



# The San Antonio Compatriot

TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



May-June 2025

Editor: Compatriot Bob Watson  
beaglebud@satx.rr.com

Compatriot Frank Kebelman, President  
kebelman@gmail.com

Issue #3



## President's Message

### 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.*

## Chapter Meetings

### Executive Committee Meetings:

2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. 11:30 AM

**August 13<sup>th</sup> - Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>**

La Fonda Restaurant

8633 Crownhill Blvd

(Reservations not needed)

### Chapter Meetings:

3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. 11:30 AM,

**Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> & Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>**

Petroleum Club

8620 N. New Braunfels

**Reservations are required:**

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

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Dear Fellow Compatriots,

The year is flying by and, as always, our chapter has been very active. First, I offer my best wishes and happy birthday to the United States Army on its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. American Soldiers saved the world in two monumental conflicts and numerous smaller struggles, and we are blessed that our country can still produce men and women who stand ready to defend the freedoms our ancestors fought so hard to achieve. Hooah!

The chapter continues to support national, state and local events. Our color guard participated in a Memorial Day Ceremony at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, provided a color guard for four naturalization ceremonies at the Federal Courthouse, placed flags on sixty veteran graves at the IOOF cemetery in honor of Flag Day, and is preparing to hold our annual Independence Day presentation at the Hyatt Hill Country Retreat on July 4th. More naturalization color guards are on our calendar and if you have colonial attire and want to join us for a memorable day, please contact our Color Guard Commander Frank Rohrbough. And don't forget the Battle of Medina event is coming in August. It takes place down in Leming and is a colorful and respectful way to enjoy learning more about Texas history.

Thanks to John Bell's leadership, members of our chapter also personally presented JROTC/ROTC medals and certificates to thirty-eight high schools and colleges here in South Central Texas, and we look forward to presenting more next year. Ron and Valerie Finch, Greg and Laura Surovic and Blair Rudy helped open a 250<sup>th</sup> exhibit at the Bexar Country Heritage Center and then provided a joint color guard with the Granaderos y Damas Society at the opening ceremony. Two of our members, Mike Bowles and Greg Surovic, supported DAR members on a recent visit to honor veterans at the Frank Tejada Veterans Home in Floresville. My thanks to all our active members and their ladies for their exceptional efforts to support community events. I send a huge thank you to all of our compatriots for all you are doing for our Republic, Texas and the NSSAR. The chapter needs additional volunteers for the many events it supports so I urge you to get involved as your work and health allow.

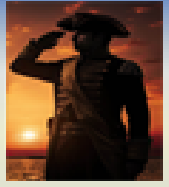
Warmest regards - Frank Kebelman, President



San Antonio Chapter  
Texas

# The San Antonio Compatriot

TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



## Member's Corner



**May New Members:** Compatriot Dale Addington was inducted into the chapter during the general membership meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Compatriot Addington has waited a year for his induction and was very happy to finally end his membership journey. Please greet and introduce yourself to him.



L-R: Dale Addington  
Larry Luckett



L-R: President Kebelman  
Compatriot Addington

**June New Members:** The chapter was pleased to induct two new members during the June general meeting. Shown here is Aaron Roberts and Nick Cartwright being inducted by President Frank Kebelman.



L-R: Aaron Roberts  
Nick Cartwright  
President Kebelman



## Member's Corner

**Bronze Henry Knox Medal:** This medal is awarded by a State Society to a Compatriot or non-SAR member to recognize a specific outstanding contribution to the SAR mission.

Compatriot Peter Barron has been the backbone of the chapter involved with nearly every major chapter function. He was awarded this medal December 2024, but due to personal and chapter scheduling issues, he was presented the medal during the May general meeting.



