



# The San Antonio Compatriot

TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



July-August 2024  
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Issue #4

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## Chapter Meetings

### Chapter Executive Committee

**Meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed., 11:30 AM  
Sept 11th & Oct 9th  
La Fonda Restaurant  
8633 Crownhill Blvd  
(Reservations not needed)

### Chapter Meetings:

3<sup>rd</sup> Wed., 11:30 AM,  
Sept 18th & Oct 16th  
Petroleum Club

8620 N. New Braunfels

**Reservations are required:**

[txsarch4reservations@gmail.com](mailto:txsarch4reservations@gmail.com)

## President's Message

Greetings San Antonio Compatriots,

We were blessed with eight inches of July rainfall here in Blanco. Hopefully you enjoyed some of that as well. Now on to an otherwise normal Texas August. I hope this newsletter finds you healthy and busy. Your chapter certainly was busy this summer.



Our back - to - back Independence Day activities alone fulfilled our primary mission of promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and inspiring future generations. As to service to our community we were recognized at the National Congress for the highest participation in serving Veterans by being awarded the NSSAR Stark Memorial Award for 2023-2024 in our highly competitive 200-499 members group. Outstanding service indeed and very difficult to earn. Should you like to join with us in serving veterans please reach out to me or Committee Chair Frank Rohrbough and we can have even more fun.

This time of year it is very important to ensure your current contact information is listed on our roster. We need to know addresses and email changes. Please refer to page 10, Dues Reminder article, on how to update your information. My recent review of the roster on the state web site showed over 35 members with no email. Other than attending chapter meetings email is the only way we can pass information to you. **Please** update your information. Yes, I know most of you receive this newsletter via email or download it from the chapter website.

Let's make this fall dues paying process simple and easy and we can if your contact information is current. Thank you for your attention to this important task.

I look forward to seeing you at our

September 11, 2024 chapter meeting. Until then, be safe.

Huzzah! Blair



## Member's Corner



**Sidney Joseph Francis II (8/12/1932 – 3/25/2024)** – It is with sad heart to announce that long time SAR member, Compatriot Sidney Francis, has passed away at age 91. He was born in San Antonio to parents, Mattie and David Francis. The family moved to Luling, Texas in 1936 where Sidney initially attended school. He later attended The San Antonio Academy. After graduation he enrolled at the University of the South in Sewanee, TN and later matriculated to UT Austin.

He enlisted in the Army after graduation serving his time in Germany. He returned home to live both in Luling and San Antonio where he began his 35 year banking career at Citizens State Bank of Luling. He became the bank president and finally Chairman of the Board until his retirement.

In the '60's, Sidney restored his family's 1849 farmhouse on their cotton plantation in Kingsbury, Texas, which was eventually listed in the Historic American Buildings Survey and the National Registry of Historic Places. He was a member of numerous heritage organizations. Sidney will certainly be missed in the community. He was buried on April 1, 2024 at the Luling City Cemetery in Luling, TX.

**Thomas Bruce Green, III (7/17/1939 – 7/16/2024)** - He was born in Athens, TX. After graduating from North Texas State University, he enrolled in the U.S. Navy Officer's Candidate School. After commissioning, Tom attended the U.S. Navy Deep Sea Diving School. He served on a salvage vessel in Vietnam as well as patrolling near the Panama Canal during the Cuban missile crisis. Tom served as Diving Repair Officer, Gunnery Officer, Navigator, and Training Officer in the Underwater Swimmers Naval School. Tom worked as the Operating Manager for two department stores and later a co-owner of the family grocery store. He also worked in the insurance field as an agency co-owner

and later for the Texas State Department of Insurance. Tom was active in the Sons of the Republic of Texas (SRT) and the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). He was an SRT president. He also served as Texas state president of SAR. Tom earned the George Washington Distinguished Service Award and named the National Color Guardsman of the Year by the National Society Sons of the American Revolution. He collected over 75 historic flags and presented more than 750 Historic Flag Programs. His greatest joy was presenting flag programs to over 30,000 school children from Texas to Indiana. Funeral services were on 7/29/2024 at the St. Peter and Paul Cemetery, New Braunfels, TX.



