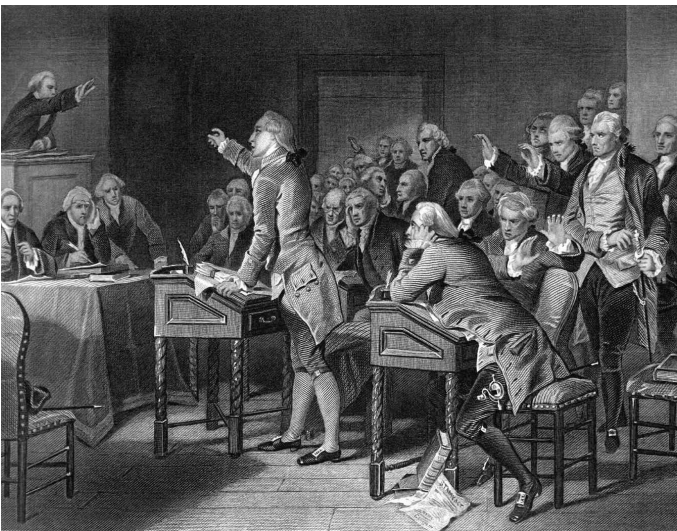


Plano Chapter #37  
Sons of the American Revolution  
Plano TX



January 2025  
Newsletter



Mission Statement

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





# President's Message



By Bob Johns, President

## State of the Chapter Address January 2025

Compatriots, let me first communicate that 2025 is the 40th anniversary of the founding of our Plano Chapter—a proud occasion. We have grown to 134 members including nine new members this year:

Ethan Baker  
Louis John Zettler, Jr  
Louis John Zettler, III  
Louis John Zettler, IV  
Michael Garner  
Jim Smetzer  
Luke P David  
David A David  
Durwood B Ray

In addition, three Supplemental applications were approved:

Bryan Humphreys for his Ancestor John Black  
Kevin J Ennis for his Ancestor Joshua Copeland  
Kevin J Ennis for his Ancestor James Griffin

Our chapter's 40th Anniversary is commemorated by the chapter coin we commissioned to celebrate. The coins are available for a \$20 donation to the chapter which will go towards funding more of the numerous programs we sponsor in our community. Please contact [me](#) or Treasurer [Scott Knightly](#) to make your donation.

**(Cont'd)**



# State of the Chapter Address

## (Cont'd)

Let me now deliver the State of the Chapter message,

As just reported, we are a chapter of 134 members, active in our community as stated in the SAR Mission Statement:

*“The Sons of the American Revolution honor our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.”*

**Among the highlights of our just completed year are these:**

### **Veterans Activities incl WaA:**

- Our chapter bought lap blankets for 100 veterans temporarily residing at the Bonham V A Clinic. Members of our chapter worked at veterans events at Bonham for the Veterans Day cookout and for the Christmas gift party.
- Our chapter purchased over 400 wreaths to be placed on veterans gravesites form this year’s Wreaths Across America event, and 7 of our chapter members volunteered as honorary wreath bearers, as chaplain and as bugler for the event at the Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney. All of these purchases made possible by chapter member’s donations at chapter meetings.

### **Youth Patriotic Competitions and Awards:**

- Alan Roach and his team awarded one cash prize for the winner of the SAR Poster contest, 15 Bronze JROTC award medals and 16 JROTC recognition certificates to high school students.

### **Chapter Awards:**

- We awarded chapter members with 2 Special Awards 1 to Howard Roach, 1 to Tracy Curtin, made 2 color guard promotions, and issued 10 Certificates of Appreciation.

**(Cont'd)**



# State of the Chapter Address

## (Cont'd)

### **Public Speaking:**

- Dave Fautheree and Randy Bush delivered numerous speaker presentations to other SAR chapters, DAR chapter and residents of Retirement homes.

### **Color Guard Activities:**

- Our 9 member color guard participated in 27 events this year plus 3 patriot/compatriot grave markings.

### **Public Service Awards:**

- Our chapter awarded 7 Citizenship Awards and Medals to Plano Police Officers and Firefighters.

### **Flag Certificates:**

- We awarded 6 flag certificates to residents who display the flag daily and properly at their homes, including one resident who daily flies 6 U S flags and one USMC flag for their son on duty.

### **Flag Retirement:**

- We awarded 2 flag retirement certificates to the Plano FD and to the Fire Rescue Explorer post.

### **Chapter Technology and communication upgrades:**

- Initiated our first monthly Newsletter.
- Upgraded and updated our chapter Website.
- Enhanced meeting technology: sound, minutes by video and projection equipment.

All in all, it has been a fine year for the Plano SAR Chapter #37! 2025 brings renewed and new opportunities to reach out to the community with our Patriotic message, to help our Veterans, to honor our fallen Heroes and to increase our fellowship among our Compatriot membership. Here's to 2025!

