



THE SAN ANTONIO COMPATRIOT

SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER #4 • TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Compatriot Robert Hancock, President — Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, Editor

May-Jun 2014



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Compatriots: Howdy - I can hardly believe the year is almost half over - it has gone so quickly. Some things change but others do not - our Chapter remains at the top and I am

sure we are the envy of others! We won the lion's share of awards at our State SAR Conference and I feel sure we will do equally well at the National SAR Conference in Greenville, SC this summer.

On June 14th, 5 Compatriots participated in a major event at Operation Homefront's Warrior Village where 15 Tool Boxes were donated to Purple Heart Wounded Warriors. Due to James Taylor's superb leadership, we continue to have an active "Tool Box Program". He tells me that as of this distribution we have delivered 80 Tool Boxes to warriors. Recently, we were notified that Wounded Warriors who experience traumatic brain injuries should be included as recipients in the Tool Box Program. (See Page 3.)

We recently had five great inductions of new members and - please excuse me, but two of those were my sons Robert and Brad Hancock. I was so proud of having the opportunity to do their induction as Chapter President! (See Page 4)

We have two Independence Day Events that I ask for those who live in the San Antonio area support; they are Independence Day Historical Program at Hyatt Regency Hill Country on July 3rd and the Wreath Laying Ceremony at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery on July 4th. The biggest event is our Independence Day Celebration will be on July 3rd at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort at 10 AM; All compatriots (in Revolutionary Period dress or appropriate dress of the day) are invited to attend and share their stories of their Patriot Ancestor with the 200 plus Hotel Guests who will be attending the event. I ask that if you are not out of town, please join us. (See "Coming Events" on Page 5.)

Bob Clark, our Chapter Treasurer just notified us that he and his wife Sara will be moving to New Mexico at the end of this summer. They want to live closer to Sarah's mother. Bob, both you and Sarah will be missed; you have done a great job as our Chapter Treasurer. Obviously, we need another compatriot to step in as our Chapter Treasurer. **If you would like to serve in this officer position, please let me know.**

We are making plans for our **Chapter Gala Banquet on Saturday, October 18th** and 6:00 P.M. at the Petroleum Club. I want to make this a very special event so please **reserve the date and plan to attend**. More details will be sent out in a News Release shortly.

Have an enjoyable and safe summer; hope to see you at our next Chapter Meeting on September 18th at the Petroleum Club. Compatriotly, *Robert Hancock.*

CHAPTER PLANS GALA BANQUET

The Chapter's 2014 Gala Banquet will be on Saturday, October 18th at the Petroleum Club at 6:00 P.M. Our primary purpose is to have fun and share in fellowship with many of our members who usually cannot attend our monthly Chapter Meetings during the work week. It is not a "fund-raiser" for our Youth Awards Programs - that was done when we hosted the Texas Society Annual Meeting in March. So we will kept the cost of meals lower. We want members in the greater San Antonio area and their spouses or best friends, to join us for a social gathering and share in some camaraderie. See "**Save the Date**" Flyer at right.

SAVE THE DATE
SAN ANTONIO SAR GALA
SATURDAY · OCTOBER 18TH · 6 PM
PETROLEUM CLUB OF SAN ANTONIO



BEXAR COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY ADDRESSES CHAPTER MEMBERS

District Attorney Susan Reed addressed our Chapter Members at our monthly Meeting on June 18th about the law enforcement issues in Bexar County. Her theme was “Protecting the Public” throughout the county and all its incorporated towns. She thanked SAR for wanting to recognize Chief Investigator Michael Beers with our Law Enforcement Award. She highly praised him for his service to Bexar County. She noted that today the City was celebrating the Spurs 5th NBA Championship - so she proudly wore her Spurs T-Shirt. For her time and participation, President Hancock presented Judge Reed with a book “Washington—A Life” by Ron Chernow.



LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD



Each year we present the SAR’s Law Enforcement Award to a deserving Law Officer. This year District Attorney Susan Reed supported the nomination of Chief Investigator Mike Beers for this Award. Compatriot Bill Clanton read the Citation to Accompany the Award which read in part: “Chief Investigator Michael (Mike) Beers distinguished himself as Chief Investigator Bexar Criminal District Attorney’s Office for the past 16 years overseeing all investigators employed by the Bexar County Criminal District Attorney, and a liaison between the many law enforcement agencies in San Antonio and the District Attorney’s Office”. For his dedicated service over 16 years, Chapter President Bob Hancock presented Chief Beers with SAR’s Law Enforcement Commendation Medal.