Compatriots Blair Rudy, Edward Butler, Richard Weitzel, Kevin Kanter, Frank Rohrbough and Jason Chall were in attendance.



## Member's Corner



**SAR-DAR Membership Recruitment** – A group of SAR and DAR members gathered at the Army Residence Community (ARC) on 8/8/2024 to recruit new members. Most agreed that the ARC could be fruitful “hunting ground” for members since the ARC membership is predominately prior military. The two organizations highlighted their purpose through posters and a slide show displaying a cross section of activities. There were computers available to help search for patriots if needed, members present to answer questions, and pamphlets to hand out to interested visitors. The time spent was fruitful not only in obtaining names of interested people, but also in being present and “sowing the seeds” for future membership from the residents living at the ARC. Like the giant oak tree that begins from an acorn seed, the SAR journey begins with planting a seed of information peaking interest, then cultivating the connection to hopefully lead to membership. The photos below depict the event.



SAR and DAR L-R: DAR Regent Cindy Watson and SASAR President Blair Rudy Pat Setheney, Jannette Kirts, Kevin Kanter, Mike Bowles, Judy McKee, Liz Lampright, Jean Kanter, Taleea Paz, and Bob Watson



Members posing with Barent Dutcher, the Longest tenured chapter member for 65 years. L-R: Blair Rudy, Kevin Kanter, Bob Watson, Mike Bowles, and Barent Dutcher sitting.



Mike Bowles with SAR activities poster.





## Chapter News



**Hyatt Resort Independence Day:** As they have done for 13 of last 14 years, the Hyatt Hill Country Resort invited our chapter to conduct a Historical Educational Presentation program for their guests on July 3rd. In return, they provide a \$500 honorarium to be used for our education programs. The program is always well attended and this year was no exception. 17 chapter members and four DAR ladies conducted the program, which included color guard and individual presentations of various Revolutionary War activities. Compatriot Frank Rohrbough was the master of ceremonies. Several individuals spoke on a variety of things from the history of the flag, musket loading and shooting, colonial uniforms, and the artillery used during the war. A favorite event was when Compariot Baron supervised the attendees firing the musket. The DAR ladies had a table depicting the duties of the “camp followers”, which were women who provided a wide array of services in camp, from cooking to nursing, to the fighting men. Cambell Baron, past CAR president, provided coloring books for the guest’s children. The following pictures showcase the activities at this successful event.



**Color Guard L-R: Blair Rudy, Peter Baron, Fred soupiset, Ron Finch, Randy Fleishman, Frank Keelman, Campbell**



**Musket Demonstration:  
Peter Baron**



**L-R:  
Peter Baron  
Hyatt guest**



## Chapter News



### Hyatt Resort Independence Day in Pictures



**Musket Table:**



**Artillery Table:**  
(L-R) Peter Baron, Joe Weathersby



**Flag History:**  
Peter Baron



**Currency Table:**  
L-R: Mike Bowles, Larry Loop



**Flag & Appreciation Certificates:**  
L-R: Pres. Rudy, Tony Moraga,  
Frank Rohrbough



**Camp Followers:**  
L-R: Diane  
Rohrbough, Valerie





## Chapter News



### Fourth of July Patriotic Ceremony

**Ft Sam Houston National Cemetery:** Each year, the Order of Granaderos y Damas de Galvez, San Antonio Chapter hosts a patriotic ceremony honoring the heroes of the American Revolution, General Bernardo Galvez of Spain, and the original 13 colonies. In 1780, when General Washington was battling the British in the north, General Galvez and his army fought the British in the south capturing the heavily defended Ft. Charlotte forcing the British to surrender. General Galvez and his army fought bravely against England throughout the war never losing a battle against the British soldiers. Members of SAR, San Antonio Chapter #4 along with numerous other heritage organizations presented a wreath to honor the brave heroes of the Revolutionary War. These pictures showcase this solemn annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July event:



Order of Granaderos



SAR Members - San Antonio and Boerne Chapt.:  
Front Row L-R:  
Frank Rohrbough, Blair Rudy,  
Ryan Simmons (civilian clothes) .  
Dale Tidwell (Boerne), Bob Watson  
Back row compatriots from other SAR chapters



## Chapter News



### Battle of Medina Commemoration

On August 17<sup>th</sup> in Lemming, TX (Near Poteet), Chapter members along with other organizations commemorated the historic Battle of Medina. This is an annual event honoring the nearly 1400 soldiers who gave their life fighting for Mexican independence from Spanish rule.

