

## April Minutes

### Bernardo de Galvez Chapter #1

April 29, 2018

#### PRESENT:

1. Gene Shaner
2. Albert Seguin
3. J.B. Kline
4. Eddie de la Houssaye
5. David Garza
6. Bill Adriance
7. Bill Hall
8. Hugh Ferguson
9. Billy Mayo
10. John Loper
11. Larry Tidwell
12. John Hamlin
13. Bill Whatley
14. Felica Gonzalez
15. David Fairchild
16. Guy Taylor Jr.
17. Mike Varela Jr.
18. Candace Varela
19. Doug Mc Bee
20. Linda McBee
21. Jim Cantrell
22. Henry Truchet
23. Pete Lenos
24. Kathleen Paul
25. Lara Phillips
26. Stephen Hughey
27. Hannah Paul
28. James Roy
29. Constance Robinson
30. James Fisher
31. James Werner

Hugh Ferguson led the invocation and pledges to US, Texas, and SAR flags.

President Bill Adriance led the Introduction of all there,

The new portrait of Bernardo de Galvez was displayed for members. An auction will be held in the future to make money for the statue project.

Former Jr President of the Bernardo de Galvez Children of the American Revolution Hannah Paul who was the runner up in the Knight Essay contest for

the chapter read her essay for those present. The chapter presented her with a check for \$50. She then introduced the new Senior and Jr President of the CAR chapter in Friendswood and presented a certificate of Appreciation to the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter #1.

President Adriance announced the following medals and Awards were presented to the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter #1 at the state Convention last week.

John Hamlin, Patriot Medal, Silver Roger Sherman Medal, Certificate of Appreciation for Awards

Bill Whatley Silver Roger Sherman Medal

Larry Tidwell, Texas Society Silver Service Medal

Bill Adriance, Texas Society Silver Service Medal

Certificate of Appreciation for Reporting

**Col. Joe M. Hill Patriot Fund Awards -- STAR -**

Awarded annually to each Chapter with contributions to the Patriot Fund that exceed the amount of the previous year.

**The John K. Harrell CAR Activities Awards –**

Presented to Chapters that participate in the CAR activities outlined in the Chapter Annual Report submitted for the calendar year.

**Texas Society SAR Flag Presentation Awards -- STAR**

Given to Chapters having recognized an Individual, Company or Organization for the proper display, maintenance and care for flying the Flag of the United States during the past year.

**The John Bruce Stuart Jr. Memorial Award: 1 Certificate per Gp.)**

Awarded to the Chapter that best meets the criteria based on Veterans activities in the past year.

**Outstanding Public Service Award:**

Awarded to Chapters that give all 5 Public Service Awards during the year.

**George S. & Stella M. Knight Scholarship Award:**

Given to a Junior or Senior High School Student who writes the best Five Hundred (500) Word Essay on an Event, Topic, Person or Ideal associated with the American Revolution. Our chapter 1<sup>st</sup> place winner Kendall Coney won 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

in the statewide competition.

### **The Ross Shipman Awards --**

Best Newsletters published during the past year. 1 to 4 Sheet, we won in Group 2, 40 -99 Members

### **Middle School Brochure Contest Award**

We sponsored Takia Ordanez who won 3<sup>rd</sup> Place statewide and is scheduled to will be here next meeting

Presentations:

President Bill Adriance and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Bill May presented Bill Whatley his Stater Silver Roger Sherman Medal. They then presented member Charles Mcbee his 30-year membership pin.

After lunch President Adriance presented the five First responder medals.

Recipients were:

### **EMS – CONSTANCE ROBINSON**

Constance Robinson started in EMS in 2003 as a Volunteer EMT Basic with League City EMS at the age of 18. She received her EMT Paramedic in November 2006 and started working for League City ems as a Part time Medic. In Feb 2007 She became a full time Employee.

During her time with League City EMS she has developed into an excellent Paramedic and has aided EMS with new treatments for our Patients. In 2017 She was not only a Team Leader of an ambulance; she began leading her shift in the absence of her supervisor.

### **HEROISM – FELICIA GONZALEZ\**

On August 22, 2017 at approximately 1830 hrs. Officer Felicia Gonzalez was traveling west bound on Emmett F. Lowry Expressway approaching State Highway 3 in the City of Texas City. While performing routine patrol duties, Officer Gonzalez observed black smoke coming from a wrecked vehicle on the feeder/exit road north of her position. The vehicle was off of the roadway and it appeared to have struck two different fixed objects. As Officer Gonzalez

approached the vehicle it was now showing visible flames from under the hood, and under the vehicle. Officer Gonzalez contacted the Texas City Police Department Communications Division via police radio and requested fire and paramedics to respond.

Officer Gonzalez observed a female sitting on the driver's seat inside of the vehicle with the door closed. The female driver was either unable or unwilling to exit the burning vehicle. Officer Gonzalez rushed to the driver side door while loudly ordering the female to exit the burning vehicle. Due to the driver's state of intoxication, she was not cooperating with Officer Gonzalez. Officer Gonzalez opened the driver side door as the flames were beginning to consume the entire vehicle. Officer Gonzalez quickly removed the driver's seat belt and began physically removing the female driver. The female driver was resisting Officer Gonzalez's attempts to help her out of the burning vehicle. As the fire grew larger and was now burning Officer Gonzales's left arm she managed to pull the intoxicated female from the car and get her to a safe distance. The fire department arrived on the scene and began battling the fire which had now consumed the entire vehicle. The female driver was transported to the hospital where she was treated for injuries due to the accident. Officer Gonzalez also received treatment for burns she suffered on her left arm. The burning vehicle was a total loss, however the driver who was oblivious to her situation due to the state of her intoxication survived thanks to the heroic actions of Officer Gonzalez.

