

TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Jan-Feb 2025 **Editor: Compatriot Bob Watson** beaglebud@satx.rr.com

#### Compatriot Frank Kebelman, President kebelman@gmail.com

Issue #1



# President'S SAR Mission Statement

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism,

serving our communities, educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.

Dear Fellow Compatriots,

Thank you for offering me the opportunity to serve as president of the San Antonio Chapter, Texas SAR. We are approaching our ninety-fifth year and its record of achievement and its success is one in which we can all take pride. I want to also thank each of you who planned, organized, and attended our chapter Gala in January. It was a most enjoyable evening thanks to all who worked so hard. Congratulations should also be extended to our 2024 President Blair Rudy for his leadership, guidance and visionary outlook. Blair, thank you for leading us and helping us to grow as a chapter.

2024 was another successful year. Thanks to Larry Luckett's care and attention to detail we inducted seventeen new members. Both the Stark Report and the Americanism Report are complete and ready to submit, and our color guard members supported a wide range of public activities. Past Chapter President Larry Loop was selected to receive the Patriot Medal. Numerous other individual awards were earned by members who so beautifully hosted the annual Texas SAR meeting in April.

As we begin another year, I want to encourage each compatriot to reach out to those they know who might be interested in joining our society. Membership will always be our number one priority. Further, get to know our new members and offer your support and advice as they begin their NSSAR careers. We can always use more volunteers to serve on committees and become chapter officers.

I look forward to working with each of you to support the goals of the Texas Society SAR.

Warmest regards.

Frank

### **Chapter Meetings**

**Executive Committee Meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. 11:30 AM March 12th & April 9th La Fonda Restaurant 8633 Crownhill Blvd (Reservations not needed)

Chapter Meetings: 3 rd Wed. 11:30 AM, March 19th & Apr 16th **Petroleum Club** 8620 N. New Braunfels **Reservations are required:** txsarch4reservations@gmail.com

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## The San Antonio Compatriot

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### **Member's Corner**



**Member Deaths** – Unfortunately, the chapter was saddened to learn of some member deaths since the last newsletter. The chapter will miss these long time members.

#### Albert Gallatin - 1931-2025

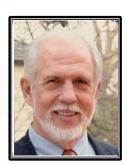


Albert was a past president of the chapter and an SAR member for over 22 years. Born in San Antonio, he graduated from Jefferson High School and graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in Business Administration. After serving two years in the Army after college, he became a Certified Public Accountant owning his practice until his death on January 5, 2025. He was also a past president general of the San Jacinto Descendants, a board member of the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society, and won many awards with the Business and Professional Toastmasters.

Albert loved the outdoors and in Boy Scouts, earned the rank of Eagle Scout. He was an avid genealogist and a very active member of the community. He will certainly be missed by his family and friends.

### Thomas M. McNish MD, Col. (Ret) USAF- 1942-2024

Col. McNish was born in Madison, TN. in 1942 and was a 1964 graduate of the USAF Academy. He was inducted into SAR and the chapter in 2018. Tom was a Vietnam War Veteran who flew 45 combat missions in the F-105. Unfortunately, he was shot down in 1966, was captured, and spent 2,373 days as a North Vietnamese POW. Upon his repatriation in 1973, he studied medicine at Emory University School of Medicine and completed residencies in both Family Practice and Aerospace Medicine in 1978.



Dr. McNish completed his distinguished military career as one of the few pilot physicians maintaining currency as both a Flight Surgeon and in the A-10 fighter aircraft. After promotion to Colonel, he served as the Myrtle Beach AFB and Holloman AFB hospital commander. He deployed to Iraq at the end of Desert Storm in 1991 to medically evaluate returning POWs. Col. McNish ended his military career as Command Flight Surgeon for the AF Reserve in the Surgeon General's office at the Pentagon. As a civilian doctor, he was on the team to investigate the Space Shuttle Columbia crash, the September 11th Flt. 93 crash in Pennsylvania, and the Daytona 500 crash that took the life of Dale Earnhardt. Dr. McNish will be missed by the community, SAR, the chapter, and his family.

