



The Texas Compatriot

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It is with deep regret and sorrow that we recognize the death of Compatriot George Herbert Walker Bush, 41st president of the United States, on Friday, Nov. 30, 2018. He was 94 years of age.

President Bush was a member of the Patrick Henry Chapter Texas SAR in Austin, since 2001. His patriot ancestor was Samuel Herrick.

President Bush was a veteran of WWII, having joined the Navy on his 18th birthday in 1942, becoming the youngest aviator in the U.S. Navy at the time. Upon leaving the Navy in September 1945, he attended and graduated from Yale University. He had a lifetime of public service, including being congressman, ambassador to China, director of Central Intelligence Agency, vice president (two terms) and 41st president of the United States 1989–1993.

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TXSSAR front and center in fall holiday observances around the state



TXSSAR marchers step off in Veterans Day parade in Fredericksburg marking the 100th anniversary of the armistice and end of World War I. See other parades and observances on inside pages.

*In this season of holidays, let us all
give thanks for the blessings of being
citizens of the United States of America
and the Great State of Texas -
-Your TXSSAR officers*

Fall BOM meeting in New Braunfels had a traditional German flavor



Guest speaker Dr. Jesus “Frank” de la Teja, who spoke about Spain in the Revolution, receives a framed Commendation Medal from President Jackson.

William Hightower Chapter #35 was tasked with hosting the Board of Managers (BOM) meeting of the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution this past October. Because New Braunfels has an established German culture, the host committee elected to go with a German theme. Most attendees arrived on Friday afternoon because of a planned early start on Saturday morning.

The committee recommended attendees go to Krause’s, a local German restaurant, for an evening of fun, German food and *bier*. One chapter member is married to a German who is part of a German folk-dance group. They agreed to come and entertain with folk dancing, German style, in full costume. About 70 people attended this event and walked away with a smile on their faces and a shuffle in their step.

The business meeting started with the raising of the NSSAR color on a flagpole outside the host hotel. The meetings stretched from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Much was accomplished and many awards were given. Lunch at the hotel continued with the German theme, as Mark Heymann and his trio provided pre-luncheon German music. The luncheon speaker was Carl “Sandy” Clauss, a retired history teacher, who spoke about Declaration of Independence signer Abraham Clark of New Jersey, the speaker’s home state. He infused the talk with information about the German influence in the American Revolution.

The evening banquet started with a social hour and opened with Texas SAR Color Guard posting the colors. Guest speaker Dr. Jesus “Frank” de la Teja spoke about Spain in the Revolution. After a few

Bush, continued from Page 1.

The Bush Presidential Library was dedicated in 1997, and he was active in humanitarian activities. At the time of his death, he was the longest-lived American president in history.

President Bush was a true patriot who devoted much of his life to public service. The SAR is proud that he was a member of our organization and is saddened by his passing. Our condolences go out to his entire family, including his son and fellow SAR Compatriot President George H. Bush (43rd president).

With the help of words from our SAR Prayer Book, I share this thought: Lord, keep in our memory Compatriot George H.W. Bush, whom we mourn today, a member who along with many of his generation was a light of our nation’s greatest generation, who now serves you in your Eternal Kingdom. Compatriots, keep the family of President Bush in your thoughts and prayers as we join our nation in remembering President George Herbert Walker Bush. May he rest in peace!

– **Warren M. Alter**

NSSAR President General
2018–2019

Photo courtesy The White House
more awards, there was the drawing for raffle and door prizes.

After breakfast Sunday, there was a church service and final business meeting. With the approaching cold front, everyone was able to be on the road home to close an otherwise lovely weekend.

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Kate McLeod Wins Knight National Essay Championship

Kate McLeod, a 2018 graduate of Whitehouse High School, was named the 2018 National Champion of the Sons of the American Revolution's George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest. She was honored at the SAR's Annual National Congress in Houston, where she read her essay, "Ruses, Disinformation & Spycraft: General Washington's Covert Military Tools," to the 500 guests gathered for the convention.

Kate is the 2018 UIL Conference 5A State Champion in Journalism (newswriting) and the 2018 Texas Society SAR High School Essay Contest champion. Previously, Kate won the 2017 UIL Conference 5A State Championship in Journalism (editorial writing) and the 2017 Texas Society SAR High School Essay Contest Championship. The honor was her fifth championship at the state or national level.