From left to right are Judge Susan Reed, Compatriot Bill Clanton, Chief Mike Beers and President Bob Hancock.

TEXAS SAR PRESIDENT GUEST SPEAKER

Our Special Guest at our May 21st Chapter Meeting was Texas SAR President Bob Cohen and his first lady Jane. His first remarked noted that Texas Governor Rick Perry had published a Proclamation honoring the 125th Anniversary of the founding of the National Society of SAR. He thanked Compatriot Frank Rohrbough for having the Proclamation made for the Texas Society.

President Cohen then gave an educational and historical presentation on the uniforms of the American Revolution as noted in the book titled “An Illustration Encyclopedia of Uniforms from 1775-1783 of the American Revolution”.

Using a power point slide presentation he discussed the various uniforms of the American Militia, Continental Army, the armies and navies of Great Britain, France, Germany and Spain and American Indian allies.

President Cohen closed his talk with the Induction of Compatriot Roy Leonard into SAR. For more details, go to **Page 4**.



SAR Gifts More Tool Boxes to Wounded Warriors

On June 14th, the San Antonio Chapter of SAR hosted its 3rd distribution of Tool Boxes to the Wounded Warriors living in the Operation Homefront Village in San Antonio. Event Coordinator James Taylor led the program on behalf of the National Society SAR to honor soldiers and their families residing in the Greater San Antonio area. He spoke of the importance of this program as a means of helping warriors transition back to the community following treatment of their wartime injuries. Chapter President Robert Hancock welcomed the Wounded Warriors and their families to the event and stated “The gift of toolboxes is our way of saying welcome home.”

The Tool Box Project was founded by Clarence “Bud” Shepherd, a WWII veteran and founder of Resource Exchange Association in North Carolina. The Tool Boxes are assembled from donations made by Industry Businesses, to include major suppliers of tool products, as a Community Service Project supporting Wounded Warriors and their Families. A Tool Box, valuing about \$1,000, is gifted to each Purple Heart recipient when they are ready to move to a private home with their family. The first distributions started in June last year in partnership of Operation Homefront here in San Antonio. With the distribution of 15 Tool Boxes at this event, we have now distributed 76 Tool Boxes. The Tool Box Project’s goal is to gift over 48,000 Tool Boxes to Wounded Warriors



across the country over the next few years. All of the families expressed their personal appreciation for the gifting of the Tool Boxes. (At Left) Former President-General Edward Butler tells how the National Society recognizes Wounded Warriors which led to the launching of the Tool Box Program. Looking on are Compatriots James Taylor (Far Left) and Frank Rohrbough (Chapter Color Guard Commander) (Center). Also, participating was Compatriot Stephen Rohrbough, Past President, Texas SAR. Dino Sarracino, Operation Homefront’s Vice President of Programs, commented: “I want to thank the Sons of the American Revolution for this opportunity, in partnership with Operation Homefront, to be able to sustain and build this program for wounded warriors. It’s a very special gift whenever we can give back to our service members.”



CHAPTER CELEBRATES MEMORIAL DAY WITH AREA SCOUTS

On May 23rd our chapter participated in the Opening Ceremony of the Scouts Annual Flag Placement Event at the National Cemetery at Ft. Sam Houston, TX. The VA provided small US flags for the scouts from the San Antonio Area to place in front of all 100,000 Veterans’ Grave Markers in the cemetery. The event honors all veterans who have served our country throughout previous and current wars. (At Right) Color Guardsmen were: Compatriots Stephen Rohrbough (Past President, Texas SAR), Bob Hancock (President SASAR), and Past SASAR Presidents Peter Baron, Frank Rohrbough and James Taylor.





(Above) From Left to Right are brothers Compatriots Brad Hancock, and Bob Hancock, President Robert Hancock (father) and Compatriots Gilbert Patino and Gilbert Villerreal. All were inducted at the June 18th Chapter Meeting.

