

# Welcome Our New State President & Officers

By Matt Hoffman  
Editor, *The Texas Compatriot*

Once again, we've had a successful annual Texas SAR Convention! If you were able to attend, you know the excitement and fun that came from being around people you know, and making new friends! If you weren't able to make the convention, I would encourage you to do so!



our new State President, Mel Oller, and ALL of our State Officers for their leadership and contributions to the society! Also, thank you to the Dallas and McKinney Chapters for hosting this year's fantastic event! 2025 is already shaping up to be an EXCITING, and BUSY year! I have only been a member of the society since less than 2 years, but each convention is unique! This was my second convention, with the first being in San Antonio, but the convention is something to really partake, if you haven't yet. Besides the new state leadership, it's an opportunity to see our state society function. And it's an opportunity for YOU to become involved at the state level!



Second, now is the time for YOU to plan on attending the 2026 convention! More details to come! If you haven't been (and I know I'm repeating myself), you should REALLY plan on coming to the 2026 State Convention (hint, hint)!

So get ready! 2025 and 2026 will be memorable, ESPECIALLY with the kickoff of the 250th Anniversary of the “Shot Heard ‘Round The World!” Plus, we have our monument dedication coming up at the Texas State Cemetery, a major project that’s been in the works, and coming to fruition!

*In This Issue...*

## In This Issue...

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***\*To reach any of your state officers, click on the e-mail link above to message that individual.\****



# The President's Corner



by Mel Oller

*Texas SAR President - 2025-2026*

Compatriots, Greetings from Texas SAR!

I hope you enjoy this edition of *The Texas Compatriot*. We have a new Editor of the *Compatriot*, Matthew Hoffman of Freedom Chapter. Thank you to Matt for stepping into this important role. We also want to thank Ron Turner of the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter for his stewardship of the *Compatriot* for the last several years, and his continued guidance and support of Matt as he takes over.

We celebrated the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord on April 19<sup>th</sup>, and that begins the remembrance of the struggle for our Independence from 1775 until the Treaty of Paris in 1783. Through this time we always want to remember who we are, as stated in the SAR Mission Statement:

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.

- ⇒ Remembering Our Past....By honoring those who served or assisted the colonies during the Revolutionary War.
- ⇒ Promoting Core Values....By protecting our Constitution and perpetuating American ideals and traditions.
- ⇒ Shaping Young Minds....By educating our youth about the Constitution and those who developed the American ideals and traditions.

Thank you for the opportunity you have given me to serve as Texas SAR President for the upcoming year. Let's all work together to learn and grow, and make Texas SAR the best Society we can be.





# Presidential Farewell Address

## Presidential Farewell Address

by Tracy A. Pounders

Texas Annual Banquet, March 29, 2025  
Texas SAR President - 2024-2025



My friends, there is no need to check your watch, but on my watch it says it's a minute to Midnight, and the seconds are ticking on what's left of my term as your President. Standing before you this evening, my heart is filled with both **gratitude** and a deep sense of ... **reflection**. Serving you, the Texas Society, has been one of the greatest honors of my life. Tonight, as you hear my farewell, know that it is not given with sadness, but with **pride**—and with **faith** in the road ahead.



When I first joined this organization thirty-three years ago it was just an excuse to hang out with my Dad one Saturday morning a month. Later the history drew me in — the names, the battles, the documents and dates. But over time, it became clear to me that this organization isn't just about remembering the past—it's about continuing a **legacy**. It's about honoring courage not just with words, but with **action**. It's about keeping the flame of Liberty alive—not just in ceremonies, but in our communities, our families, and our lives.

Your dedication, your kindness, your stories have inspired me. We've gathered to honor Patriots long gone, mentor young people who will carry on our mission, and



work quietly and faithfully to uphold the values that built this nation. And through it all, you've reminded again and again that what we do here matters. History lives because we choose to remember it. **The Revolution lives on** because we choose to live by its ideals.

My beloved Texas Society, membership in the SAR is more than just membership in a club.

Membership in this Society is a **promise**. A promise to never forget where we came from. A promise to never take for granted the sacrifices made by those who fought for our freedom. And a promise to never stop working to build a future **worthy** of their struggle.

My time is running short and it is time for me to close. But as my time ends please let me assure you that this Society is in strong, capable hands. The torch we carry is bright—and let there be NO DOUBT it will shine even brighter in the years to come.

