

July - August
2026





The San Antonio Compatriot

TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Compatriot Ron Finch, President
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Issue #4

Editor: Compatriot Bob Watson
beaglebud@outlook.com



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.

Chapter Meetings

Executive Committee Meetings:
2nd Wed. 11:30 AM

Sept 9th – Oct 14th

La Fonda Restaurant

8633 Crownhill Blvd

(Reservations not needed)

Chapter Meetings:

3rd Wed. 11:30 AM,

Sept 16th – Oct 21th

Petroleum Club

8620 N. New Braunfels

Reservations are required:

txsarch4reservations@gmail.com

In This Issue

Member's Corner:

Suttlers - p.3

Obituaries - pp. 4-5

Awards - p.6

Chapter News:

National Congress - p.7

Indep. Day - p. 8-9

Naturalization
Ceremonies - p.10

Wreaths Across
America - p.11

Miscellaneous Articles

Children of American
Revolution (C.A.R.) - p.15

Uniforms - pp.16-17

Coming Fall Events - p.18

Greetings Compatriots,

The rains have gone and so have the Fourth of July celebrations. As all of are aware in SAR, there are many more 250 activities and events to come for many years.

Speaking of the 4th, two wonderful annual events took place with chapter representation. The Hyatt Hill Country Resort and the Wreath Placing ceremony at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery. Hope all were able to celebrate the day in some way this year.

We continue our participation in the Naturalization Ceremonies and invite those interested in assisting the Color Guard to contact Greg Surovic. As always, the chapter website is a good resource for what the Chapter is involved in.

It has been a summer of remembrance as we had to lay to rest two long time compatriots: Maj. Harold "Bud" Augustus Davenport III and Col. Joseph "Joe" Milton Ware. We are forever grateful for their contributions to our Chapter and SAR overall.

I want to take a moment and remind all of you to be ever-vigilant with various types of scams that occur frequently. Phishing emails from various individuals posing as SAR leadership are a constant occurrence. No one is going to ask you to send any type of gift card, wire transfer, etc. Look at the email address. There is always something not correct. If unsure, do not open it and definitely do not click on any link that might be attached. There are numerous software apps and programs that are available to assist in keeping your computers/phones/tablets free of potential viruses and your personal information safe.

Hope to see you all in September when the chapter resumes monthly luncheons.

Ron





Member's Corner



Suttler Information: Due to the fact the chapter had no July or August meetings, there were no induction of new members and only a couple of awards. Other than two members passing, there is limited individual member news. This newsletter is devoted to historical articles, chapter events attended during this period, and news from the National Congress.

With a number of new member inductions and transfers to date, it may be a good time to again post where to purchase colonial uniforms and supplies.

Colonial Attire: It is not required, but members who wish to participate in chapter activities are urged to obtain some combination of colonial attire. Wearing colonial attire makes a statement and promotes SAR to the community and the attendees of the various events where the chapter participates.

These suppliers are not endorsed by the SAR nor have any specific affiliation with the SAR. Not all suppliers offer all items. This list is subject to change and is in no specific order. Should you want to have custom made uniforms here are two companies that have patterns.

<https://www.jpryan.com/>

https://www.etsy.com/search?q=colonial%20sewing%20patterns&ref=search_bar

<http://jas-townsend.com/> – Jas. Townsend & Sons

<http://sampsonghistorical.com> - Sampson Historical

<http://heritagecostume.com> - Heritage Costumes

<http://www.militaryclothing.com/Revolutionary-War.aspx#> – Military Uniform Supply

<https://ebay/fortlaramietradingpost/> - Fort Laramie Trading Post

<http://www.ushist.com/> – USHist

<http://www.crazycrow.com/> – Crazy Crow Trading Post

<http://www.thequartermastergeneral.com> – The Quartermaster General

<http://fugawee.com/> – Fugawee Footwear

<http://missouribootandshoe.com/> – Missouri Boot and Shoe

<http://www.hamiltondrygoods.com/> – Hamilton Dry Goods

<http://www.cg-tinsmith.com/> – Carl Giordano-Tinsmith

<http://www.lepierreleathers.com/> – Le Pierre Sutler

<http://www.gggodwin.com> – G. Gedney Godwin

<http://www.taylor-rosehistorical.com> – Logsdon & Co.