Inductions of New Members

(At Right) Texas SAR President Bob Cohen inducted Compatriot Roy Leonard during his visit to the Chapter on May 21st. As part of the ceremony, Compatriot



James Taylor, who worker up Leonard's Application, pins on the SAR Lapel Pin as President Hancock looks on. Roy Leonard's patriot ancestor was Lazarus Reeves. He was a sergeant with Francis Marion, the Swamp Fox. He fought in South Carolina and Virginia.

Our June 18th Chapter Meeting was very special of President Hancock as he was able to induct his two sons into SAR. According to Hancock's Family History, **Patriot Ancestor Steven Hancock** was born in Goochland Virginia in 1736. Steven and his brother William Hancock moved with their families to Boonesboro Kentucky early in 1778 and became very close friends of Daniel Boone! They fought in numerous battles to include the Siege of Boonesboro Blue Lick and served in the Clark Campaign of 1780-1782. **Gilbert Patino's Patriot Ancestor Sergeant Baltazar de los Reyes Perez** served as second in command, Chief Justice of the Villa of San Fernando. He later received a land grant in 1782 for his services along San Pedro Creek. Baltazar De Los Reyes Perez assisted in establishing American Independence while acting in the capacity of Alferes (Ensign) of the Presidio de Bexar, Tejas, Nueva Espana from 1760 to 1782. **Gilbert Villerreal's Patriot Ancestor Tomas del Toro**, was a soldier in the light cavalry at the Presidio de Bexar in 1778-1781 providing escort services, to include protecting cattle and horses, in the surrounding area.

SAR AWARD FOR SCOUT MASTER MCALISTER

The San Antonio Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) recognized William "Bill" L. McCalister for his 37 years of service as Scout Master, Troop 285, Boy Scouts of America by presenting to him the SAR Silver Good Citizenship Medal. The award was made at our monthly Chapter Meeting on May 21st which was held at the San Antonio Petroleum Club. Bill was an Eagle Scout at the age of 13 and has now provided leadership for the development of over 180 Eagle Scouts, who have provided over 50,000 hours of community service through their Eagle Scout service projects. It has been quoted by these Eagle Scouts that, other than their fathers, Bill has been the most influential person in their lives. Bill graduated from the University of Texas in 1967 and entered the U. S. Army, serving 3 years during the Vietnam War as a combat helicopter pilot. He is a 32nd Degree Mason and is an active member of Coker United Methodist Church.



Joining Bill in the presentation (left to right) is Stephen Rohrbough, Past State President, Bill's wife Jill, Bill, Jay Lewallen and Robert Hancock, President, San Antonio Chapter SAR.

KNIGHT ESSEY CONTEST AWARDEES RECOGNIZED

The San Antonio Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) recognized **Stephen Mayfield**, as the 1st place winner of their annual George and Stella Knight Essay Contest and presented him with a specially designed SAR Certificate and \$250 award.

His award was given at the May 21st Chapter Meeting held at the San Antonio Petroleum Club. Joining Stephen in the presentation (**left to right**) are Jay Lewallen, Chairman, SAR Education Committee, Stephen's father, Stephen and Robert Hancock, Chapter President. Stephen is a 12th grade student at the Mayfield Home Academy. His essay was entitled "**Did the Constitutional Convention Run Away?**" (See Page 6 for Essay)



This award was made on the basis of historical accuracy, clarity of thought, organization, grammar and references. Stephen has been taking honor classes at UTSA and was selected to participate in the Southwest Research Institute's Young Engineer and Scientist Program. Stephen has been accepted into the College of Engineering at Texas A&M University starting this fall.

Our 2nd Place Awardee was **Joshua Richardson**, a student at William J. Brennan High School. His topic was "**A Glance at the Ideals within the American Revolution**". He was presented a Certificate of Appreciation and check for \$125.

Our 3rd Place Awardee was **Alexandra Wolfer**, a student at Randolph High School. Her topic was "**Guerrilla Warfare During the Revolution**". (At left) Alexandra was presented a Certificate of Appreciation and a check for \$75 as her parents look on. The 2nd and 3rd place winners' presentations were made at home in the presence of their parents. Principals at their schools were notified of these Awards for further public recognition.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

Summer Recess: No Chapter Meetings will be held in July or August. Our **next regularly scheduled Chapter Meeting will be held on September 17th** at the Petroleum Club.

Next Chapter Executive Committee Meetings: Lion & Rose Pub, Blanco at Loop 410, 2nd Thursday of the month (Aug 14th and Sep 11th) at 11:30 A.M.