L-R: President  
Kebelman  
Compatriot Barron

**Colonial Attire:** There is no requirement to purchase colonial attire unless you want to participate in the color guard where it is required. That being said, the chapter is usually awarded more points for the Americanism and Stark Reports if participants in events are dressed in some sort of Colonial dress. While some uniforms can be pricey, many combinations are quite reasonable. Additionally, the Colonial attire makes a statement and promotes SAR to the attendees of the various events the chapter participates in. You don't have to purchase an entire outfit at once and can purchase various pieces over time. While not required, members who wish to participate in chapter activities are urged to obtain some combination of attire. There are many sites to purchase colonial clothing and supplies and here are a few:

<https://www.crazycrow.com/american-colonial-clothing-and-accessories/>

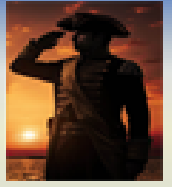
<https://militaryuniformsupply.com/search?q=colonial>

<https://www.townsend.us/>

<https://www.Ebay.com>

<https://smilingfoxforge.com/>

<http://www.avalonforge.com/>



## Member's Corner

**Hannah White Arnett Medal:** This medal is awarded by a State Society to a Compatriot or non-SAR member to recognize a specific outstanding contribution to the SAR mission. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, Judge Edward F. Butler, Sr., Past President General, and member of the San Antonio SAR Chapter, was presented with the state level, silver Hannah White Arnett Medal of Distinction by Texas DAR State Regent Susan Johnston. Judge Butler was accompanied by his wife Robin at the presentation.

Judge Butler's years of support of DAR were recognized with this presentation. DAR chapters statewide are greatly appreciative of all he has done to promote collaboration with DAR in supporting our mutual goals of historic preservation, education, and patriotism. Congratulations Judge Butler



**L-R: Regent Susan Johnston  
Compatriot Judge Butler**



**L-R: Robin Butler  
Judge Butler**



## Member's Corner



**State Veterans Home:** Frank M. Tejada Texas State Veterans Home in Floresville, Texas is a long-term care facility primarily for Texas veterans, their spouses, and Gold Star parents. Skilled nursing care and specialized Alzheimer's care are provided at the home. While the home offers various room options for residents, it does not include individual apartments. The home has complete medical and supporting ancillary services including a 32-bed Alzheimer's unit and is an approved Medicare and Medicaid facility. Comprehensive rehabilitation programs which include physical, occupational and speech therapies are also offered.

The San Antonio de Bexar DAR chapter along with several SAR members, to include the chapter's color guard, held an Army 250<sup>th</sup> event at the veterans home on June 12<sup>th</sup> to honor the Army veterans living in the facility. During the event, it was discovered that Compatriot Clarence Bell has been living in the facility for some time. The chapter lost contact with him as he has no wife or immediate family in the area so we were not notified of his whereabouts. Clarence is one of the 15 surviving members who were approved in 1984. His military history is unknown at this time. Clarence was excited to visit with other chapter members. If you are ever in Floresville or near there, stop in to the veterans home and say hello to Clarence and his



L-R: Compatriots Mike Bowles, Clarence Bell



L-R: Compatriot Greg Surovic, Maxine Allen, Activity Director



## Chapter News



### JROTC Recognition Program

**Uvalde JROTC Program:** MSgt. Ken Childs is in charge of the JROTC Program. There about 60 cadets in the program. The cadets, staff, and parents were very excited and welcoming for the attention so far from San Antonio. Shown at right is President Frank Kebelman (L) presenting the Uvalde Outstanding Cadet award as selected by the staff.

**Floresville JROTC:** Compatriot Walt Skullll presented the Outstanding Cadet award to Joshua Simmons.

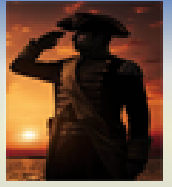


**L: President Kebelman  
Presenting the Award**



**L-R: Walt Skull  
Joshua Simmons**

**JROTC Program  
Cont. Page 7**



## Chapter News



### JROTC Program (cont.)

**UTSA JROTC:** The program is commanded by Col Curus. Pictured below is their outstanding cadet, Jaggar Gibson, receiving the outstanding cadet award from past chapter President Blair Rudy.



