



The Texas Compatriot

Official Publication of the Texas Society
Sons of the American Revolution © 2021



Spring 2021

EDUCATION

by Stu Hoyt

One of the three pillars of our society is Education. If you think that our school systems are covering that precept for the SAR, think again. Oh! They may be covering the subject but if you think that they are giving the service due our ancestors, you need to reconsider that thought. Since American History is taught as a Social Science in about two of the twelve years of an average student's education, how does a teacher condense 400 years of history into 180 class hours in a year's time? It doesn't leave much time to cover anything, let alone the period of the American Revolution.

In the summer of 2016, my grandtwins were getting ready to enter the 8th grade at a charter school in Round Rock. I asked them to see if their History teacher was open to me coming to speak on the American Revolution. It took a number of prods but I received an invitation to speak in December 2016. He was so impressed that he asked if I would come and speak to the 5th grade classes where his twin daughters were enrolled. We arranged a time in January 2017. I spoke to five classes. It was so successful that they couldn't wait to invite me back the next year. Four years later, only a Covid pandemic kept me away.

In February of 2020, I was invited to a City Council meeting of Dripping Springs to accept a Proclamation for George Washington's Day. A friend of mine, who was also the editor of that local paper, took a picture and put it on the front page of his next edition. A week later, I received a call from a 5th grade Social Science teacher in Dripping Springs. She had seen that front page article and wanted me to come and share the American Revolution with her five



Compatriot Stu Hoyt (left) and Compatriot James Clements (right) act as bookends for a pose with one of Ms. Wright's five classes in Dripping Springs. Photo credit: Stu Hoyt

5th grade classes. We agreed to a Friday the first week in March. She even invited the superintendent of that ISD to come and video my presentation. The students were so excited with my talk and artifacts that she extended an invitation to come again next year.

A week later, the covid scare went into full pandemic and the schools were closed to visitors, even when they opened the next fall. The teacher was persistent and her Principal finally relented, thus I was invited to come and speak on March 25th.

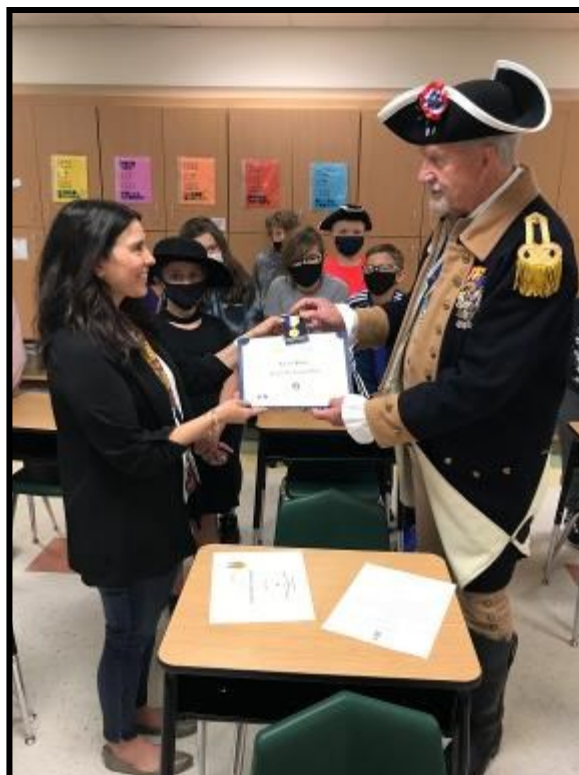
After over a year of limited participation for funerals and other events, almost two score members of the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution



The restriction was that we had to meet in her classroom and one class at a time. We managed to pack five separate classes into a four-hour period. In addition to the students in the class, we had students tuning in on a Zoom conference. We were able to video the presentation for future reference. Jim Clements of the Patrick Henry Chapter was able to join and assist me. He presented the students with the correct answers to my questions with a TX SAR Society patch. We presented the teacher, Ms. Kristin Wright, with a Certificate of Appreciation and the Martha Washington Medal for her persistence in making the American Revolution come alive for her students.

Jim Clements presents Ms. Wright with the Martha Washington Certificate and Medal with her homeroom class cheering her on.

Photo credit: Stu Hoyt



Texas Color Guard Rallies in Wimberley

by Shiidon Hawley

Color Guard gathered on a solemn hilltop in Wimberly, Texas, to record the raising and retiring of the Colors for the annual (virtual) State Meeting. Members from all over the state drove hundreds of miles to participate. There were members as young as ten and as old as...well, let's just say seasoned members. Members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, family, and close friends were also in attendance as the color guard practiced their routines.

The event was the inspiration of Texas and South-Central District Color Guard Commander Blair Rudy. The event could not have happened if it was not for the tireless efforts

of Compatriot Jim Clements who worked to ensure that the event, and all contingencies, were in order. Accompanying Commander Rudy were Northern Commander Bob Kubin and Southern Commander Shiidon Hawley. In attendance, and participating, was State President Drake Peddie.

Prior to the firing of muskets Compatriots Jason Bourgeois and Compatriot Walt Thomas ensured that muskets were inspected, tested, and ready to fire.

After preparations and rehearsals, the event began. To the beat of a drum our beloved emblem of freedom was reverently brought to the flagpole. The large flag caught the wind



and waved powerfully as it was raised high above the hill in a place of supremacy to the service flags that encircled it representing those branches of service that proudly served to protect all that the flag stands for.

After a brief rest the flag was respectfully brought down and reverently returned to wait until the next time it would be raised. Three volleys of muskets fired powerfully, echoing off the hills. The final volley was followed by Commander Rudy ordering a charge and all guns, swords, and flags were brandished and the charge went forward, itself an echo of the ancestors of those very men, not so long ago, when our hard-fought freedom was won, and tyranny found it had no home in this “land of the free, and home of the brave.”