# SAR San Antonio Chapter

Texas

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### **Member's Corner**



**Phillip "Hoppy" Strickland - 1952 - 2024:** Hoppy passed away peacefully in Dallas, Texas, on November 27, 2024. He was a beloved grandfather, father, and husband, known for his humor, strong work ethic, and passion for the outdoors. Raised in Houston, he attended Bellaire High School where he met his future wife, Susie. They shared 48 years together.

He graduated from the University of Texas in 1975. In 1976, he returned to Houston to accept a job in the petrochemical industry.

Hoppy and Susie moved to San Antonio in 1981 where they raised their son, Keil, and became members of Alamo Heights United Methodist Church. He was an avid outdoorsman, loved fishing, bird hunting, and generally, exploring America's national parks. Hoppy had been an SAR member for over 35 years. His absence will certainly be noticed in the chapter.



#### **New Member Induction**

**Michael W. Skiles**: Mike was inducted into the chapter at the February 19<sup>th</sup> general meeting. After the induction, he described the service of his patriot ancestor, John Clark. Additionally, he gave a moving discussion of other relatives who died from Native American attacks on the Kentucky frontier. The national Society also approved Mike's son, Michael D. and his three year old grandson, Rafael A. Neither of them were present as both reside in California. President Kebelman provided Mike with their certificates who will give to them. Welcome to the chapter Mike.



L-R: Michael Skiles, President Frank Kebelman

# SAR San Antonio Chapter

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### **Chapter News**



#### The Gala

One of the chapter's major events of the year, the annual Gala, was held on January 18<sup>th</sup> and was attended by over 70 members, spouses, and guests as well as several state officers including the Texas SAR President, Tracy Pounders, the State Secretary, Kevin Kanter, and Past State President Drake Preddie. We were also honored to have in attendance, Past President General Judge Ed Butler and his wife Robin who has been a chapter member since 1986. The gala was a huge success and the evening was filled with entertainment provided by Jay Higginson, Past President, and great comradery. A main event of the Gala is to induct the new officers for the coming year. Below, Texas State President, Tracy Pounders, inductes the 2025 chapter officers.



**State President Tracy Pounders Inducting 2025 Officers** 

## The San Antonio Compatriot

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### **Chapter News**



#### **SA Chapter 2025 Officers**

Here are your 2025 officers and contact information. The position of Recording Secretary is vacant. Mike Bowles has agreed to continue in this position until a volunteer is identified. Please step forward and volunteer to fill this critical position and assist your chapter to conduct business. Contact any officer or Bob Watson, <a href="mailto:beaglebud@satx.rr.com">beaglebud@satx.rr.com</a> to volunteer to serve. Do not hesitate to reach out to any officer with questions, comments, or suggestions for the betterment of the chapter.

President	Frank Kebelman			
1st Vice President	Mike Bowles	Contact Bob Watson, Membership Chairman, at		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Ron Finch			
Recording Secretary	Mike Bowles			
Corresponding Secretary	Frank Rohrbough	beaglebud@satx.rr.com		
Chancellor	Ed Synder III	for more information on the		
Sgt at Arms	Ron Finch	chapter or to obtain an		
Treasurer	Randall Fleisher	officer's contact		
Registrar	Larry Luckett	information.		
Chaplain	Larry Loop	5-2		
Genealogist	Larry Luckett			
Historian	Dan Farris			

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### **Chapter News**



### President Rudy Presents Gala Awards and Recognitions



SAR Medal of Appreciation L-R: Karen Mueller, Joy Collins, Frank Rohrbough



11 past presidents in attendance L-R: Bob Hancock, Stephen Rohrbough, Jay Higginson, George Harcourt, Dick Weitzel, Blair Rudy, Judge Butler, Frank Rohrbough, Rev. Taylor, Kevin Kanter, Frank Kebelman



Henry Knox Achievement Medal Dianne Rohrbough, Frank Rohrbough



Lydia Darragh Medal Candy Rudy



Chapter Service Medal L-R: Jay Higginson, Randy Fleisher, Stephen Rohrbough, Presenter