**Bob Johns, President**





# Special Christmas Contribution

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## What America Needed That 1776 Christmas: Leadership

**By Talmage Boston, Contributing Columnist to the Dallas  
Morning News**

Those of us blessed to live in this land of the free and home of the brave allow most Christmases to pass without remembering one of the most important events in American history: George Washington's heroics on December 25, 1776, and the days that followed, that proved to be the tipping point toward victory in the Revolutionary War.

Because of Big George's Christmas Day leadership, we gained "the sacred fire of liberty" and "republican model of government" (words from his first inaugural address in 1789) that have served us so well for so long.

Shortly after the Declaration of Independence was signed in July 1776, America's military effort appeared doomed to fail after defeat at the Battle of Brooklyn in August, the taking of Fort Washington on Manhattan Island in November, and the subsequent retreat through New Jersey.

Hopes for success were dying and colonial soldiers counted the days until their service commitments expired at year's end.

The situation drove Washington to acknowledge in a December 10th letter, "One's imagination can scarce extend to a situation more distressing than mine. Our only dependence now is upon the speedy enlistment of a new army. If this fails, I think the game will be pretty well up."

In his book *1776*, David McCullough wrote that soon after that moment, General Nathaniel Greene observed that his boss, "never appeared to so much advantage as in the hour of distress."

Washington wrote to a friend about the prospect of his having a "brilliant stroke" that might save the cause.

A few days later, he predicted landing "a lucky blow against the enemy that would most certainly rouse the spirits of the people, who are quite sunk by our misfortunes".

Washington proceeded to devise and execute the "brilliant stroke" and "lucky blow" plan that changed the course of the war.

It started on Christmas night. Thinking the enemy would be relaxed that holiday evening at their garrison in Trenton NJ, Washington planned to have his men, horses and cannons depart from their camp in Pennsylvania and cross the nearby Delaware River in flat bottom boats normally used to transport pig iron. Upon reaching the other side, they would then march the ten miles to their destination.

**(Cont'd)**





# Special Christmas Contribution

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## What America Needed That 1776 Christmas: Leadership (Cont'd)

The plan went forward that night despite a gathering storm and the river's being filled with broken sheets of ice. His password for the daring venture - Victory or Death - Aligned with his orders: "No man to quit his ranks on pain of death." To inspire his troops before they left camp, Washington had a passage from Thomas Paine read aloud: "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now deserves the love and thanks of all people."

As the men got in the boats to cross the river, the storm hit. One soldier's description: "It rained, hailed, snowed, and froze, and at the same time blew a perfect hurricane."

Chernow believed "Crossing the Delaware on Christmas night, Washington knew, would produce either storied success or utter calamity, and he was ready to pay the price... With the country's future riding on his shoulders, he displayed indomitable tenacity. If the raid backfired, the war was likely over and he would be captured and killed."

The ice slowed the paddle and pole-driven boats and those who made it didn't get across the river until 3:00 AM, putting them three hours behind schedule.

Before their departure, Washington divided his men into three separate regiments meant to land at three different places on the banks of the Delaware, but two of the groups never made it across the river.

Regardless of the storm delay and manpower reduction, Washington knew retreat was impossible. "I was determined to push on at all events," he wrote.

The march toward Trenton was made by the remaining 2,400 men over steeply-sloped rain slicked terrain and in weather so severe two of them froze to death.

The commander-in-chief rode up and down the rows of his drenched and freezing soldiers, keeping them focused on the challenge at hand. Upon reaching their destination, many of the men's guns were so rain-soaked they couldn't fire. Washington's Plan B command: "Use the Bayonet."

An hour after daylight, with the storm still raging, the attack began. It lasted about 45 minutes. Despite their fatigue and lack of firepower, Washington said every American soldier "vied with the other for pressing forward." The result: The enemy had 21 soldiers killed, 90 wounded, 900 taken prisoner, and 500 escaped, while the Americans suffered only 4 wounded (one being future President James Monroe) and no one killed.

**(Cont'd)**





# Special Christmas Contribution

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## What America Needed That 1776 Christmas: Leadership (Cont'd)

After the battle, Washington delivered a glowing message to his men, thanking them for “their spirited and gallant” effort, since he had “not seen a single instance of bad behavior in either officers or privates.”

He told Major James Wilkinson, “This is a glorious day for our country.” In fact, it proved to be the day that saved our country.

When news of the victory at Trenton arrived at the Continental Congress, John Hancock could see that, although had been achieved by men broken by fatigue and ill-fortune, Washington's leadership deserved credit: “Troops properly inspired and animated by a just confidence in their leader will often exceed expectations. As it is entirely to your wisdom and conduct, the United States are indebted for the success of your arms.”

Four days after their victory, Washington succeeded in persuading his troops to renew their military service commitment into the new year . When they did, General Greene decided it was “God Almighty who inclined their hearts to listen to the proposal and they engaged anew.” Additional men soon volunteered and by August 1777, the Army's size had grown to 12,000.