Photo Credits: Gretchen Tooke, Paul Ridenhour, Bill Watts

Mark Your CALENDAR

- Jul 10-15 131st Annual Congress
Renton, WA
- Aug 6-7 Summer 2021 BOM (Zoom)
- Oct 7-10 Fall 2021 BOM
NASA Hilton, Clear Lake City, TX
- Sep 23-25 Fall 2021 Leadership
Louisville, KY
- Sep 25 Medal of Honor Parade
Gainesville, TX
- Mar 3-5 Spring 2022 Leadership
Louisville, KY
- Sep 29-Oct 1 Fall 2022 Leadership
Louisville, KY

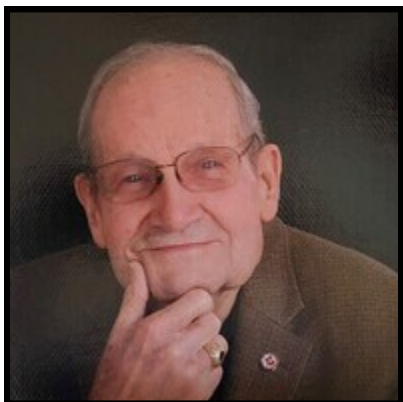
SAVE THIS DATE

Texas SAR 125th Anniversary
Fall Board of Managers Meeting 2021
October 7 – 10, 2021
Hilton NASA Clear Lake, Houston, Texas
Sponsored by Bernardo de Galvez Chapter #1



His Influence Spread Far and Wide

by Stu Hoyt



Born in Amarillo on January 3, 1929, to Gladys and Clifton Robinett, Richard Lee “Dick” Robinett spread his wings and soared through life. After graduating from Amarillo High School, he enrolled at Oklahoma University but made the switch to the University of Texas in Austin

where he would meet the love of his life, Jo Ann. He graduated with a degree in business administration in 1952, and married Jo Ann in 1954.

One of his favorite expressions was, “Never a dull moment” and his life was symbolic of that saying. Besides his marriage and the Church, Dick was passionate about two things: his tour in the U.S. Army Reserves and the Sons of the American Revolution. He served in the JROTC, ROTC, military and reserves from 1943 to 1976. He was constantly reminding his audience that “Freedom is not free”. He was an Eagle Scout and involved with scouting at all levels.

His application to become a member of the SAR was approved in September of 1984 but he was already involved in its activities. He told me that he and Billie Hightower would drive to San Antonio until their own chapter was chartered in New Braunfels, then he helped charter the Boerne Chapter and the Aaron Bursleson Chapter. He was instrumental in creating a Color Guard for the Texas Society. With Tom Green, then a member of the William Hightower Chapter, they spearheaded trips to Laredo to march in the George Washington Parade and a ceremony to recognize the Battle of Medina.

He rose through the ranks to Chapter President, State President, then to Vice President General of the South Central District, and a National trustee. He has chaired a number of committees from National down to the chapter. During this time, he had accumulated numerous awards but his most cherished was a “thank you” and a hug from an eighth grade wheelchair-bound student who whispered in his ear, “I wish that I could stand when the Flag passes by”.

Each year, the SAR and DAR chapters in the Austin area sponsored a celebration on Memorial Day at the Texas State Cemetery where two American Revolution veterans are buried. The grounds are immaculate but I guess that has not always been the case. One of my Color Guard Patriots told me a story that I would like to share. As a new

member of the Color Guards, he was invited by Dick Robinett to a function honoring our fallen Patriot at the cemetery in Austin. Without question, he drove up from Houston on that chosen Saturday. He stopped in town to get a cup of coffee but before he could get out of his car his phone rang. It was Dick who wanted him to meet him up the street, immediately. Dick was driving a military vehicle. They drove to a very nice home in the middle of town and Dick called a “Bob” and asked him to come out to meet them. When he arrived at the car, Dick asked him to join them on a ride back to the cemetery. The cemetery was a mess with tree limbs down, grass overgrown, and grave-stones tipped over.

Dick turned to this Bob and said, “You have got to do something about this”. Bob replied, “I can’t, it belongs to the city and I’d be canned if I allocated any funds to fix it”. Dick responded, “Find a way!” then took Bob home. Bob turned out to be Bob Bullock, Lt. Governor of the State of Texas and he did find a way. He had the state claim the main road through the cemetery as a state road. With that they acquired the property, fixed it up and built a visitors center. It’s amazing what can be done when you know the right people.

In his private life, Dick was many things, which include an insurance investigator, a president of a board for an independent school district, and founder of a family genealogical society, which met annually. I do not think that we will discover all the things that Dick touched in our lifetime. Dick left the campground on March 1, 2021, in the wee hours of the morning.

NORTH TEXAS CG POSTS COLORS AT 100TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

by Ted Wilson

On March 20, 2021, the North Texas Color Guard posted the colors for the Brig. General Edward Bulkley Chapter NSDAR, of Greenville, Texas, at the Web Hill Country Club in celebration of Maye Pickens’ 100th birthday. We also took the opportunity to present Web Hill a Flag Certificate from the Amb Fletcher Warren SAR Chapter. Those present for this occasion were Bob Kubin, Bill Watts, owners Web Hill and wife, John Greer, Michael Goode, Ted Wilson, David Kinsey, Bill Hurst, and Gary Barker. ➡



The TX SAR CG gathered at the Guadalupe Valley Memorial Park to act as an Honor Guard at the funeral of Richard Lee “Dick” Robinett on March 8, 2021. From Left to right are: Robert Duckworth, Don Chandler (96), Blair Rudy (State Color Guard Commander),

Stu Hoyt, Jim Clements (TX SAR State Secretary and Patrick Henry Chapter), Lou Colantoni, and Stan Trull. All other color guardsmen were from the William Hightower Chapter at the request of the family.



This event was followed up by an article in the Herald Banner (Greenville’s newspaper) on March 25, 2021, giving information about the SAR and activities. It was written by Travis Hairgrove of the paper. We continue to look for other events and other opportunities to work with the DAR in Greenville.



GREAT OAKS FROM SMALL ACORNS GROW

by Stu Hoyt



Many people have only seen Texas in the movies and their image is sand and cactus, but Texas has an abundance of trees from Pines to Bald Cypress. In 1919, the State of Texas declared the Pecan the state tree. I have five in my yard that I planted. I think the tree most favored in Texas is the Live Oak. When mature, it is majestic with its branches dipping close to the ground and leaves that do not fall when others do. Unlike other deciduous trees, the live or evergreen oak seems to push the old leaf off in the spring as the new growth appears. It does have a nut but unlike the Pecan, which is great in pies, the acorn is only good for making more oaks, thus the expression, “Great Oaks from small acorns grow”.