<http://lvaregiment.com/> – First Virginia CL, Quartermaster

<http://www.revwarssupplier.com> – Weeping Heart Trade Company

<http://www.avalonforge.com> – Avalon Forge

<http://cockedhats.com> – George Franks, Hatter

<http://ebay.com/revolutionarywar/> - Firearms & Weapons:





Member's Corner



Members Passing

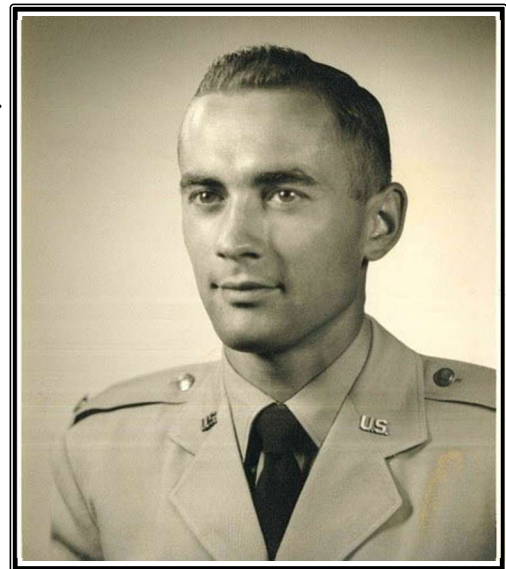
Harold "Bud" Davenport III: Bud passed away peacefully at the age of 93 on July 22, 2026. He was born on May 6, 1933 in Berkeley, California, and traveled the world across the US, Germany, and China. He was the quarterback of his high school football team and graduated second in his class from Berlin American High School in Germany. He graduated from the United States Military Academy with a degree in Military Engineering and was commissioned as a 2nd/Lt upon graduation.

Bud was married to Virginia Anne "Ginger" Chapman at the Fort Sam Houston Chapel. The couple recently celebrated their 68th anniversary.

Bud loved airplanes and flying. He served more than 21 years in the Air Force. After flight training and earning his pilot wings in Texas in 1960, he flew B-47s, was a B-52 navigator, an O-1E Forward Air Controller in Vietnam, and was a T-37 instructor at Randolph Air Force Base. He went on to serve as a Military Entrance Processing Station Commander (MEPS) with the 357th Strategic Air Command at Kadena Air Base. Bud retired from the Air Force in 1979. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, 13 Air Medals, and several other honors.

After the military, he taught math for 17 years at Connell Middle School in the San Antonio. Additionally, he was the high school golf coach. Outside of teaching, he was a little league baseball coach and Scoutmaster. Bud served several positions in his church. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and served as the Vice President of Chapter #4 for one term.

Bud's funeral service was conducted on August 10, 2026, at First Presbyterian Church in San Antonio. Interment with full military honors was at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Rest peacefully compatriot.





Member's Corner

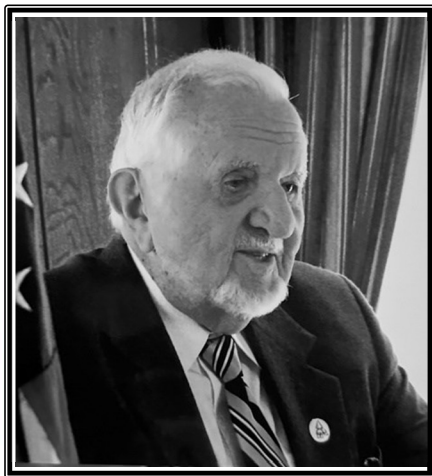


Joe Ware: The chapter received the sad news that a long-time member, Compatriot Joe Ware, passed away peacefully on 26 July 2026. The memorial funeral service was conducted at Sunset North Funeral Home, 910 N. Loop 1604 E., San Antonio, TX. The military funeral service was held at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. The members attending included Dustin Whitenburg (Texas SAR President and chapter member), Stephen Rohrbough, Frank Rohrbough, George Harcourt, Larry Luckett, Edward Butler, James Taylor (presiding minister), Kevin Kanter, Peter Baron and Frank Keberman.

Compatriot Joseph "Joe" Milton Ware was born on June 19, 1930, in Ft. Monroe, VA to H.V. Ware and Martha Saunders Ware. He entered the United States Air Force as a Second Lieutenant in 1950 and promoted to Colonel (O-6) in 1969. He retired from the Air Force in 1975. Joe was a highly decorated officer, being awarded both the Legion of Merit and the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters.

Throughout his military career, he held key leadership assignments supporting the Gemini and Midas space programs, led the construction of King Abdul-Aziz Airbase in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, and served as Deputy Chief of JUSMAG operations in Bangkok, Thailand

Joe earned a B.S. degree from the University of Houston in 1957, an M.S. degree in Public Administration from UCLA in 1962, and an M.S. degree from George Washington University in 1967. He completed all but the dissertation of doctoral studies at the University of Texas. He graduated from both the Air Command and Staff College and Air Force Institute of Technology. He was in Marquis Who's Who as both a senior military officer and as a Public Administrator. He served as a Professor of Public Administration at San Antonio College. Joe was also a Fellow of the Mosher Institute for Defense Studies.