Thank you—for your friendship, your support, and for allowing me to be a part of something so meaningful. Additionally I want thank my late mother, Margaret Pounders, who got our family started on this genealogical journey. My Dad, Frank Pounders, who got me into the SAR and encouraged me to take on leadership roles. My sister, Gina Henderson, who is here with her husband Jim, for continuing Mom's work, for her constant support and for looking out for me since I was a baby. My kids, Elizabeth and her husband Caleb, and Alex and his wife Kiersten and our grandson Lucas, for putting up with me and supporting me in my work with the SAR. And lastly, my sweet wife, Marci Pounders — there are no words — ***I love this woman*** — there are very few things done by me without the partnership of this sweet sweet soul.

That said my Friends, let us move forward with heads high, hearts full, and always—always—being true to the legacy of the Patriots we honor.

God bless you. God bless Texas. And God bless the Sons of the American Revolution!

Tracy A. Pounders  
President, Texas Society 2024-25  
Sons of the American Revolution



## State History Information

# WANTED!

### Texas Compatriot Biographies & Chapter Histories!

Our Texas SAR History Volume III editor, Matt Hoffman, is gathering Compatriot Biographies and Chapter Histories for publication in the upcoming Texas SAR History Volume III.

**Compatriot Biography** information about yourself or any Texas Compatriot during the period since our previous Texas SAR History Volume II in 2005 is **NEEDED!** Tell us about your SAR experiences, your SAR awards, your SAR accomplishments, were you in the Color Guard? Those are important. You should brag about yourself! Don't overlook your military and career assignments, but our focus is your SAR experiences. Doctors, lawyers, educators, farmers, ranchers, military, civic, professionals, SAR chapter officers, Texas SAR Officers, NSSAR Officers, committee members, etc.; we all are prominent in some way. Let's fill up this upcoming History Volume so it is rich with compatriot biographies. You are important! An easy [Compatriot Questionnaire](#) is available for download to assist with gathering your SAR experiences. Send either the questionnaire and/or a compatriot biography to Matt Hoffman or John Anderson. Their emails are below.

How about your Texas SAR **Chapter History**? Does your chapter have a Historian or Color Guard Commander? Several chapters have someone that knows what's going on. Even if he doesn't attend regularly, please be sure someone in your chapter can provide a chapter history. We're mainly looking for information since the prior Texas SAR History volume in 2005. Only a few pages are needed but we'll take whatever you have. Does someone recall your chapter charter date and information? Which SAR President signed your chapter charter, what about a charter banquet, etc.? What has happened in your chapter since then? It will be interesting for all of us.

Shortly before Thanksgiving, Matt Hoffman, sent out a DADA email message to all Chapter Presidents requesting the chapter history information. He suggested a chapter historian should first gather the information and capture it with a few photos in some kind of word processing document; your choice odt, doc, docx, pdf, etc. Then upload it in paragraphs of the online form he created. [Click Here](#) for his online link for Chapter Histories or email to those below.

**WANTED**  
**BIOGRAPHY**  
**REWARD!**

***Please don't wait till the last minute!*** Only a short time remains! Our target is July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Please provide your Compatriot Biographies and Chapter Histories by then. And direct your questions to Matt Hoffman or John Anderson.



Matt Hoffman, Texas SAR History Volume III Editor, [historyvolume3@texassar.org](mailto:historyvolume3@texassar.org).

John Anderson, Texas SAR Historian, [historian@texassar.org](mailto:historian@texassar.org)



# Founding of America History - 250th Anniversary

## Lexington and Concord: The Shot Heard 'Round the World

From [American Battlefield Trust](#)

April 19, 1775



Captain John Parker

Facing an impending rebellion, British General Thomas Gage decided to seize weapons and gun powder being stored in Concord, Massachusetts, twenty miles northwest of Boston, to prevent violence. Patriot spies soon got wind of Gage's plan. Paul Revere and other riders spread the word of the 800 British regulars who were dispatched to Concord.

Departing Boston late in the evening of April 18, the King's troops marched into the small town of Lexington around 5:00 am to find, facing them, a militia company of more 70 men led by Captain John Parker. When the vanguard of the British force rushed forward upon the town green, Captain Parker immediately ordered his company to disperse.

At some point a shot rang out-- historians still debate who fired the shot. The nervous British soldiers fired a volley, killing seven and mortally wounding one of the retreating militiamen. The British column moved on towards Concord, leaving the dead, wounded, and dying in their wake. Parker and his men would have revenge later that afternoon.