This year, on the 10th of April, the Color Guard of the Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution, mustered on a hill in Wimberley covered with many of these old Oaks, some of which were here when Texas became a Republic in 1836. Many of the Color Guard may feel as old as some of these Oaks, creaking in the wind, which was in abundance on the top of the hill that day. Nestled among their roots were the fledgling acorns yearning to grow tall. So too, amongst those older Color Guardsmen were some upstarts, breathing new life into the society. Like the big guys, these young upstarts were in line and moving right in step with their elders. They too could stretch their bloodlines back through our Texas beginnings to our Patriot Ancestors.

Showing their colors and marching to the beat of the drum are Gavin P. (drummer), 12, of the Athens Chapter and Harry T., 8, of the Patrick Henry Chapter, in Austin, watched over by the Live Oak in the background.

LIFE SAVING MEDALS AWARDED

by Ron Turner

Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter President Ron Turner, assisted by Past President Mike Connelley, had the privilege to award two Lake Worth Police Officers with the SAR Life Saving Medal/Certificate on January 13th in the Lake Worth City Council Chambers. In the wee hours of November 30th with only 15 minutes left on their shift, Officer Valdez and Officer Myers observed a residence on fire. The officers were able to awaken the home's residents and safely evacuate two adults, two children, and the family dog. The Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter recognizes and thanks Officers Valdez and Myers for their devotion to duty and their commitment to keeping Lake Worth citizens and visitors safe.

Shown left to right: Past President Mike Connelley, Lake Worth Police Chief Manoushagian, Officer Valdez, Officer Myers, and President Ron Turner.



Photo Credit: Mrs. Sarah Connelley



Loss of Former Texas Society President David Howard Peterson

HITCHCOCK - Mr. David Howard Peterson, born November 11, 1927, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, passed from this life Wednesday morning, March 24, 2021, in Hitchcock.

David was born to Opal Kuns of Illinois and Elmer S. Peterson, born in Norway. His youth was spent on the lands in Vermillion County, Illinois, on a farm homesteaded by his 3rd Great Grandfather in 1844. At age 16, during World War II, David entered the U.S. Merchant Marine Training Station in New York and received training in the engine department aboard ship. He left the Merchant Marine after having served 2 ½ years in the Atlantic, Mediterranean, and Pacific war zones. David was awarded the Medal for Freedom for his part in the "Great Patriotic War" (1939-1945) from the Russian government for his service during "Murmansk Run".

He served in the U.S. Army from 1949 to 1955, receiving basic military training at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky, with the 101st Airborne Division. He was sent to Japan where he was reassigned to active duty with the 49th Field Artillery Battalion, 17th Regimental Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division in Japan. One year later he landed at Inchon, Korea, in September 1950 and served until October 1951. David was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for heroic action in the evacuation of refugees from the Yalu River in North Korea. He attained the rank of Staff Sergeant.

He was later employed with North American Aviation in 1963. This company later became Rockwell International and was prime contractor for the Saturn-Apollo moon project. David was transferred to Kennedy Space Center for the duration of the Apollo moon project and was later assigned work at Johnson Space Center in Texas working with the crew equipment group on approach and landing tests on the shuttle Orbiter project. He is responsible for two inventions on the shuttle Orbiter and has received several certificates of recognition for his work and contribution to the space program from management and astronauts alike. David retired from the space program in 1998.

David joined the ranks of the Sons of the American Revolution, in 1982. He served as president of the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter #1 in Galveston. David served as state president from 1991-1992. Other organizations of note are: past president, Sons of the Revolution; he served as Deputy Governor General, Society of Colonial Wars; Past president of the War of 1812; Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims; The Aztec Club of 1847; The Sons of the American Colonists; The Society of Indiana Pioneers; The Illinois Prairie Pioneers; The Ancestry; The International Society of the

descendants of Charlemagne; The Royal Society of St. George; and is an Admiral in the Texas Navy. David is a life member of the First Marine Division Association, The Seventh Infantry Division Association, and the Korean War Veterans.

Graveside services were conducted on Monday, March 29, 2021, at Galveston Memorial Park Cemetery, with Reverend Mike Selzer officiating. He will be missed.



1889 SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AMERICANA
HANDSEWN PATCH

VAN ZANDT RECOGNIZES MEDSTAR PARAMEDICS

by Ron Turner

On Thursday afternoon, April 8th, a delegation of Maj. K.M. Van Zandt members visited MedStar Headquarters in Fort Worth to present three paramedics with SAR awards. Pictured left to right are: Compatriot Bill Taylor, Paramedic James Ward, Paramedic Cody Riley, President Ron Turner, Paramedic Trey McDaniel, Vice President Bobby Gresham, Compatriot Mike Connelley, and Compatriot John Anderson. Also attending but not pictured was Mrs. Sarah Connelley.

President Turner presented the SAR EMS Commendation



Medal/Certificate to Paramedics Ward and Riley. President Turner described their outstanding contribution as:

"Two Fort Worth MedStar paramedics just happened to be on the North Freeway overpass one icy Thursday morning, February 11, 2021, when a 133-vehicle chain-reaction crash happened before their eyes. The accident killed six people and injured dozens more. Paramedics James Ward and Cody Riley were parked on the shoulder of the southbound I-35W freeway main lanes from an earlier accident on the slippery highway. James Ward was at the wheel. He saw the initial sparks when the first car hit the barrier, and that jackknifed the 18-wheeler and it just set off a chain reaction from there. The barrier was the concrete wall between the main lanes of the freeway and the southbound toll express lanes where the collisions occurred. Some of the wrecked vehicles tipped over the barrier. Their presence on the scene at the time helps explain witness reports of very fast emergency response. Ward could be heard on MedStar radios calling for help within seconds. The two paramedics waited in their vehicle until authorities blocked traffic and made it safe to cross the main lanes and treat the victims. They began climbing in the wreckage, looking for injured drivers. They made two trips to hospitals, the first with a more seriously wounded patient, the second with several people in the ambulance. "We train for this from day one.

We train for a mass casualty incident. But you never expect to actually live one out, especially one of this scale," Riley said."

