



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 2015



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Compatriots: The Chapter has been very active the past two months. On May 23rd, we presented the National Colors for the Opening of the Annual Scouting Flag Placement Program

that resulted in over 100,000 US Flags being placed on the Tombstones of veterans who are buried at the National Cemetery at Ft. Sam Houston.

We had a great delegation attend the 125th SAR Annual Congress. James Taylor our Chapter SASAR Chaplin was elected SAR Chaplin General! Congratulations James, we are all very proud of you. You have really been of great value to SAR.

Compatriot Frank Rohrbough and I have been busy visiting selected Hotels in San Antonio to recommend a site our Chapter will host for the 2017 TXSSAR Conference. We are coordinating our finding with the State Planning Committee and State Officers; we should have a decision shortly on which site was selected.

We really had a great/special Chapter SAR meeting in June. We had as one of our special guests, Ms Ilana Villagram, the winner of our Chapters Knight Essay Contest. Ilana read her outstanding Essay and received a check for \$250.00. (See Page ___)

We also, honored Mr. Eric James as our Chapters selection as Teacher of the Year. Mr. James was awarded a check for \$250.00. Mr. James related to us a few lessons he has had in life and how he has used them in teaching. He has done very well installing a genuine interest in History to his students. (See Page ___)

Compatriot Edward Butler, Past SAR President-General and member of this Chapter was our Guest Speaker at our June. Ed. spoke on his book that had just been published - Galvez/Spain - Our Forgotten Alley in the American Revolution War: a concise Summary of Spain's Assistance.

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. Our biggest program is our Independence Day Celebration will be on July 3rd at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort at 2:00 P.M. 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 100 plus Hotel Guests who will be attending the event. I ask that if you are not out of town, please join us.

On July 25th, we will conduct another Tool Box Event at Operation Homefront Village where more Tool Boxes will be donated to Purple Heart Wounded Warriors and other Warriors who Have experienced traumatic brain injuries. This time we will have two National Society Compatriots Sam Powell and _____ who will participate in the distribution of Tool Boxes. Due to James Taylor's superb leadership, we have delivered 99 Tool Boxes to warriors. We will not have our regular Chapter meeting in July or Aug. We will continue to have our Executive Council Business Meetings.

We are making plans for our **Chapter Gala Banquet on Saturday, October 17th** 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 16th at the Petroleum Club. Compatriotly, *Robert Hancock*.

CHAPTER PLANS GALA BANQUET

The Chapter's 2015 Gala Banquet will be on Saturday, October 17th at the Petroleum Club at 6:00 P.M. Like last year 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.

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.



LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD

Each year our Chapter presents SAR's Law



Enforcement Award to a deserving Law Officer. For his dedicated service over 31 years, Chapter President Bob Hancock presented Sergeant Joe A. Rios with SAR's Law Enforcement Commendation Medal at our May 20th Chapter Meeting.

Sergeant Joe A. Rios is a thirty-one year veteran of the San Antonio Police Department and is a Supervisor in the Repeat Offender Program.

Sergeant Rios entered the San Antonio Police Department in January of 1984. In his 31 years; his service has included the Patrol division, the Homicide unit, the Special Operations unit, the Night



(Above) Sgt Rios speaks about this work as Supervisor of the "Repeat Offender Program".

(Above) Shown from Right to Left are Tina Baron, President Bob Hancock, Mrs Rios, Sgt Rios, _____, _____, Compatriot Peter Baron and

Criminal Investigative unit, and several Task Forces.

During his years of service Sergeant Rios noticed a need for his fellow Officer. Sergeant Rios is an integral leader in the SAPD Family Assistance Officers team (FAO) and Peer Support team. The FAO team aids Officers in family tragedy situations, including the death of Officers

Sergeant Rios is a pillar in the Community. He is an Air Force Veteran. He serves as leader for *Shields of Christ*, he teaches Religious Education classes, he prepares teenagers for the Sacraments, and has a leadership role in the Ministry of the Third Cross.

Sergeant Rios has exemplified a life of service. His dedication to God, his Community and his Family exhibits the traits of our Founding Fathers.

We recognize Sergeant Rios for this honor and commitment to duty; these actions reflect great credit on himself, his family, the San Antonio Police Department and the Citizens of San Antonio.

TEXAS SAR PRESIDENT GUEST SPEAKER



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.



Inductions of New Members



(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.

(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 worked 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.

KNIGHT ESSEY CONTEST AWARDEES RECOGNIZED

The San Antonio Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) recognized _____, 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.

Her award was given at the June 17th Chapter Meeting held at the San Antonio Petroleum Club. Joining Ilanna in the presentation (**left to right**) are Jay Lewallen, Chairman, SAR Education Committee, her father, _____ and Robert Hancock, Chapter President. Ilanna is a 12th grade student at the _____.

Her essay is entitled "**The American Identity Crisis**" (See Page 6-7 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 16th** at the Petroleum Club.

Next Chapter Executive Committee Meetings: Napa Flats located at 1301 N Loop 1604 W, 2nd Thursday of the month (Aug 13th and Sep 10th) at 11:30 A.M.