**L-R:**  
Cadet Jaggar Gibson  
Past President Blair Rudy

**L-R:**  
Col. Curus  
Past President  
Blair Rudy



## Chapter News



**First Responder Honors:** During May, the chapter honors first responders for their total dedication to the community in providing immediate medical, fire, or police services without hesitation on a daily basis. These men and women are truly special people and heroes of the community. This month, Officer Jacob Block and his wife Shannon were recognized and honored for their selfless devotion to the community and individual citizens.

Officer Block was awarded the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal and his wife Shannon, was awarded the SAR Outstanding Citizenship Award.



**L-R: Officer Block Receiving Law Enforcement Medal from Compatriot Baron  
Compatriot Baron (L) Awarding Shannon Block (R)  
the Citizenship Award**



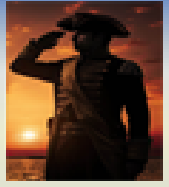
## Chapter News



**Sunset Funeral Home:** The chapter has an extensive grave marking program recognizing our veteran members who have passed. Ms. Kathleen Pope, Sunset Funeral Home Director and Saul Levin, Sunset family counselor, were awarded the Bronze Henry Knox Medal for their outstanding contribution to our program. They have opened their grounds for our ceremonies and provided staff support when needed. The chapter is grateful for all they have done to help us honor our deceased chapter veterans.



**L-R: President Kebelman  
Kathleen Pope  
Saul Levin**



## Chapter News



**Overture Stone Oak Adult Living:** As has been done for the past several years, the Overture Stone Oak Adult Living facility holds a Memorial Day event to honor the soldiers who died while on active duty. Many of the residents are spouses whose husbands were a fallen soldier. Each year, the management invites our SAR chapter color guard to provide flags and support for the ceremony. After the short ceremony, they hold a BBQ for the residents. A very rewarding event.



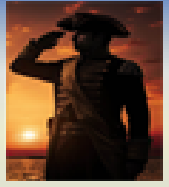
**SAR Chapter Color Guard  
L-R: Ron Finch, Bob Watson, Greg Surovic, Blair Rudy, Commander**

**Memorial Day Overture Stone Oak:** The DAR group from the James McHenry Chapter and SAR compatriots from the Chapter conducted a joint flag ceremony. In early morning, the flag was lowered to half-mast to the sound of taps preceded by a prayer for those soldiers that died in all of the war battles. In the afternoon, the flag was raised to full mast while playing the national anthem, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

This stirring day long ceremony was memorable to all, but especially to those with fallen loved ones.



**SAR Chapter  
Compatriot Larry Loop  
Lowering the Flag**



## Chapter News



**America's White Table:** A Memorial Day tradition is the setting of "America's White Table" that is set in many mess halls, veteran's facilities, and other settings as a remembrance to service members fallen, missing, or held captive in the line of duty. The tradition was started during the Vietnam War and continues today. It is a solemn and solitary table where no one will ever sit. A white table was set at the Overture during their Memorial Day event.

The items on the table have meaning, which are:

- Set for one, it is small to show the frailty of one prisoner alone.
- The tablecloth is white, symbolic of the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms.
- A black napkin represents the sorrow of captivity.
- The single red rose in the vase signifies the blood that many have shed to ensure our freedoms and also reminds us of the family and friends of our missing comrades who keep the faith, awaiting their return.
- The yellow ribbon on the vase represents a symbolic demand for a proper accounting of our comrades who are still missing.
- The slice of lemon on the plate reminds us of their bitter fate.
- Salt sprinkled on the plate reminds us of the countless fallen tears of waiting families.
- The inverted glass is recognition the missing cannot toast with us.
- The candle is a light of hope that illuminates the way home, away from captors, to the open arms of a grateful nation.
- And last, the chair sits empty, because they are not here.



Overture's America's  
White Table



## Chapter News



**Houston Visitors:** The chapter welcomed two visitors from the Houston Freedom Chapter #38 during our May general chapter meeting. President David Hamakar is also the State Color Guard Commander and spoke briefly on the current state of the color guard in the SAR organizations. Compatriot Ed Sellards is the Texas Southern Color Guard Adjutant and State Stark Committee chairman who spoke at length on the importance of the Stark Report and some guidance on how to complete and submit the reports.