President Turner then presented the SAR Heroism Medal/Certificate to Paramedic McDaniel. President Turner described his outstanding contribution as:

"A Fort Worth MedStar paramedic who was heading to work on an icy Thursday morning, February 11, 2021, to begin his shift became a victim of the massive 133 car crash on Interstate 35W and despite his own injuries switched into "rescue mode" before his fellow first responders realized he was not on duty and needed help himself. Trey McDaniel was already wearing his medic uniform heading south on the highway when he noticed cars crashing on black ice in front of him. The accident killed six people and injured dozens more. He said there was no way to stop. He slid on the ice and crashed. Looking in his rear-view mirror, he watched as an 18-wheeler barreled towards him at full speed. His car, a 2011 Toyota FJ Cruiser, actually went airborne and landed on the opposite side of the express lanes. McDaniel's face, ankle, back and shoulders, were all banged up. He crawled out of the wreckage and soon was met by arriving firefighters who assumed he was there working. They figured he was part of an ambulance crew that had just rolled in. The firefighters asked him for help treating



2021 MEDAL OF HONOR PARADE

September 25, 2021

Gainesville, Texas

Parade Kicks Off at 10:00 a.m.

North Texas SAR Color Guard
welcomes all Texas Color Guardsmen

Plan now to participate!



victims. Without fellow first responders realize the situation. McDaniel soon was on the way to the hospital where he was treated saying a thing, McDaniel switched from victim to medic. He remembers helping load at least two patients onto backboards and searching for others. Only later did his and released. Few can say they are both a victim and a hero at the same time."

The award presentation occurred in the ambulance bay with a MedStar ambulance as the background. Afterwards, the delegation toured MedStar's 911 call center.

Photo Credits Mrs. Sarah Connelley

GRADUATION

by Ted Wilson

After skipping a year because of Covid-19 in 2020, where no public graduation was held at Grayson College in Denison, Texas, that year, the Edmund Terrill SAR Chapter was asked by Craig Greenwood, Veteran Services Coordinator, if we could secure a Color Guard for the presenting of colors at the Spring Commencement ceremonies on March 7, 2021. There would be three separate ceremonies in which they would like the Color Guard to present the colors (9 am, noon, and 3 pm). We were able to cover all three with the following personal: Paul Mattoon, John Greer, Don Babbs, Ted Wilson, Ray Hargis, David Kinsey, Gary Barker, and T. H. Holden.



DAR LADIES LEARN TO CLEAN GRAVESTONES

by Ron Turner

Terry Vrabel, Regent of the Captain Molly Corbin Chapter DAR in Grapevine, wanted ladies in her chapter to learn how to clean cemetery grave stones. On Friday, May 7th, Compatriot James Alderman of the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter in Fort Worth met 11 DAR members at Parker Memorial Cemetery in Grapevine and trained the ladies on the proper procedures in using DS2 to clean headstones.

Compatriot Alderman reported the ladies really got into the program. They cleaned a total of eight stones: four World War I soldiers, one World War II soldier, one Union Army soldier, two Confederate Army soldiers, and one wife of a Confederate soldier.



Compatriot Alderman is shown with Regent Terry Vrabel (kneeling on his right) and nine of the ladies of the Captain Molly Corbin DAR Chapter at Parker Memorial Cemetery in Grapevine.

Photo Credit: Mrs. Ja Ann Alderman.

“REAL DAUGHTER” MARKER PROJECT

by Ron Turner

On Thursday, January 28th, Compatriot James Alderman, Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter, drove to Worthington Monuments in Burleson, Texas, and picked up the commemorative stone for Sarah D. White Henderson’s grave. With the assistance of President Ron Turner and Vice President Bobby Gresham, the three men installed the stone on Mrs. Henderson’s grave. **A joint SAR/DAR dedication service is planned for a date yet to be determined in 2021.**

SARAH DRUCELLA *WHITE* HENDERSON

Sarah Drucella (Sally) White was born in Augusta County, Virginia, on 27 Jan 1803, to Gordon White and Sarah Ann Diddle. She married Joseph Henderson on 29 Jan 1824 in Blount County, Tennessee, and was the mother of eight children. She passed away on 11 Aug 1884 in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery. Joseph Henderson was born in 1800 in Kentucky and died in 1879. He is buried in Leesburg, Washington County, Tennessee.

Gordon White was born 18 May 1761 in Augusta County, Virginia, and eventually moved to Blount County, Tennessee in 1818. Mr. White was a Revolutionary War Veteran having entered service in 1777 in Augusta County. He was serving under the command of Colonel Hubbard and Captain Alexander Hall in 1781 in the Virginia Line. Gordon White received his pension in 1834 and died 23 Feb 1835 in Blount County, Tennessee.

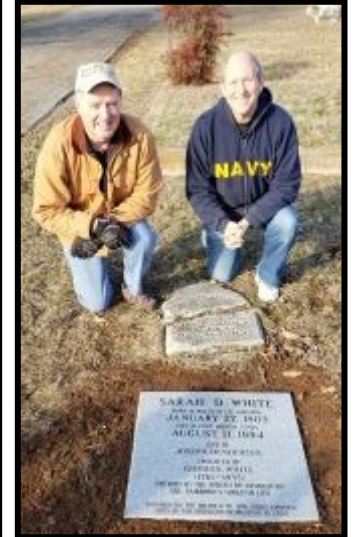
The children of Joseph and Sarah Henderson were: Martha Henderson Wylly (1830-1875), Ann Gordon Henderson (1833-1914), Ellen Henderson (1835-?), William H. Henderson (1836-1904), Finley Henderson (1838-1919), Alexander O. Henderson (1842-1871), and Mary Henderson Cecil (1845-1873).

Ann Gordon Henderson was the daughter of Joseph Henderson and Sarah D. White. She was the wife of William Paxton Burts, the first Mayor of the City of Fort Worth. Ann Henderson Burts died 9 Jan 1914. William P. Burts died 5 Sep 1895.

Sarah White Henderson lies in the Burts Family plot in Oakwood Cemetery in North Fort Worth, with her daughter, Ann Henderson Burts, her son-in-law, William P. Burts, and two grandchildren.



President Ron Turner & Vice President Bobby Gresham



Compatriot James Alderman & Vice President Bobby Gresham

SARAH HENDERSON TOMBSTONE REPAIRED

by Ron Turner

Due to the efforts of Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter Compatriots James Alderman and Bobby Gresham, the original tombstone for Sarah *White* Henderson stands tall and proud once again in Fort Worth’s historic Oakwood Cemetery. It lay badly broken on the ground when we installed the new memorial stone in late January.

James located the bottom piece in the ground and dug it out and found the original base as well. He cleaned all three pieces of the tombstone with DS2.

