



# The Galveston Gazette

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



DECEMBER 2009

## December Newsletter

### Bernardo de Galvez Chapter # 1

Wow, what a great month we have had in December! We celebrated our 113<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our chapter on 12 December 2009. We have also participated in other events to make it a great month.

It all started out when Compatriot Bill Whatley took over 800 toiletries, books and magazines to the VA Clinic at 39<sup>th</sup> and N in Galveston! I thought I was doing great when I took in 196 toiletries earlier in the week. I imagine they were just as surprised as I was! Great going Bill!

Our chapter participated in the Dickens on the Strand Parade on 5 December 2009. We had 2 members in Revolutionary War Style uniforms, Jim Mitchell and Steven Whatley, who participated in the parade with three members of other Texas chapters. We had 7 chapter members, 4 SAR Auxiliary members, Compatriots Pat Kerr and Dave Jones from the Robert Rankin Chapter, Fred Hill from the Freedom Chapter and two wives at the parade. We hope to make this a state wide event this coming year!

I presented two Commendation Medals and Certificates to League City's finest; Law Enforcement Officer, Officer Shawn Murray and Retired Assistant Chief of the Fire Department, Arthur L. Hewett on 8 December. I also presented Arthur L. Hewett the Certificate of Appreciation for his WW 2 service. The event was televised and will run twice a day seven days a week until the next city council meeting in January! This will be many points for our President's Report.

We had a great chapter meeting on 12 December. We had 18 chapter members in attendance. This is a record for us! We also had 10 members of the George Washington Chapter of the DAR. The TXSSAR President, Judge Tom Lawrence and wife Mickey Jo came to join in for the celebration of our anniversary. We had 4 SAR Auxiliary members, three members of the Dickinson Police Department and nine guests.

TXSSAR President Judge Tom Lawrence and I presented three Heroism Medals and Certificates to Officer Jack Ferrell, Officer John Smith and Sgt. Mike Anzualda of the Dickinson Police Department.

I nominated Compatriot John P. Gulley Jr. for the Texas Silver Service Award, and TXSSAR President, Judge Tom Lawrence presented the medal to him at the meeting. I surprised John and our president surprised me! He awarded me the TXSSAR Silver Service Medal, too! Thank you very much, Judge Tom Lawrence!

Catherine Polk, George Washington Chapter of the DAR, was presented a SAR Medal of Appreciation and Certificate. Darice Whatley, Carole Whatley, and Sue Lenes, SAR Auxiliary Members, were presented the Martha Washington Medal and Certificate for all the volunteer help and assistance they have given our chapter. Frances Foreman was awarded the Certificate of Appreciation for her many years of being Chairperson of the Constitution week presentations at our local schools.

Asa Whatley and Tyler Whatley were presented their Youth/Junior Certificates of Membership. TXSSAR President, Judge Tom Lawrence made the presentation. The young men really looked great in their Revolutionary War style clothing!

Compatriot Barry and Madeleine Rogers celebrated their wedding anniversary with us!

I would like for our chapter members to write a short story about their Patriots to be published in the Monthly Newsletter! This should be good

reading! I shall start with a short story about my Patriot, Pvt. Augustine Comer, 12<sup>th</sup> Virginia Militia.

Augustine, of German parentage, was born on the Rapidan River and was an artilleryman in Washington's Army. One night while the Americans were in camp on Assanpink Creek, at Trenton, N.J., Comer was placed on guard duty with orders to hail any strange person three times and then to fire unless answered. An officer who thought he would have some fun with Comer and stampede him got down to the brink of the creek and threw up firebrands. The sentinel was alarmed but obeyed his orders and fired, wounding the officer. Comer was placed under arrest but exonerated by General Washington. This is an excerpt from Pvt. Augustine's recorded history!

Our next meeting will be the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2010. We should have a great presentation for you in January. I shall let you know who it is in my next email!

I want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and New Year!

John P. "Pete" Lenes

President

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