Washington led his troops to another triumph In early January at the Battle of Princeton.

McCullough drew this conclusion about the back-to-back victories: “As thrilling as the news of Princeton was for the country, coming so quickly after the triumph at Trenton, it was Trenton that meant the most. Trenton and the night crossing of the Delaware were rightly seen as a great turning point. With that victory came the realization that Americans had bested the enemy, outsmarted them and out fought them, and so might well again.”

On Christmas night 1776, George Washington kept our Continental Army “spirited and gallant” in its darkest hours, and thereby delivered the “brilliant stroke” and “lucky blow” needed for America to obtain her independence from England.

At Christmas 2024, many of us with our bellies full, homes warm and stockings filled, in the greatest country in the world, let's take a minute to give thanks for our first president and that first American Christmas.

*Reprinted with permission of the author.*





# Upcoming Events

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## Dues Reminders!

Dear Compatriots,

It's that time of year again. Your 2025 annual dues invoices have been prepared and are now available online for you to review (private site credentials required). Once you have your invoice you can conveniently pay online with PayPal or credit/debit card. This payment covers dues for the Plano Chapter, Texas State Society, and the National Society — all in one amount.

For those of you who have a deliverable mailing address, your 2025 dues notices should be arriving in your home mailbox within the next few weeks. These are sent Bulk Mail to your address of record as of September 1st. If you do not receive one by Thanksgiving, please look for your notice online, and help us get your address corrected.

You may see a sample invoice by [clicking here](#). Please note that 2025 dues calculations include a \$3.00 annual assessment to defray expenses which the State Society will incur in hosting the 2029 National Congress in San Antonio. If you do not otherwise owe dues (Life, Perpetual, Junior, or Emeritus member), this assessment will be waived.

As a reminder, dues should be paid by December 31st to ensure your membership does not lapse. The sooner you submit your payment, the sooner the Plano Chapter will receive funds to continue and grow our programs.

Your paper invoice also contains your 2025 membership card. We thank you for your continued support of the Plano Chapter!

Pay Dues  
Online  
Here!

Bob Johns

President, Plano Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution







# Upcoming Events

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## Science and Engineering Fair Rose Haggar Elementary 15 January 2025

### HEAR YE HEAR YE ALL COMPATRIOTS!!

We have a great opportunity of public service coming our way on Wednesday, January 15 at 9am, namely, judging projects at Rose Haggar Elementary School in Far North Dallas! **Please see the information below and please let me know who can be there.**

Please see the Information below from Stephanie Hykel, Fourth Grade Team Leader at Rose Haggar Elementary!

*"I am reaching out to ask if you would be willing to be a judge for our annual Science and Engineering Fair this year at Rose Haggar Elementary. This year, our Science and Engineering Fair will be held on Wednesday, January 15th at 9:00 am. It will require a couple of hours commitment. We try to finish up about 11:00 ish. You will be judging projects from grades K-5. You do not need to have a Science or Engineering background to judge. I will provide a rubric to help you. You will be judging several entrants individually and then come together to meet as a group to pick a grand prize winner. I will be there to answer any questions that you may have. We would appreciate the help with judging this year's Science and Engineering Fair projects."*

ALAN ROACH, RPh, DPh  
Vice President, School Activities, JROTC and BSA  
Sons of the American Revolution, Plano Chapter 37  
1700 Yellowstone Ave  
Flower Mound TX 75077-2466  
972-318-0466  
[AroachRaidspray@yahoo.com](mailto:AroachRaidspray@yahoo.com)





# Upcoming Events

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## The Joseph S Rumbaugh Oration Contest and Scholarship

Dear Compatriots,

I'm reaching out to you regarding the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest and Scholarship. You are receiving this email because your chapter is located in Area 4. I represent Area 4, which is the area from Dallas east, in the state S.A.R. oration competition. It is my job to recruit local students for the oration contest. This is an excellent scholarship opportunity for high school students who are active in speech, debate, theater, ROTC or have an interest in history.

I need your help. If you have any children, grandchildren or other acquaintances who are high school students please pass along the contest information. If you have a spouse who is involved in DAR please have them share the attached documents with their chapter.

The contest is open to all high school students, boys and girls, grades 9-12. At the state level first place receives a \$2500 scholarship; 2nd - \$750; 3rd place - \$500; 4th place - \$300; 5th and 6th places \$150 each. The top state winners will compete at the National S.A.R. convention for a chance to win a \$6000 scholarship; 2nd - \$4000; and 3rd - \$2000; with places 4-6 receiving \$500 each.

Participants must write an original oration of not less than five minutes, or more than six minutes. The oration must be delivered from memory and without the use of notes or any kind of props. "The subject of the oration shall deal with an event, a personality, or a document pertaining to the Revolutionary War with an emphasis on our nation's 250th anniversary celebration. It is essential that each oration show the relationship it bears to America today. Evidence of historical research and creative presentation are also important. The oration will be judged based upon its composition, delivery, significance, historical accuracy and relevance to our 250th anniversary." Note: there is a slight discrepancy regarding the subject of the oration between the national and Texas state websites. The national website is correct and has been stated in quotations above.