To begin the reassembly of the stone, James and Bobby set the bottom piece in place and applied an epoxy glue designed specifically for the repair of tombstones. They constructed a wooden frame to hold the pieces in place as shown in the photo at bottom left. They allowed this to set for 24 hours to cure. Then, the middle section was put in place and glued with epoxy glue. Again, this piece cured for 24 hours. Finally, the top piece was glued in place.



James then salvaged some old pieces of marble and/or granite from discarded tombstones and used a rasp to file the stone into fine particles. He ended up with three different colorations of stone, selected the one that most matched the original tombstone, and blew the fine stone onto a fresh coating of epoxy on all the joints to try to match the epoxy to the original stone.



MINERAL WELLS FIREFIGHTERS AWARDED SAR LIFE SAVING MEDALS

by Ron Turner

On Wednesday, February 24th, members of the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter traveled to Mineral Wells to award the SAR Life Saving Medal to three Mineral Wells Firefighters for their heroic efforts during a hotel fire on July 23, 2020.

Firefighter Dan Riedlinger, Captain Sam Streun, and Firefighter Griffin Walker were dispatched to a commercial hotel fire. There was one disabled victim still inside the building. Captain Streun called it in while Firefighter Riedlinger made entry into the building and found the victim, who was still conscious and able to call out to them. After getting the engine set up, Firefighter Walker met Riedlinger inside where they pulled the victim to safety. A secondary search also found two small dogs inside.

Chapter President Ron Turner made the presentation to the three deserving heroes. Shown (L to R) are: Compatriot Mark Parkison, President Ron Turner, Compatriot Art Munford (who worked with MWFD in setting up the awards ceremony), Firefighter Walker, Past President Mike Connelley, Captain Streun, Immediate Past President Gerry Gieger, and Firefighter Riedlinger. Not pictured is Sarah Connelley who took the group photo.





(L to R): Immediate Past President Gerry Gieger, Officer Tracy Darty, President Ron Turner, Sergeant Merle Green, Past President Mike Connelley, and Fort Worth Police Chief Ed Kraus

2021 LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMENDATION AWARDS

By Ron Turner

On Thursday, January 21st, President Ron Turner, accompanied by Past Presidents Mike Connelley and Gerry Gieger, traveled to Fort Worth Police Headquarters to present SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medals to Sergeant Merle Green and Officer Tracy Darty. Police Chief Ed Kraus made introductions. Past President Connelley read background information on each awardee and President Turner presented each awardee with his medal and certificate.

Sergeant Green was recognized for his work as an Administrative Sergeant who is tasked with reviewing regular monthly audits, reports, and assignments. In addition, he is responsible for developing and implementing the new Intimate Partner Initiative and volunteered to head the Drug Take Back Project. He is also responsible for overseeing the back tracing system for all FWPD employees who test positive for COVID.

Officer Darty was recognized for his passion for building positive relationships within the East Division community. He is a Neighborhood Police Officer throughout the Stop Six area neighborhood. He excels at improving the relationship with Fort Worth's citizens.

Vietnam Era Service Recognized

By Tom Jackson

The Lady Washington Chapter, NSDAR honored Captain Theron McLaren & his wife Olga for their Vietnam Era service to coincide with the National DAR Day of Service at Houston's Woodlawn Garden of Memories Little Arlington section). Over 100 individuals were in attendance for the cemetery and headstone cleanup project which included representatives of the SAR, General Society War of 1812, scouts, girl scouts and DAR members. Theron, a Rankin Compatriot, joined the SAR in 2009 while Olga, a Lady Washington Chapter member, joined the DAR in 1958. Olga has been highly supportive of the SAR throughout. Subsequently, the Rankin Chapter recognized their service. The Lady Washington Chapter, with over 650 members, is the world's largest DAR. The presentation was made by Regent Mary Anthony Startz. Subsequently, the Rankin Chapter recognized their service.

Theron and Olga McLaren spent 2 years during the Vietnam Era, from 1960-1962, on the island of Crete, Greece as one of 40 U.S. Air Force Officers at Iraklion Air Force Base (Iraklion Air Station). The mission of the Base was to monitor the radio traffic of the Russian Bloc. The base personnel were the first to announce the capture of Francis Gary Powers. Francis Gary Powers was piloting a U-2 spy plane at 70,000 feet when he lost power, descended and was shot down and captured.



The first TV station equipment arrived at Athens Air Force Base in 1960. The Greek government did not want the 1st TV station to be on an American Base and accordingly, the equipment was sent to Crete. Olga was the Speech and Debate school teacher in Crete, and she was invited to help in the television programing and she hosted a generic talk show with items of interest.

Upon their arrival, there weren't sufficient housing trailers, so for 2 months they lived "on the economy" as they called it, as they rented an apartment above a family home. They made friends with the family and went to into the community with them where they learned about the Greek culture, lifestyle and even a little of the Greek language. Then, as part of the deal, they lived on base before acquiring their very own 40-foot trailer for the remainder of their stay.

The McLarens reminisce on these two years in Crete with fondness as they remember all of the wonderful people, travel and experiences that they shared there together.



From left to right: Tom Jackson, President (18-19) Texas SAR, Theron & Olga McLaren, Mary Anthony Startz, Regent Lady Washington Chapter, John Thompson, President, General Society War of 1812 in Texas.

Patriot Medal Awardees Announced

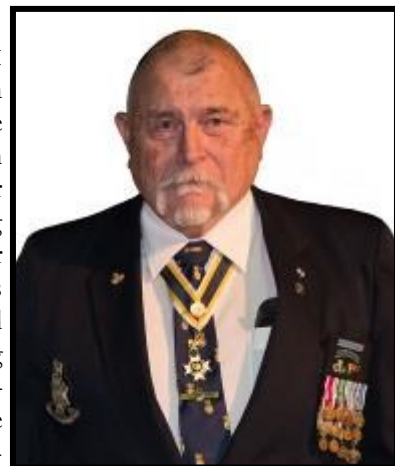
by Tom Jackson

In November, the Patriot Medal Committee selected six compatriots to receive the Patriot Medal at the Annual meeting in April 2021. The Patriot Medal is the highest award presented to a Compatriot by a State Society and recognizes long, faithful, outstanding, and distinguished service at the state and/or chapter level. The Committee is comprised of Patriot Medal Recipients from around the state.