Arriving in Concord around 8:00 am, British commanders Francis Smith and John Pitcairn ordered several companies, about 220 troops in all, to secure the north bridge across the Concord River and then continue on another mile to the Barrett Farm, where a suspected cache of arms and powder was presumably located. By the time the British arrived at the North Bridge, a growing assembly of close to 400 militia from Concord and the surrounding towns had gathered on the high ground overlooking the north bridge. From their vantage point on the hill they could see smoke rising from Concord, the result of British burning some supplies that they uncovered. Thinking the town was being put to the torch, Lieutenant Joseph Hosmer of Concord shouted to his fellow officers, "Will you let them burn the town down?"

The decision was then made to take action. Col. James Barrett ordered his companies to march upon the bridge but not to fire upon the British soldiers unless first fired upon. The Acton Company, commanded by thirty-year old Captain Isaac Davis, was placed at the head of the column. When asked if they were prepared to confront the British troops Davis said, "I haven't a man afraid to go."

The Minute Men formed up and marched down the hill. As they did so, the British soldiers, intimidated by the colonial numbers and orderly advance, retreated to the opposite shore and prepared to defend themselves. When Davis's company came within range, British soldiers opened fire, killing Isaac Davis and also Abner Hosmer, another Acton Minute Man. Major Buttrick of Concord shouted, "For God's sake, fire!" and the Minute Men replied with their own volley, killing three British soldiers and wounding nine others. This volley is the volley considered "the shot heard round the world." The rest of the British troops retreated back to town.

Smith and Pitcairn soon ordered a return to Boston, which devolved into a rout as thousands of minute men patriots descended on the area. As the British were attacked from all sides by swarms of angry Minutemen along what is now known as Battle Road. When they reached Lexington, John Parker and his men had their revenge, firing on the British regulars from behind cover. For the next 12 miles, the British were continually ambushed by Minutemen shooting from behind trees, rock walls, and buildings. The emotions of this fight carried well beyond April 19, inspiring American warriors to "rise up and fight again" even in the face of staggering odds against them.

Having heard of the morning fighting at Lexington, General Gage ordered Lord Percy to march from Boston with a relief column. The column reached Smith and Pitcairn's men on the eastern outskirts of Lexington, but Minutemen continued to pour in as word spread quickly throughout the area. Among these minute and militia companies were many African Americans, both free and enslaved, who took up arms and fought alongside their white neighbors.



Thomas Gage



The British conducted a running fight until they could get under the cover of British guns in ships anchored in the waterways surrounding Boston. By 8:00 pm, it was clear that the day had been a disaster for the British. They lost 73 killed and many more wounded compared to the patriot's loss of 49 killed.

Concord poet Ralph Waldo Emerson dubbed them the "embattled farmers." They were not American citizens, yet. That would have to wait until 1776 and the Declaration of Independence. On April 19, 1775 they were simply loyal British subjects who believed that they were standing up to defend and fight for their rights. In doing so they changed the world forever.



# 2025 State Convention Pictures





# In Case You Missed It (Chapter News)...

## Dallas

Newest member of the Dallas Chapter Gustavo Hinojosa provided a table at the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas Hispanic Genealogical and Historical Conference October 3 – 5. Tom Van Fossen, Mark Morgan and Bill Watts manned the table providing information about the Sons of the American Revolution to the membership of HOGAR. The chapter featured books with information about Spanish Patriots, biographies of American Revolutionary Patriots on the SAR Monument in Austin, and how to join the SAR. Many of the attendees did not

know they could join the SAR and were surprised that about half of the Patriots on the SAR Monument were from the Spanish controlled area in the south of North America.



Mark Morgan, Bill Watts and Tom Van Fossen



Tom Van Fossen, Gustavo Hinojosa, Mark Morgan, and Bill Watts

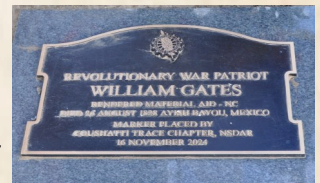
## Freedom

On November 16, 2024, the Freedom Chapter, along with State President Tracy Pounders, members of the Daughters of the

American Revolution, and Children of the American Revolution, participated in a Patriot grave marking ceremony. William Gates, a Patriot of North Carolina during the Revolutionary War, who was later buried in Texas, had his service and contributions to our country memorialized. The color guard was led by the Southern Color Guard Commander - David Hamaker, with a



presentation given by Texas SAR State President - Tracy Pounders. The grave side service that was held included moving words spoken by various individuals, along with a musket salute and a "hat tip" to William Gates' grave. This ceremony remembers the contributions of a Patriot Ancestor who helped our country gain its freedom. William Gates is buried in the Gates-Perry Family Cemetery, located near Washington-on-the-Brazos. For more information on William Gates, please visit the Texas State Historical Association at tshaonline.org.