President Hamakar has been a staunch supporter of our chapter during the grave marking events as has Compatriot Sellards. President Kebelman presented both with the bronze star to the Henry Knox Medal for their significant contribution to our chapter.



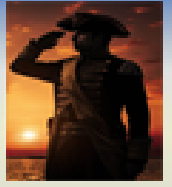
L-R: David Hamakar  
President Kebelman  
Ed Sellards

**Historical Vignette:** Dan Farris (R) presented another outstanding vignette for our May meeting on the Battle of Grape Island, where the British forces were trying to secure supplies such as hay and livestock from the nearby island. Loyalist Elisha Leavitt owned Grape Island and allowed British troops to harvest hay to feed their horses.

The local Massachusetts militia, from neighboring cities, mobilized when they learned of her endeavors.

The British had sent marines to protect workers gathering hay. The militia fired on the British marines and the workers from shore and small boats. The British eventually withdrew from their mission. Colonial militia later burned the hay and destroyed property on the island to deny future use to the British. Though a small engagement, it boosted American morale, reinforced local resistance to British supply efforts, and showed the responsiveness of colonial militias.





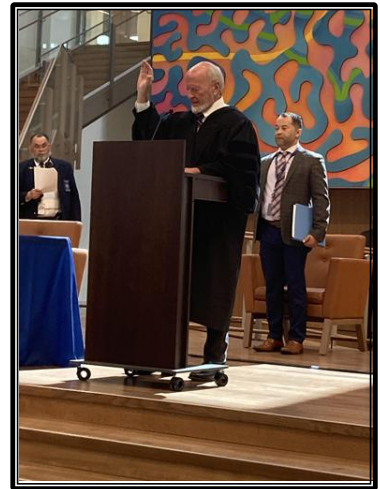
## Chapter News



**Naturalization Ceremony:** On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the chapter was honored to be invited to provide the color guard for the Naturalization Ceremony at the Federal Courthouse. Judge Beiry was the presiding official giving the Oath of Allegiance to approximately 200 new citizens.

After the ceremony, the chapter handed out Constitution Booklets to each new citizen. Many of the new citizens stood in line just to get a picture with our color guard members dressed in colonial attire. Many of the new citizens were so emotional at becoming a citizen, they broke down in tears. It was truly a very rewarding experience.

The ceremony is open to the public, friends, and family of new citizens are welcome to attend. While seating may be limited, particularly in courtrooms, the ceremonies are designed to be inclusive and welcoming to those who want to witness the swearing of the Oath of Allegiance. For a very memorable and moving experience, you should plan on attending. Business dress is required.



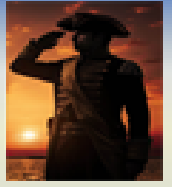
**Judge Beiry  
Administering the Oath**



**New Citizens Waiting to take  
the Oath of Allegiance**



**Color Guard Posting Colors  
L-R: Blair Rudy, Greg Surovic,  
Frank Kebelman**



## Chapter News



### Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa

The San Antonio SAR Chapter has been invited to present its 14<sup>th</sup> Independence Day program on **Thursday, July 4, 2025, at 10:30 AM at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa (Luckenbach Pavilion) 9800 Hyatt Resort Dr.** For our efforts, the Hyatt donates a small honorarium to our education fund for scholarships and awards. Please come and join other chapter members for this Annual Event.

The chapter will present a Patriotic Program commemorating the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of America to the hotel guests (family and children) telling them about the events of the American Revolution as experienced by our patriot ancestors and their fight for independence from British rule.

The schedule for the morning is as follows.

**8:30 AM ----- Assemble at the Luckenbach Pavilion**

**8:45 AM ----- Set up Demonstration Tables**

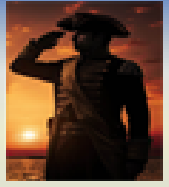
**10:30 AM ----- Program Begins**

**11:30 AM ----- Visit Demonstration Tables**

After the Formal Program, there is time set aside for pictures and visiting the table demonstrations about the flags, weapons, currency, making powder horns, practice of medicine, the camp followers (women) of the Continental Army and coloring books for children depicting the Revolutionary War.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) members of the San Antonio Area Regents Council will join us for this special event.