WILLIAM L. ADRIANCE – Bill, a fifth generation Galvestonian, has been an active member of the Bernardo de Gálvez Chapter since September 2004, served two terms as chapter president and for three years has been in charge of reporting for the Texas SAR. He achieved the goal of having every chapter complete the annual report for 2018! He joined the color guard in 2018 and has been a fixture at the annual Dickens on the Strand parade. For over six years he has traveled extensively and spoken to numerous groups raising funds to build a statue of Bernardo de Gálvez, and promote Spain's role in the American Revolution. He went to Washington D.C and made a presentation to Spanish dignitaries and met with the Spanish Ambassador, twice. He also travelled to Macharaviaya Spain (home of the noble Gálvez family) to finalize a Galveston/Macharaviaya sister city relationship. Currently \$90,000 has been raised for the statue project, the artist has made a clay model, and bronzing has begun.



LOUIS P. COLATONI - Lou Colantoni has been a continuously active member of the William Hightower Chapter for twenty years, serving three terms as Chapter President, several terms as chapter registrar, and serving as the Presiding Officer for the 2004 BOM. His committee service has been exceptional with his chairing Public Service awards, Eagle Scout and Flag Committees among others. Over the past seventeen years Lou has identified and awarded over seventy public service medals including all five Public Safety Awards for each of the last five years. Former President Tom Green remembered "the night Lou was inducted he immediately became a member of the color guard." He has been active ever since including serving as Chapter CG Commander and presenting JROTC medals almost every year. Lou has represented the Chapter and Texas Society with city councils and county commissioners receiving George Washington Birthday proclamations, and spreading awareness of the SAR.



WILLIAM MOORE HURST JR. - Bill, a 39-year veteran high school teacher, has made an impact every step of the way in the SAR, initially joining the Plano Chapter in 1996, serving that chapter as secretary and registrar. While a Plano member, he joined the Color



Guard and ever since he has enjoyed his various parade participations. Bill was instrumental in the awarding of Gold Good Citizenship Medals for both Congressman Sam Johnson in 1997 and Yakoff Smirnoff in 2009.

He was the founding President of the Peters Colony Chapter in 1998 and a charter member of the McKinney Chapter before moving on and serving as chapter president of the Edmund Terrell Chapter.

In his 24 years with the SAR, he was an officer about a third of that time, all the while claiming 48 supplementals, in the process of completing three more, and helping others achieve their goal by serving as an assistant to the State Inland Registrar.

JACK ALLEN MUGGLI - As a newly inducted member of the Robert Rankin Chapter, Jack immediately stepped up to become State Registrar for the Coastal Region, reviewing 680 applications and transmitting 581 since inception. He embraced the notables project and helped re-



search and process applications related to the 2018 National Congress. These included Judge Ridgeway of Houston, Brazos County Judge Edgar Peters (Bush Library recognition), and welcoming speaker Harris County Commissioner Jack Cagle. Other notables were Justice Wise of Texas Court of Appeals, Four Star General Joseph Ashy and ten expedited and approved applications. Those included six WWII combat veterans, and one who died within an hour of receiving his certificate. Jack has served as a Chapter officer, State officer, and for the last three years as State Genealogy Committee Chairman giving numerous state and chapter genealogy presentations.

MELVIN L. OLLER - Mel, a Past Master of the Humble Masonic Lodge and 32nd degree Mason, was inducted into the Freedom Chapter in 2013 and has served as an officer for five years, including three as President overseeing a 45% growth in chapter membership.



His can-do spirit when the need is present pervades his service which includes being a volunteer at the 2018 National SAR Convention in Houston, leading the

Orations contest at the Chapter and Region levels for several years and serving at the state level as District 8 Vice President and Assistant Texas Secretary. He has become an active Zoom Host for chapters and the state committees for the state convention and the Fall BOM. He was actively involved in the hosting responsibilities for a Texas State Convention and two BOM's.

Mel is the State Color Guard Adjutant having earned the Galvez Bronze and Silver Medals, reflecting his participation in parades, Naturalization ceremonies, and JROTC presentations.

LARRY DAVID SPRADLIN - Larry D. Spradlin, a combat veteran pilot, and his son joined the Col. Turner Sharp Chapter #9 in 2013. Within months of joining, Larry assumed an emergency position of Chapter President. Each subsequent year, Larry has served as an officer including two more terms as Chapter President. Under his lead-



ership the chapter received the Outstanding Chapter, Americanism Award, and the E.A. Limmer Awards. Each year as a member he personally awards between ten and fifteen JROTC medals. Larry assumed the unexpired term of District 1 Vice President Jim Heath and continues in that role for his sixth consecutive year. As District 1 VP, he routinely travels a distance greater than the length of Georgia to visit his chapters and travels a distance comparable to Honolulu to Louisville to participate in state activities. Larry remains active at Chapter, District, and State levels and actively serves on state committees. Larry is a George Washington Fellow and is serving as a Patriot Fund Trustee.

Archives/History/Yearbook

by Texas SAR Historian

historian@txssar.org

John Anderson, Arlington Chapter #7

Have you observed the history information available on the Texas SAR public website? Under the **About Texas SAR / History** menu are currently eight topics of historical interest:

Ira Hobart Evans was the organizing influence to the creation of the Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution. His biography, with insight to his family life, is available thanks to the 2008 Texas SAR Archives Committee.

The **Texas SAR Presidents** list was created by Compatriot John Greer. This multi-year effort is now current through most all living past presidents with their biography, picture, obituary, etc. Our challenge is to keep adding to this list through time.

The **President Generals from Texas** list was created by Compatriots John Greer and John Anderson last year. Their National SAR Magazine messages, articles and more are gathered and available for quick access.

The **Texas SAR Archives at UNT** was originally organized by Compatriots Jim Johnson and Bill Marrs. To learn more, see the Overview, History, Donations, Research and Link topics. Electronic donations are preferred, but paper is always acceptable. Don't forget to redact private member information! See the easy Research instruction for either in-person or online access.

The **Prominent Texas SAR Members** presentation has evolved from a slideshow first made available by Compatriot Tom Jackson. It identifies the four U.S. Presidents, two U.S. Vice Presidents, five U.S. Senators, nine U.S. Representatives, and eight Texas Governors that were/are Texas Compatriots. Who will be the next official to add to this list? This document can easily be taken to the classroom or other group presentations.