Kate will attend Southern Methodist University, majoring in journalism, having been awarded the SMU Second Century Scholarship and the prestigious Belo Foundation Scholarship for Journalism.

She is the daughter of Dave and Marcy McLeod of Bullard.



Kate McLeod receives the George S. and Stella Knight Essay Award from NSSAR Essay Chair James M. Lindley (Washington SAR) and NSSAR National President Larry T. Guzy (Georgia SAR).

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Texas SAR Color Guard celebrates Armistice / Veterans Day at San Marcos High School



Texas SAR Color Guard, vets and JROTC students celebrated the 100th anniversary of WWI armistice on Veteran's Day.

The Texas SAR Color Guard was asked to join the San Marcos Air Force JROTC to honor veterans on Nov. 5, in preparation for Veterans Day, which fell on a Sunday this year. Stu Hoyt, TX SAR Color Guard Com-

mander and member of the William Hightower Chapter of New Braunfels, was asked to be the guest speaker and address veterans on the 100th anniversary of the signing of the armistice.

He chose this theme from

San Antonio Chapter Color Guard invited to participate in knighthood investiture

San Antonio Chapter Color Guard was invited to post the colors for the Biannual Investiture Ceremony of the American Commandery of The Order of Saint Joachim at the historic Mission Concepción in San Antonio on Sept. 15, 2018. The induction ceremony was conducted by His Excellency the Chevalier Stephen Lautens, GCJ, Grand Master of the order, and assisted by His Grace the Chevalier Archbishop William Myers, KCJ, Prior, American Commandery; His Excellency the Chevalier Martin von Grossmann, GCJ, Grand Commander, American Commandery; and His Excellency the Chevalier David Douglas, GCJ, Grand Commander, Canadian Commandery.

The Order of Saint Joachim was established on June 20, 1755, in Leitmeritz, Bohemia, by 14 nobles and distinguished military leaders of the Holy Roman Empire. The order was intentionally founded to be inclusive by counting both Protestants and Catholics among its members. The order makes contributions directly to small, grassroots charities that are otherwise overlooked and where the order's donation will have the greatest impact on people's lives. These traditionally include charities that support the homeless, ex-servicemen, hospitals, and children's charities.

The order welcomes members regardless of faith, gender, race, nationality, class, or orientation.

a group made famous during the Battle of the Bulge on WWII, "The Band of Brothers." He pointed out that the term was actually used by George Washington in his farewell address to his troops just outside Trenton, New Jersey, on Nov. 2, 1783. He emphasized that a group of untrained farmers and artisans had banded together to overcome adversity, hunger and hardship to defeat the most powerful army and navy of that time. They were to lay down their arms and take up their hammers and plows but they should always remember that they had formed a unique band of brothers. That brotherhood exists today as our guardsmen with period weapons. Compatriots Frank Rohrbough served as the United States flag bearer and Larry Loop served as the Texas flag bearer.

**HAVE YOU PAID
YOUR 2019
DUES YET?**

**Dues notices were
mailed weeks ago,
along with a 2019
dues card.**

**Please pay now, if
you haven't already.
Members are in
arrears after
Jan 1, 2019.**



Left: Color Guard members from the Austin area participated in naturalization ceremonies at an AISD gymnasium for a large number of new United States citizens in Austin in the fall. Above: Congratulations to our latest immigrant citizens.

Around the state



A flag-retirement ceremony was conducted Nov. 17 at Plano Fire Station Number 12 and included Plano and Dallas Chapters' Color Guards, DAR, Scouts of Troop 200, uniformed military, and members of Lone Star Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America. The tattered and unusable flags were consigned to flames as a tribute to their service.