#### Battle History

The **Battle of Medina** was fought on August 18, 1813, approximately 20 miles south of modern day downtown San Antonio. It was part of the Mexican War of independence against Spanish authority in Mexico. Spanish troops defeated the Republican Army of the North. This was the deadliest battle in Texas history. The battle with 1400 soldiers lasted for four hours and fewer than 100 soldiers survived. The location of the Battle of Medina has not been archaeologically determined, however, there are three historical markers in the area indicating the possible battle location.



L-R: Gary Barker, David Hamaker, Unkown, Ed Sellards, Frank Kebelman, Robert Duckworth, Mike Giglio, Unknown

Unknowns from other chapters/organizations



Depiction from Wikipedia





## Miscellaneous



### Birth of the Marines

The Second Continental Congress passed a resolution on November 10, 1775, that established two Battalions of Marines to serve as landing forces on land and sea. It was this resolution that marked the birth date of the United States Marine Corps. The Marines immediately distinguished themselves in a number of important operations. Their first amphibious raid was conducted into the Bahamas in March 1776, under the command of Captain Samuel Nicholas.

Captain Nicholas was the first commissioned officer in the Continental Marines and remained the senior Marine officer throughout the American Revolution. Captain Nicholas was promoted and is now considered to be the first Marine Commandant.

The Treaty of Paris in April 1783 was the official end to the Revolutionary War and the last Navy's ships were sold, which put the Continental Navy and Marines went out of existence. July 11, 1798, is a significant day in U.S. history for it was this day that the United States Marine Corps was

re-established as a separate and distinct branch of service. President John Adams and Marine Corps Commandant William W. Burton authorized this rebirth, which established the modern U.S. Marine Corps, which has since grown to become a renowned elite fighting force. The Marine Corps is known for bravery, discipline, and esprit de corps. The Marine Corps' iconic hymn, "Semper Fidelis" was written shortly after the re-birth and remains the Marine Corps hymn today.



#### Sources:

[Naval History and Heritage Command](#)

[Armed Forces Day "History of Marine Corps Day"](#)

[Marine Corps Web Site - "History of U.S. Marine Corps"](#)





## Miscellaneous



### Adoption of the Declaration of Independence “The rest of the story”

The Declaration of Independence was adopted July 4, 1776. Congress had voted unanimously to sever all ties with Great Britain. The actual date of the decision to break from Great Britain was July 2nd, but the language of Congress' public announcement was adopted on July 4th. Confusion often arises because of the date discrepancy and here is the rest of the story.

Richard Henry Lee of Virginia presented the Lee Resolution to Congress on June 7, 1776, calling for a declaration of independence, the creation of foreign alliances and the confederation of the 13 colonies. Congress immediately appointed a committee of five to prepare a declaration of independence, but the vote was tabled until July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Committee of Five, consisting of Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman and Robert Livingston were the five tasked with writing the declaration. Thomas Jefferson wrote most of the document with input from the others. Twelve of the 13 colonies, with New York abstaining, voted for independence on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and the final version was adopted on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

On the evening of July 4th, about 200 copies of the Declaration of Independence were printed and sent around the country to be read and published in newspapers. The first public readings occurred in Philadelphia in Easton, Pennsylvania and in Trenton, New Jersey. George Washington had the Declaration read to the Continental Army in New York City on July 9th.

The first Declaration did not have the signatures of the 56 signers. Instead, most were added to a parchment copy on August 2nd. Others, not present, signed at later dates. In January, 1777, Congress printed more copies, which included all 56 signatures. This was the first time the world learned who had signed the document. Many of the signers suffered great personal harm during the war because of their loyalties to the American cause. Some signers, such as Thomas Jefferson, Samuel Adams, John Hancock and Benjamin Franklin, went on to become political leaders of the new United States and eventually became heroic and iconic figures of American history.