Chaplain Taylor provided the religious service focusing on Joe's life, military service, countryman, friend to many, and father. Judge Ed Butler provided an overview of Joe's 35+ years of service to the Chapter where he served as Chapter President and other positions. Joe was "Aide de Camp" to SAR President General, Judge Ed Butler. Additionally, Joe was a member of many other lineage organizations. Compatriot Peter Baron read a memorial resolution noting Joe's many accomplishments. He provided copies of the resolution to Joe's family. Joe will surely be missed. Rest in peace compatriot.



Member's Corner



On Saturday August 8, 2026, for his unselfish devotion, tireless efforts in support of the DAR mission and most notably his assistance in support of veterans and fundraising activities, Compatriot Blair Rudy was presented with the Hannah White Arnett Bronze Medal of Distinction from Regent Karen Mueller of the James McHenry Chapter, DAR. This award is presented for extraordinary cooperation and outstanding service to NSDAR. Blair's efforts were above and beyond expectations. He represented SAR and the chapter with distinction. Congratulations Blair.



The Military Order of the World Wars is a congressionally chartered American veterans service organization founded in 1919. Its core mission is centered on patriotic education, youth leadership, and community service. Michael Belcher with MOWW presented the San Antonio SAR chapter #4 with a Certificate of Appreciation for supporting the MOWW National Convention on August 15, 2026 with color guard duties.



L-R: Michael Belcher
Greg Surovic



Chapter News



National Congress: The 136th National Congress of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) was held in Greensboro, North Carolina, at the Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons – Koury Convention Center from July 10 to July 16, 2026. Several of our chapter members attended to witness the chapter being awarded the coveted USS Stark Memorial Award. This annual, prestigious award recognizes the chapters that participate heavily in veterans' programs, track volunteer efforts, and support the initiatives of the NSSAR Veterans Committee. Various efforts associated with veterans earn points towards the award. The chapter (by size) that obtains the most points is recognized. A chapter may not win the award in consecutive years. Our chapter has won the award several times thanks to the tremendous efforts by several volunteers directed by Compatriot Frank Rohrbough. Congratulations and thank you to all those that participated in veteran affairs activities throughout the year.



**Texas State President Elect
Kevin Kanter and Wife Jean**



The Texas Delegation



Chapter News



Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort: The chapter conducted the 15th Educational and Historical Independence Day Event on July 4th. Several compatriots and DAR members presented a historical program to the Hyatt guests. The Hyatt Resort has been an exceptional SAR chapter supporter over the years and contributes to our education scholarships each year. The Color guard presented the colors followed by a program consisting of presentations on various Revolutionary War subjects such as why we celebrate Independence Day, uniforms worn by the Continental Army, flags and weapons of the Revolution, and medical techniques and instruments used during the war. There were several demonstration tables enjoyed by the guests. (See the website for more pictures)



Gary Neal at Welcome Table



Fred Soupiset
Powder Horns and knives



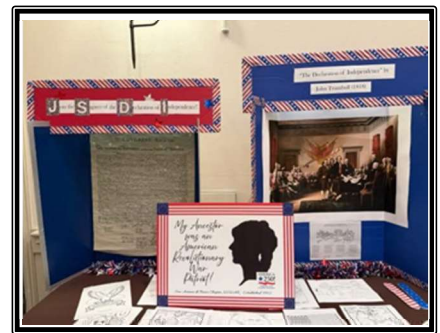
DAR Members
Camp Followers



Dan Farris
Medical Equipment



Kids Coloring Table
Revolutionary War Scenes



America 250
Information



Chapter News



The Army Residence Community (ARC) Parade: To celebrate Independence Day and America 250, the Army Residence Community (ARC) asked the chapter color guard to present the colors during a small parade around the residence grounds on July 1st.



Color Guard L-R
Frank Kebelman, Greg
Surovic, Dewy Owens,



Presentation of Colors



Salute to the Flag



**Color Guard with
ARC Staff**



Chapter News



Naturalization Ceremony: The Color Guard presented the colors at the July 24th and 26th Naturalization events. Judge Kelly Stephenson presided and swore in approximately 100 new citizens. Additionally, each new citizen received the Certificate of Citizenship. Below are pictures of the ceremonies that took place in July.