Edmund Terrill Chapter marks Veterans Day with wreath-laying ceremony in Corsicana



"From the North, South, East and West they came ..." President Thomas Jackson (r) is flanked from left by Walter Thomas/East Fork Trinity, James Clements/Patrick Henry, Robert Means/Brazos Valley, T.L. Holden/Edmund Terrill at the Corsicana gravemarker dedications. Below: Ted Wilson, North Texas Color Guard Commander places a wreath on the grave of Compatriot Poke. Photos by Tom M. Whitelock

By **Ted Wilson**

In August, Edmund Terrill Chapter was contacted by Tommy Ellis, coordinator at Grayson College in Denison, to see if our Color Guard would be interested in participating in three events in September for the veterans at Grayson College. These events were to be a military ball called "Boots to Books," the opening ceremony for the "Eyes of Freedom" Memorial and Texoma Veterans Resources EXPO for 2018. As it would be great exposure for the chapter, the invitation was accepted.

The military ball was to be held at the historic Katy Depot in Denison, a fundraiser for scholarships to be given to veterans. It is the first fundraiser of this type. The meal was prepared by the college's culinary students. Rear Adm. William "Bill" Retz, U.S. Navy (Ret.), spoke briefly about the newly formed scholarships foundation. After dinner, guests were entertained by comedian Jose Sarduy (Air Force). Color Guard members were Don Babbs, T.L. Holden and Ted Wil-

son.

A Texas welcome was given to the traveling memorial at the Texas Tourist Information Center on Highway 75 and again at Grayson College. A police escort of approximately 15 cars and nine Compatriot riders accompanied them to Grayson College where they were met by a cheering crowd and band. This was the first time for this memorial to be in Texas. Before this time, it had traveled through 32 states. The display is made up of eight life-size panels of the men from Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Regiment, who died in service to their country while deployed in Iraq. All told, there were 22 Marines and one Navy corpsman who lost their lives when their vehicles were struck by two very large roadside bombs.

The panels are the work of Anita Miller, an acclaimed Ohio artist. Along with each person pictured on the panel is a pair of their combat boots displayed below them. Once one visits this memorial you will know why it is called "Eyes of Free-

dom." Cpl. Mike Strahle, a Purple Heart combat recipient who served alongside the fallen, is the spokesman for the memorial and gives a detailed account of what happened. He tells about the bronze statue of a soldier looking over dog tags. The statue also is by Ms. Miller.

The last event at the college was for the opening of the 2018 Texoma Veterans Resources Expo. There were over 50 exhibitors and resources on display.

These events gave the Edmund Terrill Chapter great exposure in the community. One of our members, Wade Graves, teaches at the college.

In November, chapter members were scheduled to go to Bonham to serve lunch and give gifts to veterans.



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Oration contest deadline in January

Promoting American patriotism is one of the cornerstones of the Sons of the American Revolution. Our oration contest is one of the premier ways to do that while also getting our youth involved.

Now is the time for all chapter members to contact public, private, church, and home schools and invite them to enter the Oration Contest. Remind them they may win scholarship money.

Complete information and a judging flier for this year's contest in January can be found on our website: <http://www.txssar.org/oration.htm>. Finals will be at our annual meeting in April.

Call or email if you have questions.

Jim Kuykendall
Oration Contest Chairman
Jimkuy@aol.com
281-419-5052

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

– Tom Jackson

Compatriots:

As our calendar year draws to a close, I reflect on what a tremendous year the Texas Society has had. We hosted a National Congress in Houston and our efforts received Best in Class accolades and high marks for our efforts throughout. The grave marking ceremonies of our Texas SAR presidents is in full swing as we pursue our patriotic goals. These events require many hours of planning and all who are involved are to be commended. This time of year our Color Guard Compatriots around the state participate in parades and remind the public of our formative American history. As President, I have issued a challenge to chapters to increase the number of their color guard members. I will contribute \$100.00 to the first five chapters who report a new color guard member who is properly outfitted and has participated in three color guard events

Let us try to have every active chapter issue a flag certificate and report it on both the annual report as well as the flag presentation report. Let us earn the Texas Furlong award this year! Let every chapter strive to participate in Wreaths Across America, started in 2007 and is recognized as a national color guard event. Let us remember to complete the Partners in Patriotism reporting form in conjunction with this event, as appropriate.

As I travel to visit our chapters I hear of their education outreach efforts and recognition for public service and acts of heroism and I am impressed. Let us remember to report these commendations so these individuals may receive full recognition. I am also impressed by the number of ladies who are present, many of whom are members of the DAR. We should remember to recognize our DAR ladies for their support of the SAR by bringing us new members. Let us recognize them not only at our meetings, but travel to their meetings and repeat the recognition. I have done this and the reaction was most favorable.