Source:

[Revolutionary War and Beyond](#)



## Miscellaneous



**Two Sisters Lake Boat Parade:** Two Sisters Lake is near Minocqua, Oneida County, in northern Wisconsin. President Rudy and family joined others in the family vacation cabin located on the lake since 1969. The cabin serves as a rally point for the extended family year round. Every year, the Two Sisters Lake Protection Association holds an Independence Day boat parade around the lake's perimeter. The Rudy family was honored by winning the best decorated boat entry for the 9<sup>th</sup> time. This year, President Rudy's wife, Candy (DAR member) and granddaughter Harper (CAR member) joined the other family members for this year's boat parade. Photo-Rudy family boat



**Dues Reminder:** The time to renew your dues is rapidly approaching. They are due by December 31<sup>st</sup>. You can pay your dues through the state website: [texassar.org](http://texassar.org). Select the Home tab then the "Private Site Member login." The dues link is the last link within the Members tab. Enter your national number to obtain an invoice to pay by mail or select the "Click Here" link to pay with credit card or Paypal, which are the preferred methods. Please create a reminder to pay your dues NLT December 31.

**Please update** your contact information on the state SAR website. The following link will take you to the contact change form. [https://www.texassar.org/!!TXS!!SAR!!/contact\\_change.htm](https://www.texassar.org/!!TXS!!SAR!!/contact_change.htm). It is important for us to be able to maintain contact with you. Contact Bob Watson at [beaglebud@satx.rr.com](mailto:beaglebud@satx.rr.com) if you need help with log in information.

**Possible Meeting Location Change:** The chapter's contract with the Petroleum Club is coming up for renewal and there appears to be an opportunity to change the monthly meeting location to the Army Residence Community (ARC) located at 7400 Crestway Rd, San Antonio, TX 78239, which is just west of Universal City off Kitty Hawk. This would result in a significant savings to the members, a plated lunch vice lunch buffet, and a reduction in cost to the chapter. Several chapter members have attended meetings at the ARC and can attest that the food is every bit as good (if not better in some cases) than the Petroleum Club. We have a member who has volunteered to serve as our sponsor should we choose to switch to the ARC. This change would take effect in January 2025. The EC is soliciting your inputs to this change. Please send comments to Kevin anter, [kevinkanter@icloud.com](mailto:kevinkanter@icloud.com), Blair Rudy, [blairrudy@icloud.com](mailto:blairrudy@icloud.com), or Bob Watson, [beaglebud@satx.rr.com](mailto:beaglebud@satx.rr.com) NLT than September 30<sup>th</sup>."





## Miscellaneous



**Stark Award:** The USS Stark Memorial Award, authorized in 1988 (revised 2003), was established to memorialize those brave men and women who continue to stand at the forefront to preserve the freedoms our patriotic ancestors fought so long and hard to achieve.

The purpose of this national award is to recognize outstanding chapters and the most outstanding state society within the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution for their participation with the Veteran community, and supporting activities of the NSSAR Veteran's Committee. The award is based on points earned for specific activities and hours spent in service to veterans and veteran programs.

The San Antonio SAR chapter #4 was presented the award for 2023-2024 for chapters with 200-499 members. The award consists of a certificate, medallion, and a flag banner. You should be proud of your chapter for its dedication to veterans and for this award recognition



**Mentors:** The chapter needs mentors badly. Previous newsletters have mentioned this, but the lack of responses requires mentioning (begging) again. Please volunteer to help the prospective members as needed and also to help your chapter. Being a mentor is just being there. It takes very little time, but provides the prospective member someone to ask questions to and to guide them through the arduous application process, provide SAR information, and highlight Chapter procedures. Won't you step up to the plate and take one for the chapter. Please, contact Bob Watson at [beaglebud@satx.rr.com](mailto:beaglebud@satx.rr.com) to volunteer.



## Miscellaneous



### SAR National Eagle Scout Award Winner

Ricardo N. Lazaro, a 16 year old local student, is dedicated to scouting and has won numerous awards from various organizations. Recently, he was recognized at the SAR National Conference as the nation's "Top Eagle Scout" and won the National SAR Arthur M. & Berdena King Eagle Scout contest. He received \$10,000 as the first place winner. Ricardo completed a very rare feat in the scouting. He earned all 139 merit badges and 23 Eagle Palms, which only 88 out of 130 million Americans who have participated in scouting programs in the 113-year history of scouting have accomplished.