2025 Officer Induction (Ref. Page 5)



Bronze Roger Sherman Medal Stephen Rohrbough



Bronze Roger Sherman Medal Frank Rohrbough



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### **Chapter News**



#### Gala Awards and Recognitions (Cont.)

- 1. The **Henry Knox Medal** is awarded to a Compatriot or non-SAR member to recognize a specific outstanding contribution or achievement that advances the SAR mission. The following individuals were not present to receive their medals and they will be presented at a future date to be determined.: Rita Schimpff, Peter Baron, Jim Massingill, Ed Snyder III.
- 2. The USS Stark Memorial Award recognizes outstanding chapters that have exceptional overall Veterans programs to support Veterans from all branches of service. Frank Rohrbough, Veterans Committee Chairman, received the award for the chapter.
- 3. Frank Kebelman presented Compatriot Walt Skull a memorial coin recognizing him as the most senior member attending the Gala. Walt Joined SAR in May 1986.
- 4. Youth Awards to be presented at a date yet to be determined. Winners of these contests advance to the State and hopefully on to the National contests. Scholarship money is awarded at each level. Good luck to the winners.

**Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration Contest** winners were: 1<sup>st</sup>-Regina Arista, 2<sup>nd</sup> (tie) - Thomas Spenser & Sylvia Naiem.

George and Stella Knight Essay Contest winners were: 1st - Lenna Farris, 2nd - Sylvia Naiem, 3rd - Isabel Soto



Chapter Service Medal L-R: Pres. Blair Rudy Frank Kebelman Stephen Rohrbough



Frank Kebelman Promoted to Color Guard Major L-R: Frank Kebelman, Pres. Blair Rudy

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### **Chapter News**



#### Gala Awards and Recognitions (Cont.)



State President Tracy Pounders Presented Past President General Ed Butler and wife Robin

The National 250 Gold Medal



Past State President Drake Preddie and Blair Rudy exchanged Chapter Challenge Coins



President Frank Kebelman Presents Blair Rudy Chapter Meritorious Service Medal



Past President Dick Weitzel Presents
Blair Rudy
Chapter Past
Presidents Pin



President Blair Rudy Presents
Candy Rudy, Marci Pounders, Cookie Kebelman
Flower Bouquets
for their Support throughout husband's term of
office



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### **Chapter News**



### **President George Washington Proclamation**

Past president Blair Rudy attended three city council meetings in colonial attire to receive the George Washington Proclamation. Pictured below is Stephanie Fisher, Johnson City Mayor, and Mike Arnold, Blanco Mayor, recognizing the importance of George Washington and declared February 22, 2025 as George Washington Day. County Judge Brett Bray (not Pictured) also presented Blair with a Washington

Proclamation.



Blair Rudy Stephanie Fisher Johnson



L-R: Candy Rudy, Blanco Mayor Mike Arnold, Blair Rudy





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### **Chapter News**



#### **National Salute to Veterans Events**

**Veterans Week** – Each year, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) conducts a National Salute to Veterans week. The event occurred during the week of February 10-15. This event is dedicated to honor hospitalized and outpatient Veterans who receive healthcare services throughout the Veterans Healthcare System. More than nine million Veterans are cared for each day in VA medical facilities, outpatient clinics, domiciliary sites, and community living centers throughout the U.S. The focus of this event is to "honor and thank veterans for their military service".

The main event is held at the Audie L. Murphy VA Medical Center. On February 13<sup>th</sup>, Compatriot Frank Rohrbough and two Active Duty Colonels from Brooke Army Medical Center were escorted through the Polytrauma Ward to greet hospitalized veterans. The Chief of Staff for the Medical Center joined the group. Several Veterans were greeted and given Valentine Cards from students from the local Elementary Schools. Compatriot Rohrbough also recognize two of the Veterans who served during the Vietnam War Era and pinned them with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Lapel Pin. Compatriot Rohrbough provided a brief remark about the National Salute to Veterans Program and to personally recognize the veterans for their service.



Frank Rohrbough presenting 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary lapel pin to inpatient veteran.



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### **Chapter News**



#### National Salute to Veterans Week Events (Cont.)

Shavano Park VA Clinic Mini-Reception – Mini-receptions were held at the outpatient clinics to thank Veterans for their service. The concept is to help get the Veteran's day started with some cheer and to let them know they and their service have not been forgotten. This is a particular significant event for those Veterans who do not have family in the area and can enjoy a friendly face. This year the chapter hosted a mini-reception at the Shavano Park VA Outpatient Clinic on February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> where snacks, drinks, and Valentine's Day cards were handed out to 63 veterans at the clinic for medical appointments. The Veterans enjoy talking with chapter member Veterans who shared some of their same experiences.