Students could potentially earn up to \$8500 in scholarships at the chapter, state and national levels. The Texas S.A.R. president encourages students to take their written orations and submit them to the S.A.R. essay contest for an additional scholarship opportunity.

**(Cont'd)**





# Upcoming Events

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## The Joseph S Rumbaugh Oration Contest and Scholarship (Cont'd)

Even if a student doesn't finish first it is an excellent opportunity to add to their college application. If a student does not make it to the state contest we try to fill slots at chapter levels for local scholarships. Also, local chapters often provide a small scholarship to chapter winner. This is at the discretion of each chapter.

Interested students will need to email me their completed application and written oration before December 31, 2024. They can send it to **Jason Gray** at [bbear9505@yahoo.com](mailto:bbear9505@yahoo.com) and please copy **Larry Luby**, the state chair. His email is [oration@txssar.org](mailto:oration@txssar.org).

Here is the link to the National oration contest as well as a video of this year's national winner:  
[Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest](#)

Here is the link to the state SAR site for more information about the oration contest:  
[Texas SAR Oration Contest](#)

Here is the link to the printable application form:  
[Oration Contest Contestant Packet](#)

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jason Gray

TXSSAR Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest and Scholarship Area 4 Chair

[bbear9505@yahoo.com](mailto:bbear9505@yahoo.com)

214-226-9997





# News Items



## **Plano Chapter #37 Christmas Dinner! Princi Italia Restaurant Plano 3 December 2024**

On the evening of Tuesday, 3 December, Plano Chapter #37 held its annual Christmas Dinner at the Princi Italia Restaurant in Plano. It was a very merry gathering indeed with approximately thirty-five in attendance. After dinner, President Johns led us in a Christmas Trivia Game which was enjoyed by all.





# News Items



## Plano Chapter #37 Christmas Dinner! Princi Italia Restaurant Plano 3 December 2024 (Cont'd)

### 1) Name the three Wise Men and name the 3 gifts to the baby Jesus.

A. Balthasar, Melchior, Caspar (or Gaspar) - Interestingly the Bible does not states state their names, nor even the number of wise men: "...there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem... and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh..." from Matthew 2:1 and 2:11.

### 2) What are the gifts in the Twelve Days of Christmas?

A) The "Twelve Days of Christmas" was originally written to help Catholic children, in England, remember different articles of faith during the persecution by Protestant Monarchs. The "true love" represented God, and the gifts all different ideas:

1. The "Partridge in a pear tree" was Christ.
2. Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments
3. French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity-- the Theological Virtues
4. Four Calling Birds = The Four Gospels
5. Five Gold Rings = The First Five Books of the Old Testament
6. Six Geese A-laying = The Six Days of Creation
7. Seven Swans A-swimming = The Sevenfold Gifts of the Spirit
8. Eight Maids A-milking = The Beatitudes
9. Nine Ladies Dancing = The Nine Fruits of the Spirit
10. Ten Lords A-leaping = The Ten Commandments
11. Eleven Pipers Piping = The Eleven Faithful Disciples
12. Twelve Drummers Drumming = The Twelve Points of Belief in the Apostle's Creed





# News Items



**Plano Chapter #37 Christmas Dinner!**  
**Princi Italia Restaurant Plano**  
**3 December 2024**  
**(Cont'd)**

**3) What is the biggest selling Christmas single of all time and who sang it? What is the second biggest selling Christmas single of all time and who sang it?**

- A) 1. White Christmas—Bing Crosby—physical media—top selling single record in the world  
2. Silent Night—Bing Crosby 3. All I Want For Christmas Is You - Mariah Carey

**4) What is Scrooge's first name?**

- A) Ebenezer

**5) Who wrote "A Christmas Carol"?**

- A) Charles Dickens Dec 1845

**6) In what modern country was the real St Nicholas born?**

- A) Turkey--St Nicholas, bishop 'Nikolaos of Myra', 270-343 AD, Where the ancient town of Myra stood, now stands the Turkish town Demre, Antalya Province, Turkey). It was the Dutch who first made him into a Christmas gift-giver, and Dutch settlers brought him to America where his name eventually became the familiar Santa Claus.





# News Items

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**Plano Chapter #37 Christmas Dinner!**  
**Princi Italia Restaurant Plano**  
**3 December 2024**  
**(Cont'd)**

**7) Who started the tradition of Santa Claus dressed in red?**

- A) Present-day Santa owes his red robe, not to an ancient legend or to an early myth, but to the Coca Cola Company. Around 1930, Coca-Cola decided to use the image of Santa Claus in its winter advertising campaign and took on an American artist called Haddon Sundblom. Sundblom chose the official Coca Cola colors -red and white- and designed a loose tunic fastened by a tight black belt. When Sundblom's campaign was over, Santa's image in a red robe had become popular all over the world. Prior to that, Santa had many different looks in many countries.