Operation Ancestry Research: July __th, August __th and August __th; 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)

Tool Box Distribution Event: July 25 at 11:00 A.M. (**All Members are invited to attend**)

TXS SAR's Board of Managers Meeting: The next BOM Meeting will be held at the Hilton Galveston

Resort, Galveston, TX on **October 9 -11, 2015**. 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>

KNIGHT ESSAY CONTEST AWARDEE'S ESSAY

The American Identity Crisis: Crafting the Moral Code of the United States with Enlightenment Philosophy By Ilanna Villagran

The concept of revolution was nothing new in Europe during the eighteenth century and neither was the philosophy of the human condition, which was being defined during the Enlightenment. Because it is impossible to look at the U.S. Constitution without analyzing the influence of the ideals emerging in Europe, it shall be analyzed thusly. The Enlightenment was crucial in determining almost every aspect of colonial America. Oppression, natural rights, a new definition of freedom, and emerging ideas of alternative government structures were the fuel feeding the colonial fire. The main philosophy that guided the colonists was the faith in human reason to reject pre-established institutions and thoughts that chained men and defied their natural freedom. However, the defining moment of American history remains how it overcame this identity crisis by crafting a social contract, a moral code if you will, that would guide the country for centuries to come.

The road to crafting the Constitution was not an easy one. The colonists, who had been repeatedly met with injury and oppression, had too independent a mind set to settle for the mercantilist system that bound them to England's absolute rule. Not only had most of the colonists grown up in North America but those coming directly from England were well-versed in the writings of Montesquieu, Rousseau, Beccaria, and Locke, all preaching a new way of looking at the world and the governments that had historically gone unquestioned.

These men unknowingly formed the skeleton of an emerging nation and the Founding Fathers would surely take advantage of it. After all, this was an incredibly unique point in history. People never really had the opportunity to create their own government and it would be no small feat to accomplish. Truth be told, the founders of the Constitution feared that if they failed in this, it would be the great misfortune of mankind and prove it was impossible to create an entirely new government. Looking back, it may seem that they did create "little short of a miracle," that the "happy Union of these [United] States is a wonder; [the] Constitution a miracle," but tis more important to remember that while the Constitution itself was unprecedented in nature, it was entirely formulated on the basis of the Enlightenment philosophy.

Tracing the origins of the Constitution must begin with the founding father of political philosophy: Montesquieu. He chartered the idea that laws are freedom but more importantly, the idea of checks and balances. He was haunted by the problem of despotism, much like the colonists, and thus returned to the foundation of political freedom. He came up with the separation of powers that would remedy any abuse of power. Rousseau contributed most to the nature of the Constitution in that all people must enter into a social contract that would require people to recognize a collective "good will," that would represent the common good. An equally obvious contributor to the Constitution was Beccaria who claimed that the criminal justice system needed to be reformed and that punishment should not be a public and brutal affair, but just and logical. Ultimately, Locke set up the moral code that would frame and become the Constitution. He defined every person's natural rights to life, liberty, and property, vehemently claiming that the government should protect these rights. In the event that the government does not, which the colonists used to defend their Revolution, it is the duty of the citizens to overthrow it.

The works of these men established the culture and overall philosophy of the Enlightenment: that humans were inherently endowed with the ability to reason, question, and reject institutionalized government that had failed to embrace and protect man's natural rights. It was this very idea that the founders of the Constitution used to create the American moral code. Yet they would have to go through an identity crisis before they could move forward.

KNIGHT ESSEY (CONT'D)

It is one thing to declare independence vigorously as the Continental Congress did but it is quite another thing to figure out what you are now that independence has been declared. The Continental Congress created the Articles of Confederation that established a very weak central government, so weak that few delegates ever attended the congress. Not surprisingly, they did this in fear of absolute power and tried to create an ideal government focused on quasi-diplomacy among these new independent states. Then, in 1787 farmers in Massachusetts rebelled against the state enforcement of tax collections. The rebellion was a sign that the weak Confederation Congress would have problems if it were to face any serious anarchy. Proponents of constitutional reform used this to justify a replacement of the Articles. The Congress met to discuss what the true social contract of America would be, considering the failure of the Articles and the philosophy they had used to declare independence a decade earlier.

The states reevaluated their system and brought together the ideals of freedom and liberty to create the foundation of the American political system: a social contract founded on the belief that the government only exists to serve the will of the people and that it is the citizens who are the source of all political power enjoyed by that government. The states were to come together on the basis of democracy, the will of the people, the separation of powers, the greatest good, and the separation of church and state.

There is no doubt that the very country America was trying to dissolve bonds with contributed immensely to the ideals that would be used to craft the moral code of the emerging nation. After an identity crisis that sought to answer the question of what should be done with the states' newfound freedom, the United States of America was formed. This new Constitution would be the basis for an entire system of government unprecedented in human history: one founded on the principles of liberty, popular sovereignty, the dignity and free will of the people, and above all the promise to protect every free man is born with.

Note: If you want a copy of the Essay with its footnotes and references, please contact the SA Chapter Newsletter Editor at frankr@gvtc.com.