Operation Ancestry Research: All Members are in July 15th, August 4th and August 28th; Wounded Warrior Family Support Ctr., Ft. Sam Houston, TX; Session starts at

1 P.M. (**All Members are invited to participate.**) (Peter Baron)

Independence Day Events:

- Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort Educational Program, **July 3rd, 10 AM** (Assemble at 9 :15 AM at the Lukenbach Pavilion) (**All members are invited to participate or attend.**)

- Granaderos de Galvez Memorial Service, Ft. San Houston National Cemetery, **July 4th, 10 A.M.** (Assemble 9:15 AM)

Federation of Genealogical Societies: Aug 27 to 30 at the Henry B

Gonzales Convention Center; Need Volunteers for OAS and TXS SAR Tables. (Peter Baron)

TXS SAR's Board of Managers Meeting: The next BOM Meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Temple, TX on Nov 8-9, 2014. For details, go to the TXSSAR's Public Webpage and click on the Events Tab:

<http://www.txssar.org>

Chapter's Gala Banquet, Saturday, Oct 18th at the Petroleum Club at 6 PM.

SASAR Chapter Website:

<http://www.sarsat.org>

“DID THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION RUN AWAY?” BY STEPHEN MAYFIELD

“Certain historians have claimed that the Constitutional Convention was a runaway convention because the delegates exceeded the authority given to them by Congress. The main allegation that they make against how the Constitution was adopted is that Congress only gave the Constitutional Convention the power to amend the Articles of Confederation and the convention overstepped its authority by proposing a new document.

(In February 1786) Constitutional Convention be held:

“... for the sole and express purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation and reporting to Congress and the several legislatures such alterations and provisions therein as shall when agreed to in Congress and confirmed by the states render the federal constitution adequate to the exigencies of Government and the preservation of the Union.”³

This resolution gave the Constitutional Convention the power to make changes to the Articles of Confederation and send back something other than the original articles, a new “federal constitution.”

The...resolution also says that the delegates should write the constitution to fix the “exigencies” or urgent needs in the government. So...this (resolution) acknowledges that there is a crisis in the government, and instead of just adding “support” to the current government, the second resolution wants to address the crisis and do what is necessary to preserve the union between the states. Based on the authority given by Congress, it seems that the convention did not overstep its bounds that much at all.

What finally got Congress involved was Shay’s Rebellion. Shay’s Rebellion was an armed uprising that took place in Massachusetts during the winter of 1786-1787. The government was completely helpless in stopping it, and it showed just how badly the Articles of Confederation had to be changed. After the rebellion, Congress passed the resolution calling for the convention, and then six more states sent delegates bringing the total up to twelve.⁷ ... One thing that must also be considered is that the Union was in a crisis. The current government was not working, and the Union was in danger of dissolving. Many people felt that this justified what they were doing at the convention. As James Madison wrote in his personal notes recording the debates in the convention:

“Mr. Randolph was not scrupulous on the point of power. When the salvation of the Republic was at stake, it would be treason to our trust, not to propose what was found necessary.”⁸ And Madison recorded that Alexander Hamilton stated: “...we owed it to our Country, to do on this emergency whatever we should deem essential to its happiness. The states sent us here to provide for the exigencies of the Union. To rely on and propose any plan not adequate to these exigencies, merely because it was not clearly within our powers, would be to sacrifice the means to the end.”⁹ A final point on whether the convention overstepped its authority is the fact that the people at the convention did not have the power to ratify the resulting constitution. Their only job was to propose the amendments and changes that would be necessary to create a Constitution that would be as effective as possible.

In other words, because the states were in charge of ratifying the new document, the convention was well within its power to propose whatever they thought would work the best.

In summary, the Constitutional Convention was not a runaway convention for several reasons. Firstly, Congress actually rejected a resolution directing the convention to only amend the Articles of Confederation, but passed a resolution allowing them to render a new constitution.

Secondly, there is the fact that the authority for the convention came from the Annapolis Convention and half the states had already appointed delegates before Congress got involved.

Finally, the Constitutional Convention felt that the resolution allowed them to propose whatever was needed to solve the crisis, because the job of ratifying the new constitution that they proposed, was still held by the states.”



Note: The essay was reduced to allow it to be printed in part; footnoted sources were also removed. Any SAR member who wants a copy of the original text may request a copy from the editor.