**8) Name Santa Claus's reindeer, not including Rudolph.**

- A) Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Dunder (variously spelled Donder and Donner), and Blitzen or Blixen.

**9) Are Santa's reindeer male, female or mixed?**

- A) Undetermined. Both male and female reindeer or caribou grow antlers -- a trait unique in the deer family -- although male reindeer antlers grow larger than female caribou antlers, we know that Santa's reindeer probably aren't males, because mature male reindeer lose their antlers by December after the mating season, and Christmas reindeer are always depicted with their antlers. Females retain their antler longer. That means Santa's sled either is pulled by young male reindeer still with antlers or else Santa's reindeer are all female.





# News Items



**Plano Chapter #37 Christmas Dinner!**  
**Princi Italia Restaurant Plano**  
**3 December 2024**  
**(Cont'd)**

**10) Who is credited with creating the first nativity scene or crèche?**

- A) Saint Francis of Assisi is credited with creating the first nativity scene in 1223 (a "living" one) intending thereby to cultivate the worship of Christ, having been inspired by his recent visit to the Holy Land where he had been shown Jesus's traditional birthplace.

**11) When and where was Christmas banned?**

- A) Christmas was banned in England in 1647 by the Puritan-led Parliament, which viewed the holiday as a pagan festival associated with excess and immorality. The ban lasted until the monarchy was restored in 1660.

**12) To what country do we trace the modern Christmas Tree?**

- A) The custom of the Christmas tree developed in early modern Germany in which "devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes". Trees that remained green all year had a special meaning for people in the winter. In many countries it was believed that evergreens would keep away witches, ghosts, evil spirits, and illness.

**13) What President started the White House Christmas Tree tradition?**

- A) In 1923, President Calvin Coolidge started the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony now held every year on the White House lawn.  
INTERESTING NOTE: Teddy Roosevelt banned the Christmas tree from the White House for environmental reasons.







# News Items



**Plano Chapter #37 Christmas Dinner!**  
**Princi Italia Restaurant Plano**  
**3 December 2024**  
**(Cont'd)**

**14) What state first made Christmas a legal holiday?**

- A) Alabama was the first in 1837 . In 1907, Oklahoma became the last US state to declare Christmas a legal holiday. Of course Oklahoma wasn't a state until 1907.

**15) What country group recorded "Christmas in Dixie" in the early 1980's?**

- A) Alabama

**16) From which country does the poinsettia plant originate?**

- A) Mexico. It derives its common English name from Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first United States Minister to Mexico, who introduced the plant into the United States in 1825.

**17) Who is the author of the traditional New Year's Eve song, Auld Lang Syne?**

- A) Robert Burns—national poet of Scotland—in 1788.

**18) How many times does Santa check his list in the song "Santa Claus is coming to town"?**

- A) He's making a list and checking it twice  
He's gonna find out who's naughty or nice, '





# News Items



**Plano Chapter #37 Christmas Dinner!**  
**Princi Italia Restaurant Plano**  
**3 December 2024**  
**(Cont'd)**

**19) How Does Santa Claus gets back up the chimney (by doing what)?**

- A) And laying his finger aside of his nose,  
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;

**20) What Christmas movie is the highest grossing of all time?**

- A) 1. Dr. Seuss' The Grinch (2018) \$526.7 million worldwide, \$271.3 million domestic.  
2. Home Alone 1990-- \$476.6 million worldwide, \$285.7 million domestic.  
3. Home Alone –Lost in New York 1992--\$358.9 million worldwide, \$173.5 million domestic.  
4. Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! (2000) \$345.8 million worldwide, \$260.7 million domestic.  
5. The Polar Express (2004) \$316.8 million worldwide, \$189.5 million domestic.

**21) What is the origin of the carol Silent Night?**

- A) Silent Night was written in 1818, by an Austrian priest named Joseph Mohr. He was told the day before Christmas that the church organ was broken and would not be repaired in time for Christmas Eve. He could not think of Christmas without music, so he wrote a carol that could be sung by choir to guitar music. Later that night the people in the little Austrian Church sang "Stille Nacht" for the first time.





# News Items



**Plano Chapter #37 Christmas Dinner!**  
**Princi Italia Restaurant Plano**  
**3 December 2024**  
**(Cont'd)**

**22) What Christmas song was originally written as a Thanksgiving song?**

- A) Jingle Bells, originally titled “One horse open sleigh” and written in 1857, the jingle bells were associated with sleighs driven on snow during winter. The song still has no mention of Christmas.

**23) In the song “Grandma Got Runover by a Reindeer, what proof was offered of that?**

- A) Reindeer hoof prints on her.

**24) What animal species is a reindeer?**

- A) Caribou or *Rangifer Tarandus*.

**25) What cartoon character’s name is used to describe a scrawny poorly decorated small Christmas tree?**

- A) A Charlie Brown tree.