**All SAR members and their families are invited to attend and/or participate in these activities.** Please contact **Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, Event Coordinator**, at [frankr@gytc.com](mailto:frankr@gytc.com) to sign up to help with one of the chapter's largest events of the year. The program conclude about 12:00 PM.



## Chapter News



**July 4<sup>th</sup>-Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery:** Each year the chapter participates in the Order of the Granaderos salute to the patriots who fought in the American Revolutionary War. The event is held at the National Cemetery amphitheater. This program occurs the morning of July 4<sup>th</sup>. All members are encouraged to attend and support the chapter in this tribute to our ancestors. Watch your email for more information as nearing the date.

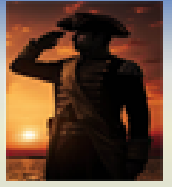


**Order of Granaderos  
2024 event**

**U.S. Army 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday:** The Second Continental Congress created the Continental Army in 1775. It was the official army of the thirteen American colonies during the Revolutionary War and was led by George Washington. The army was essential in battling the British to secure freedom from British rule. The army was composed by a diverse group of fighting men from the colonies formed from a collection of untrained volunteers and today is an elite, professional fighting force.



**Continental Army  
Photo from Army.mil**



## Chapter News



**Bexar America 250th:** The Bexar County Heritage Center at 100 Dolorosa San Antonio created an exhibit entitled “Hidden Heroes of the American Revolution: Spanish Leadership and Texan Contributions.” The exhibit runs through 12/31/2026. The panels of the exhibit focuses on Spain's contribution to the American Revolution. Emphasis of the exhibit is on individuals who assisted during that period; what role they played; and more specifically, those in San Antonio de Bejar and the surrounding area.

June 10th was the Teacher Development Workshop day. 55 Educators attended the CPE Credit Workshop. This was a Joint program with DAR and SAR, Bexar County TX, National Park Service, University of the Incarnate Word, Texas A&M San Antonio, UT San Antonio, and the Alamo, Granaderos y Damas de Galvez

The chapter color guard alongside the Granaderos y Damas de Galvez Honor Guard presented the colors.



L-R: Adam Dominguez, Joe Perez ,  
Granaderos Y Damas, Valerie Finch (DAR),  
Ron Finch, Greg Surovic, Blair Rudy



L-R: Blair Rudy, Ron Finch, Valerie Finch, DAR,  
Sharon Simonick, DAR A Canary Island Descendant  
Association (CIDA)



## Chapter News

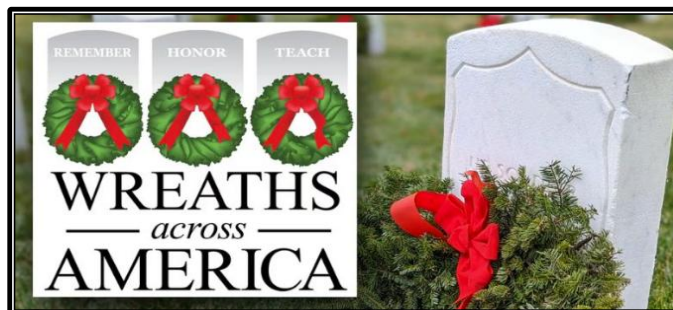


**June Speaker:** Dr. Michael Cude, Assistant Professor of History, Schreiner University was the guest speaker at the June meeting. Dr. Cude is the author of several books and articles, including most recently: *Woodrow Wilson: The First World War and Modern Internationalism*. His talk was titled "Early Modern European Revolutions and American Connections." Dr. Cude briefly summarized three revolutions: The Glorious Revolution of 1688 in England, The French Revolution in the 1790s, and the Polish Revolution of 1794, to show connecting points to the American Revolution. His very interesting talk was quite well received by the members.