Color Guard L-R
Greg Surovic, Mike Skiles
Blair Rudy, Joe Weathersby
Robert Duckworth (Hightower Chap.)



Color Guard and Judge Kelly Stephenson
(L-R) Robert Duckworth (Hightower chap.),
Blair Rudy, Judge Stephenson
Joe Weathersby, Mike Skiles
Greg Surovic

**Color Guard and DAR
Ladies**



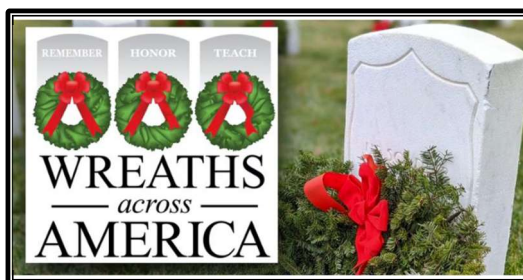


Chapter News



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 (texssar.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.





Miscellaneous



“In God We Trust”

Story details provided by Compatriot Ken Williamson

The children of the late Arkansas man whose grassroots effort led to "In God We Trust" adorning U.S. paper currency told The Christian Post that their father's story shows how "one person, can make a difference."

According to his daughter, Alice Rothert Nelson, in 1953, the late Matthew Rothert Sr., a Presbyterian furniture manufacturer and avid coin collector, believed the words "In God We Trust" should be a feature on American banknotes as it did on coins so he started a grass roots campaign to make it happen.

"In God We Trust" was first engraved on U.S. coins during the Civil War, after Mark Richards Watkinson, a Baptist minister from Pennsylvania, petitioned Treasury Secretary, Salmon P. Chase, in 1861, to promote "the recognition of the Almighty God in some form on our coins."

Expressing hope that honoring God in such a public way, Watkinson wrote: "This would place us openly under the divine protection we have personally claimed. From my heart, I have felt our national shame in disowning God as not the least of our present national disasters."

Salmon P. Chase and James Pollock, a Presbyterian minister then serving as director of the U.S. Mint, agreed with Watkinson, ultimately leading Congress to pass a law in April 1864 allowing "In God We Trust" on the one- and two-cent pieces. They passed another in March 1865 to place the words on all gold and silver coins, which was the last act President Abraham Lincoln signed before his assassination.

Nearly a century later, the motto gained renewed attention when the U.S. found itself embattled again during the global tensions of the Cold War. Seeing its simple declaration of faith as a necessary contrast to the atheist communism that animated the Soviet Union, Rothert, now 83, followed Watkinson's example. He gave speeches, rallied support and fired off many letters to officials, including President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Treasury Secretary George W. Humphrey, urging them to add the phrase to paper money. "I realized the circulation of American coins was limited to the boundaries of the country, while U.S. paper money circulated worldwide. It looked like Americans were saying they trusted in God only a few cents' worth!"

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Miscellaneous



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Treasury Secretary Humphrey reportedly advised Rothert in 1954, that while he personally favored the idea of placing "In God We Trust" on the currency, it would require an act of Congress.

As a businessman and member of several organizations, including the American Numismatic Association, Rothert established personal connections with some of the politicians who would play a pivotal role in helping his vision succeed

As founder and president of the Camden Furniture Company, Rothert came to know Mike Monroney, a U.S. senator also in the furniture business. Among Rothert's friends were other congressmen, all of whom expressed support for Rothert's mission.

Monroney filed H.R. 619 on Jan. 5, 1955, promising Rothert he would get the bill to a vote before the end of the legislative session. In an unusually swift and bipartisan action, the bill was on Eisenhower's desk by July 11, 1955.

"In God We Trust," which Congress unanimously went on to establish as the official national motto in 1956, first appeared on \$1 silver certificates on Oct. 1, 1957. "In God We Trust" adorns the headstone of Matthew Rothert Sr., who died in 1989 at 85, at Memorial Park Cemetery in Camden, Arkansas.



Matthew Rothert Sr
Photos Courtesy Rothert family



Miscellaneous



Celebration of the Declaration of Independence

Story details provided by Compatriot Frank Rohrbough

For nearly 100 years the Colonists had lived in North America with good relations with the King of England. They had organized into thirteen colonies with both mutual and different interests. From 1754 to 1763, the war in Europe raged on between Great Britain and France, the war extended to America. England fought the French and their allies, and many of the Native American Indian Tribes. The wars left Britain in debt and they began to exert greater control over the American Colonies. Britain justified this in part by saying they paid to protect the Colonies from the mean old French and Indians. During those 100 years of good relations, the Colonists maintained the British tradition of big celebrations on the King's birthday, which is traditionally celebrated in June because of the good weather in London at that time regardless of the real date. After the war, the British established heavy taxes and tariffs on the Colonies. By the early 1770's few colonists were in the mood to celebrate the King's birthday!