**26) What word for Christmas or for a Christmas carol was borrowed from the French?**

- A) Noel.

**27) What is the name of the family featured in National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation movie?**

- A) The Griswolds.





# News Items



## Plano Chapter #37 Christmas Dinner! Princi Italia Restaurant Plano 3 December 2024 (Cont'd)





# News Items



## Christmas for Bonham Vets! 10 December 2024

This morning Bob Johns met with John Greer (Dallas chapter), Mark Harmon (Dallas) and Ted Wilson (Edmund Terrill) at the Bonham V A Health Center to distribute Christmas Gifts to the veterans there.

We distributed the blankets our Plano chapter purchased, and there were many of volunteer groups distributing their organization's purchases.

One veteran was a Vietnam vet and we were able to give him the Vietnam Era lapel pin.

Approximately 200 veterans came in a line along our U shaped tables and had the organizations gifts dropped in the bags they carried.

It was a fun and rewarding experience.



Ted Wilson, John Greer, Mark Harmon (Bob Johns - Photographer) with our blankets.



Veterans moving along the line with their gift bags.





# News Items



## Wreaths Across America! 14 December 2024

This year, National Wreaths Across America Day was held on Saturday, December 14, 2024. More than two million volunteers and supporters gather annually to Remember, Honor and Teach at more than 4,600 participating locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad.

Our chapter supports the event at the Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney where over 900 veterans are buried.

A commemorative event is held and following that volunteers spread out with maps and place wreaths on every veterans gravesite, speaking that veterans name to commemorate their service by name.

Chapter members Rocky Miller, John Rothermel, Larry Melton, Keith Thurgood, Nick Gilliam, Ronald Carey Joe Conger and Dave Fautheree participated in the event as chaplain, bugler, and ceremonial military wreath carriers and parking managers. Our chapter bought over 400 wreaths for the event.





# News Items



## Wreaths Across America! 14 December 2024 (Cont'd)



Rocky Miller, Ronald  
Carey, Dave Fatheree,  
Joe Conger, Nick  
Gilliam, Larry Melton





# News Items



## TO ALL PLANO SAR CHAPTER MEMBERS! You Make a Difference!

Compatriots,

As we prepare our annual report to State and National on our chapters support of veterans, please help us report everything, including individual members support that your chapters board may not know about.

**ALL** Compatriots that are members of the Texas SAR can participate in this effort, so I am asking you to review your calendars and records of non-profit giving for this year and other activities noted below and send responses to chapter president [Bob Johns](#). Your Chapter responses REALLY make a difference and strongly keep our State amongst the best in the SAR.

Authorized activities include:

(1) Memorial Services/Funerals of any Veteran. Please send name of deceased veteran, date, location, your role if any, and distance(r/t) travelled.

(2) Personal donations (check/cash) to a Veterans Service organization, such as Wounded Warriors, VFW, USO, Paralyzed Vets, Purple Heart, American Legion, Camp Hope, Tunnel for Towers, etc. I will NEED amount, date of gift, and organization that received your gift. The key to their qualification is: Is the organization's primary client the Veteran? If yes, it qualifies. For every mile driven/flown to a funeral, one point is credited. For every dollar donated, one point is credited.

(3) Donations of clothing (new or used) to a Veterans Service organization, such as VFW, American Legion, Texas Paralyzed, Disabled Texas Veterans or Disabled American Veterans. Others are acceptable as well, BUT they must have Veterans as the Primary client. Please indicate date donated, organization name, and amount paid for new clothing (men or women). If donating used clothing, then credit is based on 1/3 of original price. For each dollar value of clothing donated, one point is credited.

(4) Wreaths Across America - Purchase of 3 wreaths for Wreaths Across America will make a Chapter qualified at 50 points minimum for their Stark report.

(5) Personal cost incurred for Wreaths, Flowers, or Flags placed on the Graves of any Veteran.

Thank you for all you do for our chapter.

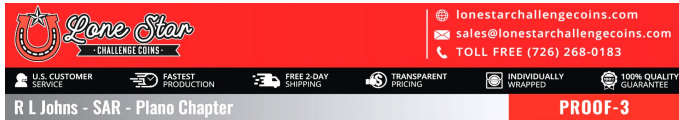
Bob Johns, President







# News Items



R L Johns - SAR - Plano Chapter

PROOF-3

SIDE A

SIDE B



\*PLEASE REVIEW ALL DETAILS OF THE PROOF TO ENSURE ACCURACY OF SPELLING, GRAPHICS AND PRODUCT SPECS BEFORE APPROVING AS CHANGES CANNOT BE MADE ONCE PRODUCTION BEGINS

## A Special Item to Mark the 40th Anniversary of the Plano Chapter of the SAR

The Plano Chapter #37 of the SAR observes its 40th Anniversary next year in 2025. To celebrate the event, the Chapter Board has commissioned a Commemorative Celebration coin which is intended to both recognize our anniversary and to enhance our budget funds as a fundraiser.