His dedication to scouting programs is only part of his accomplishments. Ricardo is a self-taught, trumpet player who learned to play primarily by watching performances of some of the world's greatest trumpeters on YouTube. He played with the Youth Orchestra of San Antonio, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, National Festival Symphony Orchestra, YOSA Mariachi, and the San Antonio Youth Wind Ensemble (SAYWE). He received the Jeck Kent Cooke Young Artist Fellowship and the S.E. Shires Rising Artist Fellowship. Ricardo earned numerous other musical awards along with his scouting awards and will play "Taps" on Memorial Day at the Ft. Sam Houston Cemetery.

Ricardo placed in the finals of the International Trumpet Guild's Ryan Anthony Memorial Trumpet Competition – Youth Division twice.

He received Honors in instrumental solo competitions through the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) and the Texas Christian Athletic League (TCAL). He appeared twice on national television playing "Taps" in honor of the fallen children at Robb Elementary school during the Uvalde shooting. His SAR award will let him purchase the three trumpets required for his professional studies and greatly support his music education eventually leading him into the professional world.

In his "spare time", Ricardo remains an honor roll student and ranks at the top of his 11<sup>th</sup> grade class. Ricardo is truly a remarkable young man who looks to reach very lofty goals.



Ricardo Lazaro

Trumpet photo by Fromthetop.org





## Miscellaneous



## Birthdays



### July

Howard	Haring	Mark	Ware
Harvey	Hubbard	George	Saidler
Mark	Smith	James	Campbell
Walter	Scul	Samuel	Smith
James	Crowther	Gale	Ebie
William	Elmer	Maxie	Perdue
Kenneth	Williamson	Ronald	Stevens
Phillip	Strickland	Lee	Morris
Robert	Kruger	John	Bell
Joe	Weathersby	George	Becknell
Blair	Rudy	William	Hall
Randall	Fleisher	Kevin	Kanter
Robert	Brady	Frank	Rohrbough
Stephen	Rohrbough		

### August

David	Bowles	Frank	Nichols
Jim	Massingill	Thomas	O'Brien
Norman	Krimbill	Donald	Elliott
David	Richmond	Paul	Ruckman
David	Elsey	Yancey	Swearingen
Ronald	Graves	Gary	Moseley
William	Hall	Eilert	Weitzel
Roger	Tietz	Edward	Ritchie
Morris	McKee	John	Hinnant
Frederic	Soupiiset	Jon	Sandidge
Thomas	McNish	Robert	Dorsey
Rueben	Perez		
Larry	Loop		



## Membership Milestones

Congratulations - The Chapter thanks these members for their continued support of SAR for so many years.

### 5\_yrs of Service

Yancey Swearingen  
Jason Chall  
David Batson  
John Whittenburg  
Jason Green  
Christopher Petty  
Mark Lavezzari  
Grant Chandler  
John Hale  
Kirby Kleeberg  
Martin McGuill

### 25\_yrs of service

Robert Carroll  
David Bowles

### 10\_yrs of Service

Jett Leonard  
Harris Leonard  
Robert Leonard  
Wilbur Valentine  
Bradford Hornbuckle  
Dustin Whittenburg  
Bobby Vernor  
Daniel Garcia  
John Sutton  
Sidney Francis  
Scott Talbott  
Terril Mendenhall  
Matthew Brady

### 35\_yrs of service

Joe Pope

### 15\_yrs of service

Robert Brady  
Robert Wilder  
Campbell Baron  
Fred Pfeiffer

### 20\_yrs of service

Robert Giffin





## Coming Events

September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Labor Day	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 EC Meeting 11:30	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 General Meeting 11:30	19	20	21
22 Fall Begins	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 EC Meeting 11:30	10	11	12
13	14 Columbus Day	15	16 General Meeting 11:30	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween		

**NOTE:** With the exception of the Poster contest due NLT Feb. 1st, all youth award entries are due NLT Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>