

The Chisholm Trail News

JULY 1, 2026

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

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



June Chapter Meeting

At the chapter meeting on Saturday, June 20th, President Steve Hole inducted Clarence B. (CB) Kloppe. Registrar Ron Turner assisted by pinning the SAR Rosette on CB's collar.

NSSAR registered CB and his brother Kyle on April 10th. Their Patriot Ancestor is Robert Lemon. Robert was born in 1730 in Ireland. He served as a Captain under Col. Thomas Gist, Upper Battalion, Baltimore County Militia. Robert also served as an Orphan Court Judge in Baltimore County, Maryland, which qualified him for Civil Service recognition.

Robert died sometime after 1800 in Shelby County, Kentucky.

Welcome to the chapter, CB!



Registrar Ron Turner presented Compatriot Kim Brimer with three approved supplemental certificates.

He added Patriots John King, Thomas Connelly, and John Childress to his list of 23 proven Patriot Ancestors.

John King was born 22 Aug 1724 in Prince George County, Virginia. He served as a Tax Collector, a Juror, an Overseer of Roads, and was paid for services rendered in February 1782. This qualified him for Civil Service and Patriot Service designations in North Carolina. He died before Aug 1782 in Orange County, North Carolina.

Thomas Connelly was born 12 Sep 1738 in Richmond County, Virginia. He earned the Patriotic Service designation in Virginia and North Carolina. He died after 17 October 1796 in Orange County, North Carolina.

The birth date for John Childress is unknown. He paid the Patriot Tax in 1782 in Surry County, North Carolina which earned him the Patriotic Service designation. He died after 23 May 1810 in Davidson County, Tennessee.





President Steve Hole recognized Compatriot Bob Jacobs for completing his 5-year anniversary as a member of the SAR.

President Hole used his creative processes, along with AI, to develop unique and interesting slides for each of his recognitions.

We will say farewell to Bob at the July meeting. Bob and his wife Carolyn are retiring to Roatan, Honduras. We wish them God Speed as they set out on their great adventure on August 1st.





President Steve Hole recognized Immediate Past President and current Registrar Ron Turner on the occasion of his 10th anniversary as a member of SAR.





President Steve Hole recognized Compatriot Kim Brimer on completing 15 years as a member of SAR.





President Steve Hole and Vice President Jeff Sparks presented Haltom City Firefighter Billy Martin with the SAR Fire Safety Commendation Medal and Certificate.

Firefighter Martin was accompanied by a large contingent of his fellow Haltom City Firefighters.

Job well done, Firefighter Martin!





President Steve Hole recognized Secretary Bruce Morgan for his service in preparing the chapter parade trailer for the Gainesville Medal of Honor Parade. President Hole presented Secretary Morgan with the Texas SAR Silver Service Medal from Texas SAR Immediate Past President Mel Oller.

Vice President Jeff Sparks presented a program on the Committee of Five. The Committee of Five operated from June 11 to July 5, 1776, and their sole task was to draft a formal statement explaining the colonies' decision to seek independence from Britain.

The committee consisted of Thomas Jefferson (Virginia), John Adams (Massachusetts), Benjamin Franklin (Pennsylvania), Roger Sherman (Connecticut), and Robert R. Livingston (New York). Jefferson was chosen as the principal author due to his eloquence and philosophical grounding in Enlightenment principles, while Adams and Franklin provided critical revisions and guidance.

The committee was formed following the Lee Resolution, proposed by Richard Henry Lee on June 7th, which called for the colonies to declare independence. Congress appointed the five delegates to draft a declaration that would articulate the colonies' grievances against King George III and justify their separation from Britain. Jefferson drafted the initial text in a quiet room in Philadelphia, drawing on Enlightenment ideas and previous colonial resolutions.



What did each member contribute?

Thomas Jefferson, the principal author, drafted the Declaration emphasizing natural rights and government by consent.

John Adams advocated for independence and helped refine Jefferson's draft, ensuring strong arguments.

Benjamin Franklin provided editorial guidance and practical wisdom, helping to balance tone and content.