The coin is a full color 2" antique brass coin. The front shows a rendering of the famous Minute Man sculpture by Daniel Chester French, presently standing in Concord in recognition of the Battle of Lexington-Concord. The reverse celebrates our chapter and gives our founding date.

This impressive coin is available to all chapter members for a \$20 donation to the chapter. Donations will enable our chapter to fund even more of the activities and awards we engage in to support veterans, youth awards, public service awards and more.

Please consider making your donation this calendar year. Personally, I plan to get five of the coins to use for recruiting awareness and for recognition.

Make your donation check payable to **Plano SAR Chapter #37** and send it to **Treasurer Howard Roach at 5616 Hillsborough Drive, Plano TX, 75093**. You will receive one of the coins in return.

Let's make this a successful recognition program and fundraising opportunity.





# News Items

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## TO ALL PLANO SAR CHAPTER MEMBERS WHO SERVED DURING THE VIETNAM WAR ERA:

The Department of Defense (DoD) has authorized any veterans who served anywhere and in any capacity during the Vietnam Era, Nov 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975 to be eligible to receive a **Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin (VVLP)**.

Pins have previously been awarded at scheduled group events, but the DoD has now made it possible for eligible veterans to request a pin be delivered to their home address. This program is open to all Veterans, not just our chapter members, so if you know of eligible veterans not in our chapter, feel free to notify them of the program. If eligible Veterans have not previously received a pin, here is how one can be ordered:

1. Veterans who served anywhere in any capacity during the period Nov 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975 are eligible to receive a pin.
2. Veterans can email [whs.pentagon.wso.mbx.vnwar50th-cpp-events-application@mail.mil](mailto:whs.pentagon.wso.mbx.vnwar50th-cpp-events-application@mail.mil) and a Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin will be sent to you via USPS. Please include a good mailing address including your city and state.

If you have questions, please contact any member of our chapter Board, or contact President Bob Johns.

[rjohns@outlook.com](mailto:rjohns@outlook.com) or 847-691-9317.





# News Items

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## The SAR Education Center and Museum Liberty Tree Campaign

### A Message from SAR President General John Dodd

Greetings Compatriots,

It is with great pleasure that I inform you of a momentous development in our ongoing efforts to honor and preserve the legacy of our Patriot Ancestors. The Commonwealth of Kentucky's 2024 budget includes an allocation by the Kentucky General Assembly of \$5 million in the upcoming fiscal year to support the construction of the SAR Education Center and Museum in Louisville!

This monumental decision brings us closer to completion of your state-of-the-art facility that will enlighten and inspire citizens for decades. This important funding will keep construction on track, aiming for an opening date in 2026, coinciding with the 250th anniversary of our great Nation.

As we approach this historic 250th Anniversary, the importance of fostering a deep appreciation of our heritage and the principles upon which our country was founded cannot be overstated. The SAR Education Center and Museum will honor the sacrifices and ideals of our patriot ancestors, inspiring and educating present and future citizens to uphold their values of liberty and self-government.

Even if you have supported the project in the past, as our dream becomes reality, I encourage you to consider an additional contribution. The Liberty Tree Campaign is the easiest way to give. A small, recurring, monthly credit card contribution is the simplest way to make a difference. For those who are able, naming opportunities begin at \$100,000.00. Please contact Phil Bloyd for details. Thank you again for your support and for your important work on behalf of the SAR.

Yours in patriotism,

John L. Dodd  
President General, 2023-2024

[Click here to make a  
Contribution](#)





# News Items

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## The “Liberty Lives” T-Shirt

Compatriots,

Arlington chapter is offering these patriotic T-shirts as a fundraiser for the Chapter. The Design front and back is as shown. They are available in sizes S-XL. Price is \$20 each. Limited quantity available. More available on demand. Please share with your Compatriots.

Best Regards,

Dan Hamilton  
President, Arlington Chapter #7  
[drhami75@gmail.com](mailto:drhami75@gmail.com)





# Compatriot News



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## Patriot Stories

**Contributed by John Rothermel  
Regarding his Patriot Ancestor  
Alexander Walker**

Alexander Walker was born in 1725 in Spartanburg, South Carolina. His father, Edmund, was 40 and his mother, Judith, was 38. He married Frances Ann Scott Walker on December 22, 1757, in Amelia, Virginia. They had two children during their marriage. He died in February 1808 in Spartanburg, South Carolina, having lived a long life of 83 years.

Alexander Walker served in the military in 1776 in Spartanburg, South Carolina, when he was 51 years old.

Service in American Revolution 214 days in book 1 page 76 entry 492

1776 • Spartanburg County, South Carolina, USA

DAR records show he was a private in the South Carolina Militia.





# Compatriot News



## Chapter Compatriot Anniversaries for January

Happy Anniversary, Compatriots!