In the fall of 1774, the First Continental Congress petitioned the King for relief from the taxes and tariffs. But by May 1775, the King refused to agree. In June of 1775, the Second Continental Congress met and set-up a monetary system, a postal system, and appointed a committee of five men to draft a document declaring America's Independence. On July 2nd, the Congress began to consider a Declaration of Independence. On July 4th, 1776, the congress adopted the Declaration and ordered it published. On August 2nd the Declaration printed on parchment was finally signed by most of the 56 Delegates. Thus, July 4th, became our Independence Day from the rule of King George III, who reigned over the British Empire from 1760 to 1820.





Miscellaneous



Children of the American Revolution C.A.R.

Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) is a youth lineage organization comprised of both boys and girls younger than 22 years of age. There is no minimum age to join, only a maximum age. C.A.R. is the oldest and largest patriotic youth organization in the United States. Founded in 1895, it trains young leaders, teaches American history, and encourages community service. Please, encourage your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or other young children to join C.A.R.

C.A.R. members often become members in the Sons or Daughters of the American Revolution (SAR/DAR). C.A.R. membership helps to develop social skills and leads to lifelong friendships. Participation in C.A.R. helps individuals to grow, mature and develop skills useful during adulthood. Parents, grandparents and guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend C.A.R. events and activities with their children.

If you know of a child that would like more information or to join, please contact Compatriot Larry Loop, (lloop1@gvtc.com) the chapter's DAR/C.A.R. committee chairman.





Miscellaneous



Making Colonial Uniforms: Colonial military uniforms of the 18th century (including those worn in North America during the Revolutionary War) were handmade using traditional tailoring methods. Here's how the process typically worked:

1. Materials

Wool: The main fabric for coats and breeches. Broadcloth (a dense woolen cloth) was most common because it was durable and held dyes well.

Linen: Used for shirts, linings, and summer wear.

Leather: For breeches, belts, cartridge boxes, and shoes.

Cotton: Rare in early 18th century, but by mid-late century became more available for linings or light garments.

Dyes were often imported—reds from cochineal, blues from indigo, and blacks/browns from tannins or iron-based dyes. Some local dyeing also happened.

2. Cutting & Tailoring

Uniforms weren't mass-produced like today. Each was cut by a tailor using patterns based on body measurements.

Military contracts sometimes required thousands of coats; these would be farmed out to teams of tailors working long hours.

Hand sewing was universal—uniforms were stitched with linen or silk thread. Seams were reinforced because uniforms had to endure heavy use.

3. Decoration & Details

Facings: Colored lapels, cuffs, and collars were made of contrasting cloth to identify regiments.

Buttons: Usually pewter, brass, or occasionally wood or bone. Officers often had gilt (gold-plated) buttons.

Trim: Soldiers' coats might have narrow tape (wool or linen lace), while officers' coats had fancier metallic lace.

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Miscellaneous



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4. Shoes & Hats

Shoes: Leather, made by cobblers, with buckles or ties. Soles were hand-stitched and hobnailed for durability.

Hats: Felted wool, shaped into tricorneres or cocked hats, often stiffened with shellac. Officers' hats could have feather plumes or metallic trim.

5. Mass Supply in Wartime

During wars (like the Seven Years' War or Revolutionary War), governments contracted workshops and civilian tailors to turn out uniforms in bulk. Quality varied: some regiments got finely made coats, others received hastily assembled, poorly fitting clothing.

Colonial militias often wore their civilian clothes with hunting shirts until proper uniforms could be provided.

Uniforms were hand-cut, hand-sewn, and tailored from wool or linen, decorated with distinctive facings and buttons, and finished with handmade shoes and hats. They were labor-intensive, and consistency varied depending on resources and supply lines.





Miscellaneous



Coming Fall Events

Please put these events on your calendar and support the chapter for these major fall events. You do not need colonial attire if not in the color guard.

September 25th	10 AM	U.S. Courthouse	Judge Biery
October 23rd	10 AM	U.S. Courthouse	Judge Garcia
November 11th (Wed)		SA National Cemetery	Judge Garcia
		Ft Sam Houston	Veteran's Day

November 20th	10 AM	U.S. Courthouse	Judge Chestney
December 11th	10 AM	U.S. Courthouse	Judge Biery