The **Revolutionary War Veterans Buried in Texas** list information is from a book by Compatriot Clovis H. Brakebill, but Compatriots Jim Mitchel and others have added to the information found. Currently there are 59 American Revolutionary Patriots that found their way to Texas. A short paragraph is available for each. When more and better information is found, revisions will be made.

The **Texas SAR History Book Order Form** was revised last year. Volume I Edition 2 and Volume II were published back in 2008 by the History Book committee lead by Compatriots Don Stone, Ray Cox, Jim Johnson, Cannon Pritchard, Tom Whitelock, Bill Hurst and several others.

Both volumes are available electronically. Volume 1 Edition 1 was developed by Compatriot Howard Jessee. Only Volume I Edition 2 is available in hardback as the Volume II hardback is sold out. For a small fee to the Patriot Fund, your home or public library could obtain a copy.

The **Compatriot Questionnaire** is available from the Archives/History committee for members to optionally identify themselves with a photo and short biography. If you haven't previously submitted or if you wish to update, then use this questionnaire to preserve your SAR membership identification for future History volumes. Please encourage all members, especially new members, to complete and submit a questionnaire.

Thanks to Compatriot Ray Cox for his support and development of these website history topics.

Submit ideas for more website history topics to the Historian.



L to R: Arlington Texas SAR Chapter President, Robert Pope, Compatriot Gary Faletti, Chapter Registrar John Anderson, and Troop 517 Leader Wes Cloud. Photo credit: John Anderson

ARLINGTON SUPPORTS BSA

by John Anderson

Compatriot Gary Faletti and Wes Cloud, leaders of Boy Scout Troop 517, presented a fund raising presentation at the April 10th Texas SAR Arlington Chapter meeting. Troop 517 is the only Boy Scout Troop devoted to Disabled Scouts within the 23 counties comprising the BSA Longhorn Council. The chapter members supported the Troop by purchasing Camp Cards. As thanks for their handling of Covid-19 vaccinations, many of those cards were donated back to the Troop for subsequent distribution to the Arlington Firefighters Association. Through their generosity, the chapter members purchased nearly \$300 of cards, of which 20 were donated to the firefighters.

Going Dutch

by Stu Hoyt

At 9:00 am on April 22, 2021, members of the Texas SAR Color Guard entered the House of God in Georgetown to say farewell to Raymond Edward De Vries. Ray left the campground on April 12th after serving over 85 years of God, Family, and Country.

Ray was born in Chicago in 1936 to Jacob Luz De Vries and Milly Rose Newbury. After High School, Ray joined the Air Force but not before marrying his high school sweetheart Nancy Katherine Reberg. During his AF stay, they had two sons, Mark and David. Ray was a 32nd Degree Mason and Shriner who dedicated his time to transporting children to the Shriner Hospital.

Hooked on ancestry, Ray discovered he had lineage back to the American Revolution. He was accepted into the Sons of the American Revolution in November 1999. He found his calling in the Color Guard and participated in chapter ceremonies, parades, community events, and naturalization ceremonies. He loved sharing his heritage with people. He is the Past President and Registrar of the Alexander Hamilton Chapter in Georgetown, TX.

Standing with Ray's picture are from left to right: Jim Clements, Steve Hodges, Vern Eubanks, Stu Hoyt, Wayne Courreges, Jim Scott, and Gary Chapel. Ron Walcik, not pictured, who lives in the Killeen area, attended the graveside service. Photo credit: Stu Hoyt.

P.S. I didn't check Ray's heritage to see if he was Dutch but I am sure one of us will be going Dutch.



We're Back!

Well! We're getting there.

By Stu Hoyt

The William Hightower Chapter prides itself on its accomplishments on supporting the SAR ROTC in the Youth Programs. Over the years we have extended our coverage to thirteen junior and two senior programs in the surrounding five counties. Everyone looked forward to the April/May time frame when we dressed up to hand out the medals at each school's ceremony. All this came to a screeching halt in April of 2020 when a black cloud known as the Covid-19 Pandemic descended over the world. All life as we knew it shut down. It was such an unknown that no one wanted to take any chances; they all stayed home.

Here it is a year later, eyes are still peeking out from under the covers and life is still far from normal.



People don't think twice about wearing a mask in public. Most schools are still restricted to teacher/student activities. It is the exception rather than the norm to have public events. Of the fifteen ROTC programs, at least one has reached out to the SAR to join in an awards ceremony. At 6:30 pm on April 29, 2021, the Lehman High School Junior Naval ROTC elected to honor those in their program by inviting outside organization to assist them in recognizing their cadets.

The attendance was very controlled with social distancing and one-way directions but the event went off without a hitch. It must have been a void for graduating seniors in the program to leave without as much as a good bye. This April, they held their heads high as they were piped across the stage.



Old Soldiers Never Die

by Stu Hoyt

The quote in the title comes from General Douglas MacArthur when he submitted his retirement to Congress. He was a soldier's soldier and they have existed for a long time. Since the founding of this great nation, soldiers or military veterans have developed a unique bond unlike any other. Most people are familiar with the expression "Band of Brothers" but few can quote its source. On 2 Nov 1783, George Washington had his army gather at Rocky Hill, near present day Princeton, to say farewell. He told them that they were a unique army formed from nothing to become a formidable fighting force. They would return to the private sector but never be the same because they had become a "Band of Brothers. And so it is with all servicemen from all branches of military service, who have developed as members of this unique band.

The Sons of the American Revolution are mostly direct descendants of that original band. One of the goals of the society is to recognize and support veterans and their organizations. Recently the Patrick Henry and the William

Hightower Chapters joined together to do just that. At 7pm (or 1900 hrs) on 20 May, 2021, Jim Clements and Stu Hoyt interrupted the opening ceremony of the executive board of Post 115 of the American Veterans Organization to recognize its Commander, Kerman Hammond.

Kerman is an Air Force veteran and a member and officer of this post since inception. He is also an officer in Post 213 of the American Legion of Buda and Post 12161 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of that city. All these Posts have united together to form the Central Texas Veterans Service Organization (VSO) Alliance. They have their own facility donated by the city and service community veterans with training, programs and activities. The SAR supports one of those activities through genealogical research. Post 115, recently, was recognized by the National Commander, as the most active small post in the nation.