In addition to the reception, four Veterans were recognized for their service during the Vietnam War era and were presented the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Lapel Pin.



L-R: President Frank Kebelman, Frank Rohrbough, Randy Fleisher. Mike Bowles



Frank Rohrbough Presenting a Vietnam 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Lapel Pin.



L-R: Frank Rohrbough, Mike Bowles



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### **Chapter News**



**Chapter Color Guard** – The chapter color guard presented the colors at the DAR Alamo Chapter meeting at Club Giraud on February 13, 2025. As part of the meeting, SAR Chapter President Frank Kebelman presented Rita Schimpff the SAR Henry Knox medal, announced at the Gala, for her outstanding support with the grave marking ceremonies, grave stone cleaning classes, and participation in the Veterans Parade.



L-R: Ron Finch, Frank Rohrbough, Frank Kebelman, Randy Fleisher



L-R: Ron Finch, Randy Fleisher, Valorie Finch, Rita Schmpiff, Frank Kebelman, Frank Rohrbough



President Frank Kebelman Presenting Rita Schimpff the Henry Knox Medal as Rita's granddaughter Addie looks on.

#### **Wreaths across America**

Honoring our fallen heroes is a major goal for the chapter and is an ongoing effort. The chapter has been local sponsors of Wreaths Across America for the past few years. Wreaths are laid at the grave of each veteran who served in defense of our nation. While the wreaths are laid at the veterans' graves during December, we have set up our account early in an effort to increase our participation this year. We are requesting you step up and help us with this endeavor. To purchase your wreath, use the link provided on the chapter website (texassar.org/SanAntonio/) to access our sponsorship page. Select the "Docs" tab then "Society Docs & Forms" in the dropdown and look for the Wreaths Across America link under "Chapter Documents" Again, we ask that you participate with us in this very important event. Contact Compatriot Kevin Kanter at kevinkanter@icloud.com if you have questions.



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### **Chapter News**



#### 250th Anniversary Educational Event:

Honey Creek DAR Chapter along with 13 students ranging from age five to twelve years old met at the Mammen Public Library, Bulverde TX on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Compatriots Peter Baron and Frank Rohrbough represented SAR and also attended the educational event to remember the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Revolution. The program began with a 15-minute reading session covering events of the American Revolution. Other presentations included a discussion of historical books of events of the Revolutionary War and the supporting roles of France and Spain.

Compatriots Baron and Rohrbough provided a demonstration table of weapons and camp gear used by the soldiers of the Continental Army and Colonial Militias. Compatriot Baron presented a program describing the various flags of the Revolution to include representative flags used by General Washington at his Boston HQs and the US Flag designed by Betsy Ross in 1781.

Compatriot Baron demonstrated musket firing. He explained the loading and firing sequence for a musket and then described the use of the weapons when the Army was engaged with the enemy. Compatriot Rohrbough provided coloring books to the children depicting colonial life, attire, camp gear, weapons and historical events of the Revolution. The students thoroughly enjoyed the 2-hour presentation.



L-R: Compatriots Peter Baron, Frank Rohrbough



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#### **Chapter News**



### **February Chapter Meeting**

Once again, the chapter was honored to have Judge Ed Butler, Past President General and historian, give us a thoroughly interesting presentation on how his audience with the King of Spain inspired him to write and publish four books outlining Spain's crucial role in helping our ancestors win independence from Britain. Thank you Judge for sharing your vast knowledge and interesting experiences with us.

Dale Tidwell, Boerne Chapter president was a visitor at the meeting.



L-R: President Kebelman presenting Judge Butler a Certificate of Appreciation

Randy Fleisher is a member of the chapter Color Guard and participates in the chapter's grave marking ceremonies. Randy was awarded a Compatriot Grave Marking Medal for completing the required the number of grave marking ceremonies he has participated in. Congratulations Randy. Congratulations for a job well done.



