

## Annual Meeting - Highlights

The March annual meeting of the Robert Rankin Chapter of the National Sons of the American Revolution turned into a busy evening. We had several honored guests to assist us in the evening's events. Attending to perform our annual installation of the 2024-2025 officers was our District Vice President Ken Graahum. Also attending was Dr. Kent McGaughy, a Professor of History at Houston Community College, to give the presentation "George Washington and the West". The highlight of the meeting was the induction of two gentlemen into our organization.

Our thanks to each of them for their assistance and their passion for their dedication to our common goals.



From left to right, front row: Jack Muggli, Chip Spivey, Alex Thorne, Ralph Reed, Billy Sorrells.  
From left to right, standing Tom Jackson, Danny Lang, Fred Jackson, Robert Polk, Don Andress, Jerry Martin, Carter Sharbough, Ken Graalum

### Chapter Officers

**Alex Thorne**

President

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**Ralph Reed**

Vice-President

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Secretary

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**Billy Sorrells**

Treasurer

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**Ralph Reed**

Colorguard Captain

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**Don Andress**

Chaplain

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### The Mission of the SAR

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.

### Editor-in-Chief

**Jerry Martin**

Send articles and photos to:  
[Newsletter.rankin.sar@gmail.com](mailto:Newsletter.rankin.sar@gmail.com)

## New Member Induction

### CHAPTER EVENTS

April Meeting  
Spring Branch BBQ  
April 10, 6:30

Honor Flight  
Hobby Airport  
April 20, 7:00 pm

May Meeting  
Spring Branch BBQ  
May 8, 6:30

State Convention  
April 11-14  
San Antonio

National Congress  
Lancaster, PA  
July 10-16

The chapter inducted two new member this evening.  
New members Danny Lang and Carter Sharbrough.



Taking the Pledge. President Alex Thorne (L), Carter Sharbrough, Danny Lang, Tom Jackson



Tom Jackson (R) presents Danny Lang with his Member

Left, (L-R): Tom Jackson, Billy Sorrells, President Alex Thorne, new members Carter Sharbrough, Danny Lang, and Ralph Reed.



Tom Jackson (R) presents Carter Sharbrough with his Member pin.



### Installing Officer:

Gentlemen, having been duly elected to office in the Robert Rankin Chapter Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution, do you promise and swear to support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution and Bylaws of the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution; and do you further promise and swear that you will faithfully discharge the duties of your office to the best of your knowledge and ability, and that you will, at all times, conduct yourself in a manner worthy of our Society, so help you God?

**Response: I do.**

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## JROTC Committee – What’s it all about

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The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) awards ROTC Medals to foster the principle of the “citizen-soldier,” exemplified by the Minutemen of Revolutionary War days. This award is presented by an SAR Chapter, State-level Society, or the National Society to ROTC or JROTC cadets who are selected for having a high degree of merit with respect to leadership qualities, military bearing, and general excellence. The recipients are selected by the Commanding Officer of the ROTC or JROTC unit.

Robert Rankin Chapter services 16 schools in the Katy/Houston/Waller area. Schools have their military award ceremonies every spring – primarily in April and May. Members are encouraged to assist with the presentations. Due to the time constraints, rarely are presenting compatriots required to speak. Basically, shake hands with the winner, pass them the certificate and medal, and pose for a picture. Continental Uniforms or Militia Uniforms are the best; however, a blue sports jacket and tie would be just fine.

For high school (JROTC) there are two different awards given out. The Bronze ROTC medal and the Enhanced Bronze Medal. Requirements for the Bronze medal are 3<sup>rd</sup> year, top 10% JROTC class, and top 25% HS class. For the Enhanced Bronze Medal, those requirements, write a 500-word essay, and the Principal’s Endorsement. Chapter winners receive a \$100 check, State winners receive \$3,500 check, and National winners receive \$5,000 check. Robert Rankin has had several State and National winners over the past few years. In 2024, we have a State winner at Waller High School.

### COMMUNICATION IS KEY

When a new compatriot is created, they know little to nothing about the committees, governance, documentation, or other aspects of this organization. Our goal with this new newsletter is to address this need by highlighting different committees and other groups. When we can, we will have the committee chairman explain how that team works, how you can take part, and what kind of time commitment is required.

### HONOR FLIGHT

#### OUR MISSION

To celebrate America’s veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation’s memorials in Washington, D.C.

#### OUR VISION

A nation where all of America’s veterans experience the honor, gratitude, and community of support they deserve.

Participation in an Honor Flight trip gives veterans the opportunity to share this momentous occasion with other comrades, remember the fallen, and share their stories and experiences with other veterans. Honored veterans always travel free of charge, thanks to generous donations to our organization.

## Our Chapter

The Robert Rankin Chapter was chartered in 2002 and finished its first full year in March 2003. The Chapter Members have wholeheartedly embraced the goals of the National Society and have chosen to primarily focus on youth-based programs. Past National Society President General Nathan White described the Chapter “as the model chapter for our organization.” Robert Rankin has been highlighted as the outstanding chapter of its size 16 times on a state basis and 6 times on a national basis. Its youth contestants have placed first on a state basis 19 times and 2 national first place winners.

### How will you choose to serve?

You joined to honor your Patriot ancestor who helped create a country. Stay for the fellowship and join us in patriotic service.

Every time you take part in an activity, the chapter as well as the compatriot acquire points that can be used to obtain medals for the compatriot and accolades and awards for the chapter. If you choose to purchase continental uniforms or dress as militia, more points are earned.

Whether you are in Color Guard or not, you can participate in the National Program “Wreaths Across America”, which is a valuable and heartwarming experience.

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## The 250<sup>th</sup> is here. Will You Join Us In Celebration?

July 4, 2026 will be the 250<sup>th</sup>  
birthday of our country.

It didn't start or stop on that day,  
but was a decade long process:  
1773 - 1783

[america250sar.org](http://america250sar.org)

## Memorable events

250 years ago...

- 2023 Boston Tea Party
- 2024 The First Continental Congress
- 2025 Battles of Lexington and Concord.
- 2026 Declaration of Independence
- 2027 Battle of Saratoga
- 2028 French Alliance
- 2029 Siege of Vincennes/Kettle Creek
- 2030 Battle of Kings Mountain
- 2031 Siege of Yorktown
- 2032 Battle of Blue Licks
- 2033 Treaty of Paris