Presenting the Silver Good Citizenship Medal for his outstanding support to veterans is Jim Clements of the Patrick Henry Chapter, as Stu Hoyt of the William Hightower Chapter, both life members of this Post, looks on.



WHAT'S IN A FLAG?

By Stu Hoyt

What is Vexillology? It is the study of the history, symbolism, and usage of flags, or by extension, any interest in flags. A Vexillologist is a master of that trade. Our local expert is John Knox. John has been studying, collecting, and teaching the story of flags for a number of years.

It was the goal of the local SAR Chapters to capture one of John's presentations on video and make it available to our Education Outreach Program. We were in communication with one of our elementary schools to accomplish that task when Covid-19 shut the door and scuttled our plan. It has been a year since that first attempt, so when I received an email from one of my elementary school history contacts to come and speak to her classes, I posed the question.

I was able to share the American Revolution with five of her classes on April 25, 2021. We scheduled the flag video for her class just after their lunch period on May 20, 2021. John Knox has a vast collection of flags and at least one of everyone flown over the United States of America. John leads into his presentation by asking the student how much they really know about the flag that they say the pledge to each morning. Then he goes into the names of the different sections of our flag and how it came to be. The entire story takes longer than the normal class time so it was condensed for the class and the video.

You will be surprised at what you do not know about our national flag: when a new state is added, how they arrange the stars, and when it is first officially flown. In our history, there are a number of unique versions and stories of our flags flown in difficult historical times. They are all part of our history. I hope that you will seek out this video and share it with others. Congress declared standards for our flag and its use. There is an etiquette that needs to be observed when flying and caring for our flag. Retiring the flag is almost as important as how it is flown. Old Glory is her name. From left to right are Wayne Courreges of the Patrick Henry Chapter, Stu Hoyt of the William Hightower Chapter, and John Knox of the Patrick Henry Chapter explaining the attributes of Old Glory.



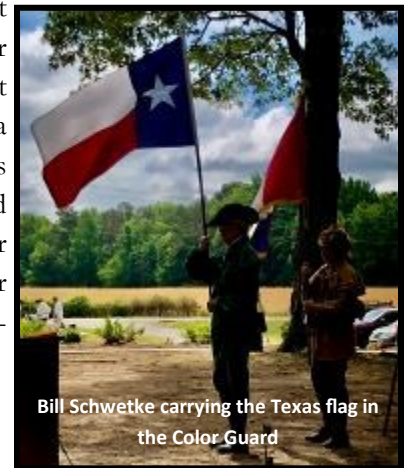
Texas Represented at Waxhaws

By William "Bill" Schwetke

On May 29, 1780, 241 years ago, the Continental 3rd Detachment, about 350 green Virginia recruits, under the command of Colonel Abraham Buford, retreating from a failed attempt to relieve besieged troops at Charleston, South Carolina, were overtaken by Banastre Tarleton and badly defeated, with many dead. The Virginians had attempted to surrender, but were mercilessly cut down in an atrocity that became a rallying cry for patriots in the South.

This event was memorialized on the anniversary in an SAR ceremony on the battle ground, next to the mass grave of over 100 Virginians. Sacred soil of Virginia, gathered from Culpeper County and blessed in a ceremony on April 17th, was transported to Waxhaws by the Virginia SAR President, Jeff Thomas, and spread on the mass grave of Virginians.

Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter dual member Bill Schwetke, and Past President of the Virginia Society, carried the Texas flag in the Color Guard and presented a Major K.M. Van Zandt Chapter wreath during the ceremony.



Bill Schwetke carrying the Texas flag in the Color Guard



Bill Schwetke with the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt wreath



Compatriot Father Henry Minich blesses the Virginia Soil held by Virginia SAR President Jeff Thomas on April 17th.



Left: Virginia SAR President Jeff Thomas spreads the Blessed Soil on the mass grave of Virginians.

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How to Submit Items to *The Texas Compatriot*

The Texas Compatriot welcomes submissions from compatriots. Here are some tips on getting your story published.

1. Keep your article as short as you can while still telling the story. Send stories in Microsoft Word format to compatriot@txssar.org.
2. Send digital photographs as attachments and not embedded into the Word document. They also should be sent to compatriot@txssar.org.
3. Make sure your images are high resolution, at least 300 DPI, and that no time or date stamps appear on the images.

4. Limit the number of photographs to those you would most like to see published.
5. Meet the deadlines published for and in each issue.



Publishing Deadlines

Deadlines for content inclusion in *The Texas Compatriot* are: February 15th (Winter issue), May 15th (Spring issue), August 15th (Summer issue), & October 15th (Fall issue) each year. Planned publication dates for *The Texas Compatriot* are no later than the last day of the months of March (Winter), June (Spring), September (Summer), & December (Fall) each year.



Welcome New Editor

The Texas Compatriot has a new editor. Following the resignation of long-time Editor, Compatriot Jim Dougherty for health reasons, Compatriot Ron Turner has accepted the role of Editor. An SAR member since April 2016, Ron is currently the President of the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter in Fort Worth and also assists the Chapter Registrar. He has held the position of Chapter Secretary and is the administrator for the chapter web site. In addition, he has been editor of the Chapter newsletter, *The Chisholm Trail*, since June 2017.

In addition to his original Patriot used to join the SAR, Ron has completed and received approval for eight additional supplemental Patriots and has two more supplementals in the approval process pipeline.

Before his retirement in late 2013, Ron spent 40 years in the travel industry, of which 30+ years was conducting classroom and virtual training before moving into curriculum development in the corporate environment.

Ron is a native Texan and has spent 50+ years working on his genealogy. Not only a member of SAR, he is the Immediate Past Commander of the Col. E.W. Taylor Camp, 3rd Brigade, Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) located in Bedford, Texas; the Vice President and Treasurer of the newly formed Elder Jacob Maryon Coffman Chapter - Fort Worth, Texas Society, the General Society of the War of 1812 (GSW1812); a member of the La Rochelle Chapter, Society of Texas, National Huguenot Society (NHS); and a member of the Order of the First World War (OFWW). Ron is an applicant to the Order of the Second World War (OSWW) and will submit his application to the Society of Mayflower Descendants this summer.

Ron looks forward to continuing the established mission and goals of the Society for *The Texas Compatriot*.

The Texas Compatriot

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