Roger Sherman contributed to revisions and later became the only founder to sign all four major U.S. state papers.

Robert R. Livingston assisted in editing and later played key roles in U.S. diplomacy, including negotiating the Louisiana Purchase.

The committee presented the draft to Congress on June 28, 1776, and after debate and minor revisions, the Declaration was adopted on July 4, 1776. This document formally announced the colonies' independence and laid the philosophical foundation for the new nation, emphasizing liberty, equality, and the right to self-governance. The Committee of Five's work was pivotal in shaping the United States' founding principles and remains a cornerstone of American history.





INDEPENDENCE DAY PROCLAMATION

2026

WHEREAS, July 4, 2026, marks the 250th Anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution honors the service and sacrifice of our Revolutionary War Patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Nation; and

WHEREAS, members of the Sons of the American Revolution from across the Nation will gather in Philadelphia, the birthplace of American independence, to commemorate this historic anniversary, and chapters and state societies will celebrate America 250 in communities throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the enduring principles of liberty, self-government, individual responsibility, and equal rights proclaimed in 1776 remain as relevant today as they were 250 years ago;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael J. Elston, President General of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, do hereby proclaim July 4, 2026, to be Independence Day 250 and a special day of celebration within the Sons of the American Revolution, and I call upon all members, chapters, and state societies to commemorate this historic anniversary through patriotic observances, educational programs, public ceremonies, and community celebrations.

As we celebrate America's Semiquincentennial, let us honor the courage and sacrifice of the Revolutionary generation and renew our commitment to preserving the freedoms they secured. May the ideals of 1776 continue to inspire and guide our Nation for generations to come as we continue to strive toward an ever "more perfect Union."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution to be affixed on this 29th day of June 2026, in the 250th year of the Independence of the United States.



Michael J. Elston
President General

Freedom Bells



A Nationwide Call to Toll the Bells

RINGING ON JULY 4, 2026 AT 12 NOON LOCAL TIME

In honor of America's 250th Anniversary, MOWW National and the MOWW San Diego Chapter have created **Freedom Bells** – a free bell tolling web app designed to unite Americans in a synchronized moment of reflection and celebration.

On July 4, 2026, FreedomBells.org will count down to 12 noon local time, allowing Chapters, individuals, families, schools, and communities to toll bells together in a shared national moment proclaiming liberty. Whether gathered in a public ceremony, participating from home, or far from home, Freedom Bells makes it possible for everyone to take part in this historic moment.

MOWW's free web app designed to celebrate America 250!

- Synchronized countdown to 12 noon local time
- Digital bell tolling from any device with multiple bell sounds
- Digital 250th Anniversary copy of the Declaration of Independence
- Opening and closing ceremony
- Timer for moments of reflection
- Patriotic music and readings
- History of July 4, 1776
- Registration for individuals and groups
- Printable participation certificates



Register or Learn More
FreedomBells.org



Chapter Registrar's Report

Updated 01 July 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 |
| Ian R. Billington | John Bradley | NEW Regular | 08 May 2026 |
| Robert S. Morris | William Morris | NEW Regular | 08 May 2026 |
| Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr. | John King | Supplemental | 15 May 2026 |
| Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr. | Thomas Connelley | Supplemental | 15 May 2026 |
| Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr. | John Childress | Supplemental | 15 May 2026 |
| Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr. | Benjamin Brimer | Supplemental | 04 Jul 2026 |
| Pending Review and Approval by Staff Genealogist (National) | | | |
| 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 | |
| Clarence B. Kloppe IV | James Lemon | NEW Regular | |
| Troy M. Kennedy | William Johnson | NEW Regular | |
| Gavin W. Kennedy | William Johnson | NEW Regular | |
| Logan R. Kennedy | William Johnson | NEW Regular | |
| Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr. | William Armstrong | Supplemental | |
| Monte D. Fite | Peter Fite, Sr. | NEW Regular | |
| Colin M. Fite | Peter Fite, Sr. | NEW Regular | |
| Gavin J. Fite | Peter Fite, Sr. | NEW Regular | |
| Bradford L. Shaw | Timothy Meeker, Sr. | NEW Regular | |
| Steven Y. Christensen | Uriah Carpenter | NEW Regular | |
| T. Jeffery Kennedy | John Tillman | Supplemental | |
| Completed and Awaiting Applicant Signature | | | |
| Ricky C. Wylie | John Sevier | NEW Regular | |
| Robert A. Jacobs | Benjamin Stanley | Supplemental | |

