

**Bernardo de Galvez Chapter #1**  
**March Meeting Minutes**  
**April 21, 2018**

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**PRESENT:                    20**

John Hamlin, President and Chaplain

Pete Lenes, Registrar, DAR Liaison

Gene Shaner, Treasurer

John Loper, Secretary

Larry Tidwell, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Color Guard Commander

Bill Whatley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Eddie De La Houssaye II

Bill Adriance

Thomas Darragh <sup>+</sup>

Thomas Jackson, President TXSSAR<sup>\*,^</sup>

Dr. Craig Brown, City Council Representative District 2, City of Galveston<sup>\*,^</sup>

Deputy Jeremy Creech, Galveston County Sheriff's Office<sup>\*,\*\*</sup>

Kesha Creech<sup>\*</sup>

Supervisor T.K. Mills, Galveston Island Beach Patrol<sup>\*,\*\*</sup>

Josephine Mills<sup>\*</sup>

Virgil Smith<sup>\*,\*\*</sup>

Lisa Wallace<sup>\*</sup>

Shirley Williams<sup>\*</sup>

Samuel Collins III<sup>\*</sup>

Marsha Shaner<sup>\*</sup>

<sup>+</sup>Transferring Membership from Alexander Hodge Chapter, Transfer request submitted to TXSSAR

<sup>\*</sup> Guest

<sup>\*\*</sup> Award Recipient

<sup>^</sup>Speaker

**CALL TO ORDER**

President John Hamlin called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

**INVOCATION**

Chaplain John Hamlin led the invocation.

**PLEDGES**

Compatriot Bill Adriance led us in reciting the pledges of allegiance to the American Flag, the Texas Flag

and the SAR Flag.

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

Everyone introduced themselves and their guests.

## **LUNCH**

### **SPEAKERS**

President John Hamlin introduced our first guest speaker, Dr. Craig Brown, City Council Representative District 2, City of Galveston. Dr. Brown provided an excellent overview of the current state of affairs in Galveston. He reported that the three largest revenue sources for the City are the Port of Galveston, universities and colleges located in Galveston and tourism. While Hurricane Ike was devastating to the City, it did result in \$400 million of improvements directed toward the City residents, including improved roadways, a new fire station, a new City Hall Annex and a new 30" water line. The City recently hired a new Police Chief whose focus will be on "community policing." Future economic development of the Port will be centered around development of additional entertainment and retail facilities. The Port of Galveston is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest cruise terminal in the United States, enjoying over 1 million persons/yr throughput, and is building a 3<sup>rd</sup> cruise terminal. The City will continue to concentrate on tourism. While only having a resident population of about 50,000 persons, over 400,000 people may occupy the island on any given weekend. \$1.4 Million from the Horizon/BP Oil Spill fund will be used for east end improvements, and the City looks forward to housing new tourist venues including a South by Southwest Music Festival and other cultural, nature and historic programs. The City continues to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to review and select an appropriate storm surge project/program and would like to continue to maintain local, home control.

Our second guest speaker, Thomas Jackson is the recently elected president of the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (TXSSAR), our parent organization. President Jackson reminded everyone of the upcoming National Congress to be held in Houston from July 13 through 18, 2018. President Jackson also presented his objectives for TXSSAR as follow:

- Increase membership by 5%
- Encourage donations
- Education

### **AWARD PRESENTATIONS**

The focus of our meeting was on recognizing First Responders, and we were pleased to make the following award presentations:

- Deputy Jeremy Creech was awarded the Law Enforcement Medal and Certificate.
- Steve DeVillier, League City Volunteer Fire Department was presented the Fire Safety Commendation Award (in absentia).

- Chris Claggett, Shift Supervisor, League City EMS was presented the EMS Award (in absentia).
- Supervisor T. K. Mills, Galveston Island Beach Patrol was presented the Hero Medal.
- Virgil Smith, a 13-year-old from Dickinson was presented the Life Saving Award for saving 17 people during the flooding from Hurricane Harvey. He dragged his air mattress back and forth in over 4 feet of water to the homes of trapped neighbors four different times saving 17 people.

President Jackson then proceeded to present the following awards and certificates to Chapter members:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Bill Whatley was presented the Patriot Medal, the highest award given for service at the state or chapter level. Bill was also presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his involvement in Chapter-sponsored parades.
- President John Hamlin was presented Certificates of Appreciation for his service on the Americanism Contests, Medals, & Awards Committee and the Knight Essay Contest Subcommittee.
- Compatriots John Hamlin and Jim Mitchell (in absentia) were presented the Silver Roger Sherman Medal for service to the TXSSAR. President John Hamlin was also awarded the TXSSAR Silver Service Medal, and Compatriot Jim Mitchell was also awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for his service on the Patriot Graves Committee.
- The Bernardo de Galvez Chapter #1 was presented a Certificate of Outstanding Public Service Award.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

President Jackson swore in John Hamlin and Pete Lenes as President and Registrar, respectively.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The Secretary's Report for the March 18, 2018 meeting was submitted previously to all members electronically. A motion was made by Compatriot Bill Adriance, seconded by Compatriot Gene Shaner and passed unanimously to approve the minutes.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Gene Shaner presented his Treasurers Report to the Chapter, reporting a balance of approximately \$6,200.00

### **REGISTRAR'S REPORT**

Registrar Pete Lenes presented the Registrar's Report indicating that our membership level stands at 66 compatriots. Five membership applications await approval at TXSSAR, and he is presently working on three new applications.

### **COLOR GUART REPORT**

No report. Everyone is encouraged to purchase a uniform and join our Chapter Color Guard. Members are also encouraged to wear their uniforms at Chapter meetings.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- We had one entry for the Knight Essay Contest from Ms. Caroline Chessher from Beaumont, TX. She will receive a \$100 award and a medal recognizing her contribution at our May meeting.
- The Annual Board of Managers (BOM) meeting was held in Richardson, TX on April 6 through 8, 2018. Compatriots Larry Tidwell and Pete Lenos will present a report at the May meeting. The next BOM meeting is October 12 through 14, 2018 in New Braunfels, TX.
- Volunteers are still needed for the National SAR Congress being held in Houston July 12 through 19, 2018. Please contact President John Hamlin if you can help out. We need four volunteers to meet the buses for the NASA Tour and 12 volunteers on Tuesday, July 17.
- Galvez Chapter shirt and baseball cap orders are still being taken. Contact Treasurer Gene Shaner.
- Chapter Challenge Coins are being offered. See Treasurer Gene Shaner for pre-orders before they are offered at the Fall BOM meeting.
- Five Adult and two Junior members' dues remain unpaid.
- The next Chapter meeting will be convened on May 19, 2018.
- A Memorial Day Program will be held on May 28, 2018 at Walter Hall Park in League City.

### **RECESSIONAL**

The Recessional was recited by all Compatriots.

### **DISMISSAL**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m. CDT.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Loper, Secretary