## Edmund Terrell

The Edmund Terrill Chapter SAR asked members of the McKinney SAR chapter plus daughters of the MJR DAR Chapter to join in celebrating Veterans Day and riding in the Sherman Parade. The trailer was decorated with four half circle of red, white and blue along with the Edmund Terrill sign and the MJR DAR sign. All total there were ten individuals, they being Gary Barker, John Young (our driver), Ted Wilson, Gary Sisson, Tom Milson, Bob Millwee, Dale Rideout (working on being reinstated), Judy Wilson, Linda Turner, and Cindie Vaughan. It was great day for a parade after the rain from the day before. The crowd was small but there was lots of enthusiastic people watching. They got to hear Gary ringing in the celebration.



## Independence

Independence Chapter # 40 in Bryan-College Station, Texas was proud to present a Flag Certificate to Randy and Jackie Rice for their show of patriotism and honor to those who served by displaying the flag daily at their home in Bryan, Texas. Additionally, they store, clean, place and recover 21 flags throughout their neighborhood in honor of all national and patriotic holidays. Jackie is a member of the LaVillita Chapter of the DAR and Randy is a prospective SAR member. Pictured is Dennis Brunson, President of Independence Chapter presenting the Flag Certificate at their home on December 19, 2024.





# In Case You Missed It (Chapter News)...

## Robert Rankin



In Texas, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade history curriculum is about the history of the United States from 1565 to the present. This includes the colonial period, the American Revolution, the establishment of the U.S. Constitution, the American identity, and westward expansion. In support of this information, the curriculum recommends the use of a variety of rich source materials including museums, historical sites, and local and state preservation societies. On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, three members of Robert Rankin Chapter went to Nottingham Elementary in Katy, Texas. Ralph Reed, Tom Jackson, and Jerry Martin displayed an assortment of 13 historic flags. Each class spent about 40 minutes before allowing the next class in. Ralph spoke about his veteran service and uniforms worn during the American Revolution. Jerry reviewed the English flags, the colonial flags, and then discussed the battles in which they appeared. Tom spoke of the contributions of the French and Spanish and their flags of the period.



## Arlington



Bobby Gresham, Steven Hole, Richard Coffey, Dan Hamilton

In a moving ceremony held at Blessing Funeral Home, members of the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution came together to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Paul Revere's Ride and the Battles of Lexington and Concord—events that marked the beginning of the American Revolution. This year's observance holds special significance as it coincides with the launch of America's Semiquincentennial: the 250th anniversary of the "Shot Heard 'Round the World."

The event was a collaborative effort between the Quanah Parker Chapter and Lucretia Council Cochran Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and the Arlington and Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR).

The Color Guard, composed of Compatriots Bobby Gresham and Steven Hole of the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter and Richard Coffey and Dan Hamilton of the Arlington Chapter, presented and posted the Colors. Program presenters included Meg Anderson, Regent of the Lucretia Council Cochran Chapter DAR; Kimberly Roe Yuhasz, Regent of the Quanah Parker Chapter DAR; Nancy Bergvall, 250th Anniversary Chair of the Lucretia Council Cochran Chapter; and Debbie Panton, Vice Regent and America 250 Committee Co-Chair of the Quanah Parker Chapter DAR. Dan Hamilton, Adjutant of the Northern Command SAR, also participated alongside Blessing Funeral Home staff members Joe Romero and Madelyn Wheaton.



Meg Anderson



Richard Coffey, Kimberly Roe Yuhasz, Steven Hole

Kimberly Roe Yuhasz opened the program by recounting the events and tensions that led to the battles. The 250th Anniversary Team then took turns reading excerpts from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's *"The Landlord's Tale: Paul Revere's Ride."* Following the poem, Meg Anderson shared a brief summary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord.

Participants then presented short biographies of the eight Patriots who fell on Lexington Green during the early hours of April 19, 1775, as well as the first two Patriots who gave their lives defending Concord at the North Bridge. Sandra Good, Chaplain of the Quanah Parker Chapter DAR, delivered the benediction. Dan Hamilton concluded the event by reading a Proclamation issued by National SAR President General Darryl S. Addington (2024–2025) honoring the 250th Anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord.

