Scottish Societies in Texas and Tennessee. Clay's life was marked not only by his career achievements but by the cherished relationships he maintained with his family and friends.

He is survived by his son, Jay Patterson of Decatur, and his grandson, Chance Patterson, who he was immensely proud of, along with Chance's wife, Dianna, as well as his brother, Douglas Patterson.

Preceding Clay in death were his parents, John Clay and Dora Elizabeth Patterson, Sr., his beloved wife, Sharon Patterson, and his sister, Faye Ellen Patterson.

Their memories remain a cherished part of the legacy he leaves behind. John Clay Patterson, Jr., will be remembered for his kindness, unwavering support for his family, and the many lives he touched throughout his journey. His spirit will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.



May 3	Benjamin H. Andre
May 4	Walter F. Bowie Mark T. Nash
May 10	Charles L. Vanover
May 24	Jeffrey D. Pray
May 25	David P. Brown
May 29	T. Jeffrey Kennedy Michael R. Cox

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.

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."

Chapter Registrar's Report

Updated 30 Apr 2026

Compatriot	Patriot	Type	Action
2026 Approvals			
Steven J. Hole	Thomas Bishop	Supplemental	06 Feb 2026
Clarence B. Kloppe III	Robert Lemon	NEW Regular	10 Apr 2026
Kyle T. Kloppe	Robert Lemon	NEW Regular	10 Apr 2026
Pending Review and Approval by Staff Genealogist (National)			
Ian R. Billington	John Bradley	NEW Regular	Received 06 Mar 2026
Robert S. Morris	William Morris	NEW Regular	Received 06 Mar 2026
Steven J. Hole	Winifred Wiggins	Supplemental	Pended 03 Sep 2025
Steven J. Hole	John Eddy	Supplemental	Received 28 Jan 2026
Steven J. Hole	Joseph Eddy	Supplemental	Received 28 Jan 2026
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	Robert R. Coleman	Supplemental	Received 28 Jan 2026
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	John Roe	Supplemental	Received 28 Jan 2026
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	John Holcomb	Supplemental	Received 03 Apr 2026
Pending Review by Inland Registrar (State)			
Daniel D. Mesch	Samuel Dean	NEW Junior	
Andrew F. Mesch	Samuel Dean	NEW Junior	
William M. Ray	Asa Douglas Sr	NEW Regular	
Pended Application by National Genealogist			
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	Joseph Benton	Supplemental	Pended 17 Jul 2023
G. Thomas Bransford	William Bransford	NEW	Pended 22 Jan 2024
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	John King	Supplemental	Pended 06 May 2024
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	Thomas Connelley	Supplemental	Pended 16 May 2024
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	James Wooten	Supplemental	Pended 12 Nov 2024
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	John Childress	Supplemental	Pended 12 Nov 2024
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	Benjamin Brimer	Supplemental	Pended 10 Apr 2026

As of April 30th, the Registrar has received a total of 21 inquiries for membership in 2026.

From the Patriot Research System (PRS) Report:

Date of oldest New Application awaiting approval: 18 Feb 2026 (10 weeks)

Date of oldest Supplemental awaiting approval: 27 Oct 2025 (26 weeks)

2026 Calendar of Events

- May 9 Oakwood Cemetery 250th Marker Dedication, Fort Worth, 10:00 am (CG-C)
- May 16 Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
- May 25 Memorial Day Service, Mt. Gilead Cemetery, Keller (CG-N)
- June 7 America 250 Celebration, 1:30 pm, Texas Rangers Golf Club, Arlington (CG-N)
- June 20 Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
- June 20 Audie Murphy Parade, 9:30 am, Farmersville (CG-S)
- July 4 Yankee Doodle Parade, 9:00 am, Denton (CG-N)
- July 4 Independence Day Parade, 9:00 am, Arlington (CG-N)
- July 10-16 136th SAR Annual Congress, Greensboro, NC (CG-N)
- 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 (CG-S)
- August 21-22 Southeast Central District Conference, Dallas (CG-N)
- 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 (CG-C)
- October TBD Texas SAR Fall BOM, North Texas, (CG-S)
- November 9 MOWW Massing of the Colors, 2:00 pm Trimble Tech HS, Fort Worth (CG-N)
- November 11 Tarrant County Veterans Day Parade, Fort Worth, (CG-N)
- November 21 Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
- December 19 Wreaths Across America, 11:00 am, Oakwood Cemetery, Fort Worth (CG-N)

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

Compatriot Society Anniversaries in April

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

May 23	32 yrs	Roger D. Cox
May 15	18 yrs	Jeffrey W. Sparks
May 20	16 yrs	John D. Anderson, Jr.
May 21	12 yrs	Kevin J. Shellman
May 18	10 yrs	Charles W. McHenry
May 12	8 yrs	J. Wayne Wheat
May 26	3 yrs	Joe V. Wade



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.

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.

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>.

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	Steven J. HOLE
Color Guard Commander	(vacant)

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.

Next Chapter Meeting - May 16th

Membership Status

Our chapter membership levels as of April 30, 2026, are:

Active / Current Member	92
NSSAR Life	12
TXSSAR Perpetual.....	11
Active/New Member	2
Active/Reinstated (current yr).....	10
Active/Reinstated (Over 1 yr)	0
Deceased (current yr)	2
Dual w/Other Primary State	2
Emeritus (50+ years)	0
Junior SAR Member.....	2
Junior Member/Reinstated	0
Not Paid (Current Year).....	3
Not-Paid Junior Member	0
Not Paid Dual State	1
Reinstated/Transferred In	0
Transferred In	2
Transferred Out (Current Year)	0
Dual Members (other chapters).....	2

Our active membership currently is 110.



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Ron Turner, Editor & Publisher*