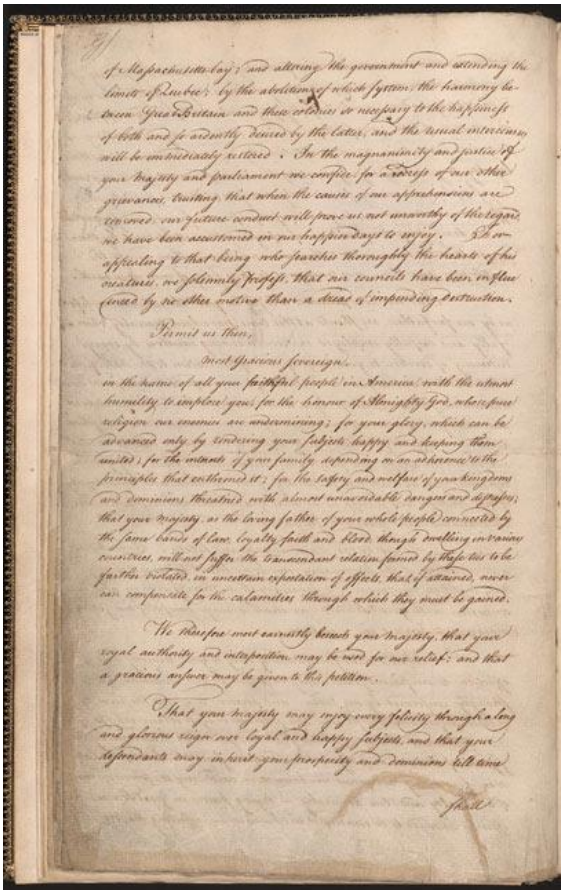
Billy Brewer, Jr.	1993
John W Crawford	1998
Mark I Dailey	2016
Mark R Dailey	2016
Tony W Day	2012
Robert L Fletcher	2018
Melvin Richards	2022
Thomas M Richards	2022
Kevin P Schuler	2000



# This Month's Fun Factoid



## The *Pennsylvania Gazette* and *Pennsylvania Journal* Turn Up the Heat in January of 1775

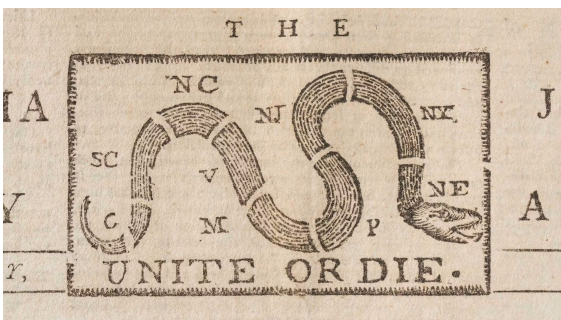


On 25 October 1774, the First Continental Congress ratified The Petition to the King, which called for the repeal of the Intolerable Acts.

On 6 November, the petition departed Philadelphia on board the ship *Mary and Elizabeth*, captained by N. Falconer. It was confirmed on December 14 that the document successfully arrived in London. The King's rejection of the Petition, was one of the causes of the later United States Declaration of Independence and American Revolutionary War.

In January of 1775, Benjamin Franklin published the text of the Petition in his newspaper, the *Pennsylvania Gazette*. The publisher of the *Pennsylvania Journal*, William Bradford, encouraged resistance to British taxation and other measures that threatened American colonists' traditional English liberties. This issue of the *Journal* from January 1775 bears the image of a rattlesnake cut into pieces, each representing an American colony or colonies, with the words "Unite or Die."

These articles reached the greatest part of the colonial population and were a contributing factor in stoking up resistance to Britain and movement toward independence.





# Connect!



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## Upcoming Meeting Tidbits and Officer Connection Information

### 7 January 2025 Meeting Highlights

- Texas SAR President Tracy A. Pounders presents “Christmas in the Revolution”.
- Induction of the Plano SAR Chapter #37 Officers for 2025.

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### Connect with our Officers!

President [Bob Johns](#)

Treasurer [Scott Knightly](#)

Color Guard Commander [Dave Fautheree](#)

VP of Medals and Awards [Kevin Ennis](#)

VP of Chapter Programs [Melvin Richards](#)

VP of Veterans Affairs [BJ Bjorklund](#)

VP of Youth Activities [Alan Roach](#)

Registrar [Duane Carter](#)

Sergeant at Arms [Ronald Carey](#)

Chaplin [Rocky Miller](#)

Secretary [Randall Bush](#)

[Plano SAR Chapter #37 Website](#)

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*“Until we meet again, let us remember  
our obligations to our forefathers who  
gave us our Constitution, the Bill of  
Rights, an Independent Supreme Court,  
and a Nation of Free Men.”*





# The Minutes

of the

**3 December 2024**

**Chapter  
Meeting**

**Plano Texas Chapter #37**

**Sons of the  
American  
Revolution**

**No Meeting! Delivering Gifts  
with Santa!**