Blessing Funeral Home, known for its dedication to honoring veterans and preserving the legacy of American patriots, provided a dignified and meaningful setting for the commemoration. The event served as both a remembrance of the sacrifices that shaped our nation and a call to uphold the enduring principles of liberty, service, and community.



Dan Hamilton



# Color Guard Muster Junction



by David Hamaker

*State Color Guard Commander - 2025-2026*

Color Guardsmen and Chapter Presidents,

I want to send out a short note to encourage you and your chapters to reach out to your surrounding SAR chapters and the DAR chapters for color guard event opportunities, in your area, that you can participate in. I want to encourage you to be as active as possible. This helps us in having more color guard events, as well as recruiting new SAR members.

Just a reminder, that if you plan on firing black powder muskets at any event, the attached form needs to be filled out. This would put us in compliance with our Black Powder Liability Insurance policy. This would be considered a state event. *(Editor's Note: see the form on the next page)*

Take every opportunity to attend as many State and National events as you can, such as – Liberty Tree Plantings, Honor Flights, National Holidays, US Naturalizations, Holiday Parades, etc. – check the State and National events pages for more information.

Don't forget to start thinking about **Color Guardsmen of the Year!** Nominations must be turned in by August 31, 2025.



## Upcoming Events - 2025

Armed Forces Day - May 16th

Memorial Day - May 26th

Flag Day - June 14th

Independence Day - July 4th

Battle of Medina - August 16th (TBD)

Veteran's Day - November 11th

Wreaths Across America - December 13th







TEXAS SOCIETY  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



## Color Guard Reporting Form

For Ceremonial Musket Firing

Date of Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor of Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapters Involved: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Shooters Expected: \_\_\_\_\_

Shooter's Names:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) \_\_\_\_\_

Safety Officer for Musket Safety Inspections:

\_\_\_\_\_



# Additional Information

## How to Submit Items to The Texas Compatriot

*The Texas Compatriot* welcomes all submissions from any compatriots. Here are some tips to help you with getting your story published:

- 1) Keep your article as short as you can while still telling the story.
- 2) Please place your story in a Microsoft Word document.
- 3) Pictures should be attached separately to your e-mail. Do not add the pictures into your Word document.
- 4) Make sure your images are a High Resolution, at least 300 DPI, and that no date or time stamps appear on your image.
- 5) Please identify, from left to right, the individuals in your photograph.
- 6) Limit your photographs to those you would like to see published. No more than five (5) photos should be submitted.
- 7) Meet the deadline listed in the "Publishing Deadlines" if you want your article in the next edition of *The Texas Compatriot*.
- 8) E-mail your article to [Compatriot@TexasSAR.org](mailto:Compatriot@TexasSAR.org).
- 9) The Editor reserves the right to modify your story for content, space, or other needs of the newsletter.

## Picture Policy

To publish photos of children under the age of 18 in *The Texas Compatriot*, in your local chapter newsletter, or on your chapter website, you **MUST** have a signed parental form that gives us (the Texas SAR) permission to publish the child's name and photo.

You can find the form on the Texas SAR public website under **Contests/Programs** drop down, then **Permission/Release Form**. You can also click this link for the form: [https://www.texassar.org/pdf/Permission\\_Youth.pdf](https://www.texassar.org/pdf/Permission_Youth.pdf)

Before the child's picture can appear in *The Texas Compatriot*, the signed consent form must be on file in the Editor's office.

## Publishing Deadlines

Deadlines for content inclusion in *The Texas Compatriot* are as follows:

- Submissions for the Spring (March) Publication
  - Due no later than February 1st.
- Submissions for the Summer (June) Publication
  - Due no later than May 1st.
- Submissions for the Fall (September) Publication
  - Due no later than August 1st.
- Submissions for the Winter (December) Publication
  - Due no later than November 1st.

## Newsletter Committee

Matthew E. "Matt" Hoffman is the Chairman of the Newsletter Committee. Ron Turner is the Vice-Chairman. But, we can't do this job alone!



We are seeking members of our society interested in serving on the committee! Every chapter **should** have an individual designated to serve on our committee - whether it be the Chapter President, Chapter Newsletter Editor, or anyone who's interested!

The work isn't hard and the "atta-boys" are frequent! For our newsletter to thrive, we need your help with providing content, articles, pictures and information on things your

chapter is doing!