**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/](http://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](mailto:kevinkanter@icloud.com) if you have questions.

In an effort to keep this wonderful chapter activity on member's minds, this article will be presented in each newsletter. Please open your Wallets and support this program the best you can.





## Miscellaneous



### Age of Enlightenment

The Age of Enlightenment or also known as the Age of Reason, 1680-1800, was an intellectual movement peaking in the 18th century. The era fostered a climate of scientific inquiry, technological innovation, and economic growth paving the way for the Industrial Revolution. This period's key characteristics were based on reason and logic rather than tradition, superstition, and religion. It focused on progress in science and the power of reasoning. The population was skeptical of the idea of absolute monarchy and the divine right of kings. There was also a strong support for the separation of church and state.

The major thinkers of this time were:

- **John Locke** – natural rights, government by consent.
- **Voltaire** – civil liberties, criticism of religion.
- **Montesquieu** – separation of powers.
- **Jean-Jacques Rousseau** – social contract, general will.
- **Immanuel Kant** – “Dare to know”; autonomy of reason.
- **Denis Diderot** – editor of the *Encyclopédie*, a major Enlightenment work.

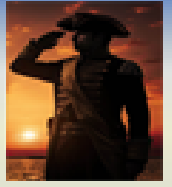
This era influenced the American Revolution (1776), the French Revolution (1789), and the development of modern democracies as well as helping form the basis for modern science, education, politics, and human rights.

During the period from 1773 to 1783, several significant inventions and developments took place reflecting the start of the Industrial Revolution. While this decade was more characterized by scientific discoveries and improvements rather than entirely new inventions, some notable inventions such as the Steam Engine, Spinning Jenny, Hot Air Balloon, and the Printing Press occurred.

While not all of these are brand-new inventions within the decade, they represent significant technological progress and innovations that influenced subsequent developments.

#### Sources:

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Enlightenment-European-history>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age\\_of\\_Enlightenment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_Enlightenment)



## Membership Milestones

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

### **5\_yrs of Service**

Frank Nichols  
Jon Simms  
Carter Schimpff

### **15\_yrs of service**

David Richmond  
Scott Talbott  
Thomas Atkinson  
Terril Mendenhall

### **20\_yrs of service**

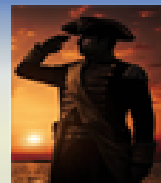
Blair Rudy  
Steven Tharpe

### **25\_yrs of service**

James McConnell  
Gene Munson

### **40\_yrs of service**

Dale Thomas



## Membership Milestones

### Birthdays

#### May

Jerry	Collins	John	Wilmeth
Harris	Leonard	Peter	Baron
Timothy	Siegfried	Robert	Hancock
Harold "Bud"	Davenport	George	Powell
James	Allgood	Colin	Greig
Ethan	Norton	Randolph	Lockwood
Bryan	Mendenhall	Mark	O'Neal
Lee	Morris	Joe	Weathersby
James	Perkins	Donald	Elliott
Brett	Mills	Luke	Lovelace
Daniel	Farris		

#### June

Bennett	Gurecky	David	Batson
Blair	Rudy	Levi	Jansma
Jake	Lee	Benjamin	Bowles
Bradford	Hornbuckle	Michael	McComas
Thomas	Keeton	Michael	Skiles
William	Udovich	Mark	Smith
Jim	Massingill	Bobby	Vernor
James	Sutton		



San Antonio Chapter  
Texas

# The San Antonio Compatriot

TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



**Note:**  
Event Point of Contact  
indicated in the  
**CONTACT** boxes

## Coming Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>July</b>		1	2	3	<b>Both on the 4th</b>  Hyatt Hill Country Resort 8:30 am setup**  Ft Sam National Cemetery 10 am**	5
	6	7	8	9		10
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <b>CONTACT</b>            * Frank Keelman            **Frank Rohrbough         </div>	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>August</b>					1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31					<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <b>CONTACT</b>            * Frank Keelman         </div>	

Attachment 3

Chapter Website: [txssar.org/SanAntonio/](http://txssar.org/SanAntonio/)