Truly, we have much to be proud. God bless you, your family and friends.

Fredericksburg marks 100th of the armistice



SAR Compatriots, Daughters and youth ride in the Fredericksburg parade.

By **Stu Hoyt**

TX SAR CG Committee

It was a special day as Fredericksburg celebrated the 100th anniversary of the armistice ending the "War to End All Wars," World War I.

Fredericksburg is the boyhood home of Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz of WWII and the museum bearing his name. The event was organized by Tami King, Gillespie County Veterans Service Officer and consisted of 50 units of veterans representing all wars fought by this nation. The Texas Society SAR represented veterans of the American Revolution.

Nov. 11, once known as Armistice Day, was named for the act commencing cessation of hostilities in that conflict. An armistice was declared at the 11th hour, 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. On the one-year anniversary, Woodrow Wilson proposed a resolution to commemorate the day. It was not until 1926 that Congress issued the res-

olution and 1938 before it became a legal holiday. At the conclusion of WWII, veterans of that war wanted to be recognized on Armistice Day. Raymond Weeks, a veteran from Alabama, started a campaign but it was not until 1954 that President Eisenhower signed a bill recognizing all veterans. A month later, the bill was modified to change the name to Veterans Day. It is not a possessive term because it is a day to *remember* veterans not a day *of* veterans.

On that moment in 2018, all the bells in the town chimed to commemorate that event. At 2 p.m., the first unit stepped off, commencing the 100th-anniversary parade, which included a unit of about 40 SAR and DAR members representing 12 chapters. The sound of the bands and marching units were intermittently interrupted by the sound of roaring engines as 14 vintage aircraft made multiple passes over the parade route.

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It's never too late to find a few new kin in the genealogical "closet"

By **Jim Dougherty**
Texas Compatriot Editor

Almost 35 years ago, I became interested in my lineage. At the time, my mother was still living and had absolutely no interest and actually discouraged my "poking around" in the past.

Research then wasn't what it is today. Luckily, I live in Austin, and the hardest part of doing research was finding a parking space near the state archives or General Land Office downtown. There was also the Church of Latter-Day Saints' Family History Center (FHC). I purchased an early copy of "Family Tree Maker," the computer program based on Mormon record-keeping protocols, and went to work.

Back then, research was very laborious and searching microfilm census records was taxing on the eyes. The FHC had one IBM desktop computer and a reservation limit of, maybe 30 minutes per researcher. And you had to bring your own 5-inch floppy disk! But the atmosphere was friendly and research help

from docents was always available if I asked.

My dear friend, the late U.S. congressman and Texas Supreme Court Justice Jack Hightower, encouraged me to sift through and see if I didn't have a Patriot somewhere in my family tree. Being "tasked" by "The Judge" was not an idea he would forget, or let you forget, either.

Sure enough, I found a 3X great-grandfather on my maternal grandmother's side who appeared to fit the bill. Jack gave me an application for Sons' membership and I filled it out as fully as I could. My first and second efforts did not pass muster with our then local historian as grandpa was listed as "Sr." and his son "Jr." "There were no such designations in the early 19th Century," he insisted. "But, look. Here are actual photo copies from the Alabama Orphans Court saying differently," I responded. I dropped the application process for almost a year.

At church and other times I saw Jack: "How's the application going?" I finally explained my frustration and that I had gone about as far as I

was willing to go at proving my family line. "I'll apply once more and if Louisville doesn't like it ... they can reject me!"

They didn't object to my research and I was honored to become Member Number 183417.

Since then, genealogical studies have come a long way. Family Tree Maker 2017 and Ancestry.com, a truly remarkable genealogical search tool, have, from the comfort of my office chair, linked me to at least five Patriots I previously didn't know, plus a defender of the Alamo. I'm now back as far as the Norman Conquest and a generation, or two, before my 32nd great uncle, William, Prince of Normandy. He is commonly known as "William the Conqueror." Guess Mama was right: Edward I, King of England, is also referred to in history books as the "B-----d King."

I dare say, there is so much more to be found that we didn't know when we became SAR members. No matter how much we think we know, there is always more to the story.

Lets all keep digging.