L-R: President Kebelman presenting Randy Fleisher the Compatriot Grave Marking Medal

Dan Farris provided an interesting Vignette on The Battle of Bunker Hill, which was a significant American Revolutionary War early battle fought on June 17, 1775. The battle occurred during the siege of Boston, a few months after the Battles of Lexington and Concord, which marked the beginning of the war. As pointed out, the battle was a British victory with the British taking the hill, however, it was a morale booster for the American forces demonstrating that the colonists could stand up to the British army. The battle also pointed out the need for better training, organization, and supplies.



Historian Compatriot Dan Farris



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#### Miscellaneous



#### The Whiskey Rebellion

The Distilled Spirits excise tax and the Whiskey Rebellion played an integral role in the formation of our current tax system. Compromises between the 13 states and Federal Government were required in order to adopt the first U.S. Constitution in 1789. The major disagreement was how to pay the national debt from the Revolutionary War. At the urging of the first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, and not envisioning the abject rejection of the western frontiersmen, Congress used its authority to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises" and established the first nationwide internal revenue tax, called the "Distilled Spirits Tax" in 1791. Unlike tariffs on imported goods, the excise tax was a direct tax on American products. The tax was set at six to 18-cents per gallon and was structured such that smaller distillers often paid more than twice per gallon than larger producers.



Stills had to be registered and failing to pay their taxes, distillers had to appear in Federal court. The government had little success in collecting the whiskey tax throughout the Western frontier. Many small distillers refused to pay the tax and others took violent stands in opposition. Local tax rebels tarred and feathered tax collectors and threatened or beat those offering the collectors offices or housing. Because of the threats and violence, Federal tax officials were never appointed in many western counties.

Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of Treasury 1789-1795 Despite the President's pleas and Congressional actions to modify the tax law, violence and political opposition to the whiskey tax continued to grow during the next two

years. In October 1794, a Federalized militia, led by Pres. Washington, was dispatched to put down the rebellion. Opponents of internal taxes supported Thomas Jefferson helping him defeat President Adams. In 1802, Congress repealed the distilled spirits excise tax and until the War of 1812, the Federal government would rely solely on import tariffs for revenue, which quickly grew with the Nation's expanding foreign trade.

In the end, the Whiskey Rebellion served as one of the first tests of the new Constitution and the Federal government's authority. It was also the greatest domestic crisis of President Washington's administration. The successful suppression of the Whiskey Rebellion helped to confirm the supremacy of Federal law in the early United States and the right of Congress to levy and collect taxes on a nation-wide basis.

Sources:

https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/whiskey-rebellion https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whiskey Rebellion

## The San Antonio Compatriot

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### Membership Milestones

Congratulations and a thank you goes to these members for their continued support of SAR for so many years.

**5\_yrs of Service**Barcley Houston
Bryan Houston

25\_yrs of service
Hal Jennings

Jeffrey Hoppe

### **Birthdays**

### January

Moseley Mark Guthrie Gary Timothy Millington Jacob Omvig Flint Colt Buckaloo Joseph Terril Mendenhall Eric Fillman Paul Ruckman Haskell **Embrey** Pfeiffer Benjamin Fred Cruz **Thomas** Dale

### February

Edward Garcia Carter Schimpff
Joshua Galaviz Douglas Bannister
Robert Dorsey John Booth
Ryan Galaviz

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Note:
Event Point of Contact indicated in the CONTACT boxes

### **Coming Events**

### **MARCH 2025**

March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2	3	4	5	6	7	
9 DAyfight Savings	10	11	Executive 12 Committee 11:30*	13	14	,
16	17	18	Membership <sup>19</sup> Meeting 11:30*	20	21	
23	24	25	26	Texas State SAF March27-Mar 3		ichardson, TX
30	31				<u>CONTAC</u>	<u>r</u> Kebelman

### **APRIL 2025**

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY 12 Executive Good Friday Committee 11:30\* 21 Membership 24 20 22 26 Meeting 11:30\* 29 30 Pilgrimage to Alamo\* CONTACT \* Frank Kebelman

Attachment 2

Chapter Website: <a href="mailto:txssar.org/SanAntonio/">txssar.org/SanAntonio/</a>