From Veteran Events, Parades, Community Interactions, and More, We Want You! If you're interested in serving, please e-mail us: [Compatriot@TexasSAR.org](mailto:Compatriot@TexasSAR.org)!

## Disclaimer

*The Texas Compatriot* is published four (4) times a year for a Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter publications, and is copyrighted by the Texas Sons of the American Revolution, P.O. Box 9387, Spring, TX 77387-9387. The Texas Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, or any entity connected to the organization for the content included is not responsible for any copyright infringements, liabilities, trademarks, trade names, patents or any other infractions and are considered coincidental. For any issues regarding this publication, any infringements or other legal issues stemming from this publication should be directed to the Editor at [Compatriot@TexasSAR.org](mailto:Compatriot@TexasSAR.org). Any necessary retractions, concerns, or corrections should be directed to the Editor. Any necessary retractions or corrections shall appear in the next issue of *The Texas Compatriot*.



# From The Editor...

by Matthew E. "Matt" Hoffman  
Editor - *The Texas Compatriot*



What an amazing year already! Spring is here, the flowers are blooming, the sun has returned, and Texas has never looked better! What's even more exciting than all of this though, is we are on the cusp of our 250th Anniversary of the Founding of America! Certainly, this is a time to rejoice in being alive! We're off to another great start!

Some of you have been around long enough to remember the Bicentennial - the 200th Anniversary on July 4, 1976! I was only a young child (insert jokes here) but I do remember the photos I've seen and that seemed amazing to me! Now, more than ever, is a time for us to come together and remember the Semiquincentennial happening on July 4, 2026, to commemorate the July 4, 1776 signing of the Declaration of Independence! More than that, we should celebrate each milestone leading up to this historic event in our nation's founding!

250 years ago, in 1775, there were MANY things happening! December 2023, we celebrated the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party. Throughout 2024, we remembered the British Parliament enacting the Intolerable (Coercive) Acts, the First Continental Congress, and more. Here we are, 2025, ready to remember, and celebrate, 250 years of the "Shot Heard 'Round The World," the ride of Paul Revere, the Second Continental Congress, George Washington being named Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, the Battle of Bunker Hill, the establishment of the Army, Navy, Marines, and many other things!

As we continue our march towards the 250th Celebration, now is the time to get involved! And every day is a time to get involved, beyond the celebrations! The question is: do you or your chapter have a color guard? Do you actively participate in community activities representing the Texas SAR? Do you have a newsletter? Do you showcase anything your chapter does? Do you have a mentor program? Do you participate in any local schools and help educate our young minds on our Revolutionary War Patriots or our Patriotism?

If you answered No, have you considered doing so? This is an exciting time for all of us, and a chance to leave a lasting legacy to remember! You don't have to dress in color guard apparel in order to participate with the color guard! You don't have to be a subject matter expert in history, in order to tell a story about your own history and the history of our Patriot ancestors! You don't have to be the most articulate individual to have a newsletter! All you need is a DESIRE!

This is where our state officers can help you! State officers represent you, but, they also are here to help mentor you, provide you guidance and assistance, and help your chapter flourish! As the incoming newsletter editor of *The Texas Compatriot*, and having only been with this organization for less than two years, I know the value of leaning on people, asking questions, and taking initiative in order to help us grow! It's by asking questions, showing enthusiasm to help, and being able to contribute that makes our organization the BEST in the nation!

Ask yourself what you can do to help! Then, ask your Chapter President, OR, ask a State Officer! I've included the e-mails to each of YOUR state officers, so you can do exactly that! We are all here to help! It only takes a couple of hours a MONTH to contribute and help out the chapter or the organization, so why not get involved???

I'm going to include this as well: each chapter should have a Newsletter! It doesn't have to be fancy, but it needs to tell a story. So I'm issuing you a challenge: if you don't have a chapter newsletter, develop one! If you're not sure how, feel free to e-mail me at [Compatriot@TexasSAR.org](mailto:Compatriot@TexasSAR.org) and I'll be happy to help provide you some guidance! A few pictures, an article or two, or even just some brief history can be enough to get started! And it's fun! Let's see if we can get EVERY chapter across the state to start publishing their own newsletters, and, include me on your submissions! Don't forget, if you have an article you want published in *The Texas Compatriot* or *The SAR Magazine*, send those to me so I can get them included! Let's have a GREAT 2025!

*Huzzah!!!*

*P.s. - If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, feel free to contact me; I'm always open to suggestions!!!*