In Work

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Judson D. Clark | David Verner/Varner | NEW Regular |
| Robert D. Templeton | Joseph Dixon | NEW Regular |
| Jimmy K. Jackson | Stephen Jackson | NEW Regular |
| Jacob A. Wilson | Peter Bartrug | Supplemental |
| Jacob A. Wilson | Elisha Clayton | Supplemental |
| Jacob A. Wilson | Levin Okey | Supplemental |
| Stephen J. Soss | William Powell | NEW Regular |
| William "Cris" Calhoun | James H. Williams | NEW Regular |
| Andrew T. Traylor | William Traylor Sr. | NEW Regular |

Pended Application by National Genealogist

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| G. Thomas Bransford | William Bransford | NEW | Pended 22 Jan 2024 |
| Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr. | James Wooten | Supplemental | Pended 12 Nov 2024 |

As of June 30th, the Registrar has received a total of 35 inquiries for membership in 2026.

From the Patriot Research System (PRS) Report:

Date of oldest New Application awaiting approval: 01 May 2026 (8 weeks)

Date of oldest Supplemental awaiting approval: 17 Nov 2025 (32 weeks)



| | |
|---------|--|
| July 3 | Matthew M. Truitt |
| July 5 | John C. Reid |
| July 8 | Robert J. Devine |
| July 9 | Kenneth R. Cox |
| July 11 | James E. Alderman |
| July 12 | Mikel J. Lokensgard |
| July 21 | Zachary V. Cunningham |
| July 26 | John D. Anderson, Jr. Scotte L. Clark |
| July 28 | Jeffrey H. Andre |
| July 29 | Thomas P. Wilkinson |
| July 31 | John W. Via, III |

2026 Calendar of Events

- July 2 Liberty Tree Dedication, 12:00 pm, Athens (CG-N)
- July 4 Yankee Doodle Parade, 9:00 am, Denton (CG-N)
- July 4 Independence Day Parade, 9:00 am, Arlington (CG-N)
- July 4 250th Remembrance Bench Dedication, 2:00 pm, Waxahachie (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 June




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

| | | |
|----------|--------|----------------------|
| July 10 | 6 yrs | Richard B. Mitchell |
| July 12 | 7 yrs | Wayne A. Heide |
| July 16 | 11 yrs | Christopher K Hull |
| July 17` | 6 yrs | Matthew L. Achorn |
| July 19 | 9 yrs | Billy E. Thompson |
| July 19 | 7 yrs | Robert L. Goode, Jr. |
| July 19 | 13 yrs | Eddie E. Scott |
| July 20 | 48 yrs | James J. Davis |
| July 27 | 8 yrs | Richard V. Wilson |
| July 31 | 53 yrs | Allan V. Gillmore |

Congratulations

Purchase your Chapter Name Badge with the SAR logo from our local vendor.


SAR Shop

Sons of the American Revolution 2025

You can now purchase your items online in 3 easy steps:

1. Scan the QR code or go online to <https://sarnamebadge.itemorder.com/>
2. Choose your items and add them to your cart
3. Securely checkout with your credit card

 **Bob Gresham**

President
Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter
Fort Worth

Namebadge 912C_SAR

\$15.00

Registrar Ron Turner will pick up all purchases and deliver to you at a chapter meeting.

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.

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."

Next Chapter Meeting - July 18th

Membership Status

Our chapter membership levels as of June 8, 2026, are:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Active / Current Member | 90 |
| NSSAR Life | 11 |
| TXSSAR Perpetual..... | 10 |
| Active/New Member | 4 |
| Active/Reinstated (current yr) | 20 |
| 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)..... | 15 |
| 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 120.



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Ron Turner, Editor & Publisher*