Officer Felicia Gonzalez began her career with the Texas City Police Department in August of 2016. Officer Gonzalez comes from a law enforcement family, having several of her family members serve on the Houston Police Department. She has always had the desire to be a police officer but waited until she raised her family first. Over twenty years ago prior to entering into law enforcement she started her own successful company which she still owns today. Officer Felicia Gonzalez has a strong desire to serve the community of Texas City. She, with a group of officers help with Police Department events for the community. Officer Gonzalez is a trained hostage negotiator, and a background investigator for new recruits. New and younger officers frequently seek out her guidance due to her helping personality. Officer Gonzalez's career goal is to one day earn a position in the Texas City Police Department's Criminal Investigations Unit as a detective.

## **FIRE SAFETY COMENDATION MEDAL – JAMES WERNER**

In the spring of 2018, the League City Fire Department received a report of a drowning in one of the drainage lakes of the Hidden Lakes neighborhood. The victim was reported to be a teenager that had drowned trying to rescue his younger brother. At once, several firefighters from several fire stations responded to the scene. James Werner responded with one other of the fire department rescue swimmers and, on arrival, went to the area where the young man was last scene. After about five surface dives, James was able to bring the victim to the surface and, with the help of another firefighter, bring him to the shore for possible resuscitation. The estimated time of submersion was 20 minutes.

While the effort was unsuccessful in saving the young man's life, it was an amazing effort that, on occasion, is successful when dealing with cold waters like are found in the spring months.

## **LIFE SAVING – MIKE VARELA, JR.**

Battalion Chief Mike Varela Jr. He has been with GFD since 2001. His father served GFD for over thirty years and held the position of Fire Chief from 2003-2010.

On January 4, 2017, Mike was the Captain of Engine 1 when they responded to a fire at UTMB. During the fire, Chief Varela and his crew discovered a female UTMB employee trapped in her smoke-filled office on the same floor as the fire. Mike knew that she needed to be removed quickly but the smoke conditions were too bad to take her out without breathing air. He removed his own air pack, placed it on the lady and then directed his Firefighters to escort her out of the building and then come back for him. He waited in the smoke-filled office while the lady was safely removed and then once his crew returned with his air pack, they returned to work searching the other offices and assisting with the fire.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT MEDAL – JAMES ROY**

James Roy has been with the Galveston Sheriff's Office since 1997. During Roy's time with the Sheriff's Office he has worked in Corrections, Patrol, Task Force Officer with the Drug Enforcement Administration, Special Crimes Unit, Galveston County Auto Task Force, and as a Major Crimes Detective. In September 2018, Roy was promoted to rank of Lieutenant/ Assistant Commander of the Criminal Investigation Division. With Roy's promotion, he is responsible for

supervising eight (8) Major Crimes Detectives and seven (7) Reserve Detectives. Roy assigns, oversees, and coordinates investigative activities and field operations to complete the criminal investigations.

Lt. Roy hold a master peace officer license with TCOLE. In 2010, Roy received the DEA Administrator's Award for Exceptional Service. In 2017, Roy successfully completed the Leadership Trilogy through FBI LEEDA.

In May of 2018, James Roy was assigned as the "Lead Investigator" with the responsibilities of coordinating and investigating the Santa Fe ISD School Shooting Incident. Even after being promoted, Roy has accepted the investigative responsibility and has coordinated his investigation with Galveston County District Attorney' s Office, Texas DP

Secretary report on minutes for March. Bill Hall made motion that minutes be accepted as presented. Second by Eddie De La Houssaye Motion passed.

Treasurers report was given by Gen Shaner.

Registrars report was given by David Garza as follows:

Total Paid Membership: 83

Regular applications working 4

Joseph Mac Carter - Jr. Member

Cole T. Gunnells - 17

Reid P. Gunnells - 11

Glenn Ruhl

Daniel Lee Rodgers - National Registrar - Pending

Supplementals working 1

Jason Allen Sullivan

Research in progress: 2

John Merritt (No current action)

David Baker (No current action)

President Adriance went over the calendar for the year as follows.

April 25 JROTC awards, Ball High Cafeteria, 5:30PM

April 27 ROTC awards TX A&M Galveston Student Center 10AM

May 11 Clear Creek JROTC awards Carlisle Field House 9:30AM

May 18 mtg - Essay contest winner & brochure contest winner

May 27 - Memorial Day Bay Area Veterans Memorial Service 10AM

June 15 mtg - program on DAR online library

July 4 - Independence Day

September 21 - Constitution Day

November 11 - Veteran's Day

December 7 - Dicken's on the Strand

2021 - host BOM in Galveston

Meeting was Adjourned.

Respectively submitted

John Hamlin

Secretary

Bernardo de Galvez Chapter #1

Texas SAR