



Bernardo de Galvez Chapter #1

FIRST QUARTER NEWSLETTER

CHAPTER MEETING PRESENTATIONS



During our January Chapter meeting, Compatriot Tom Jackson (right) gave an excellent presentation titled "The Lion Sleeps Tonight." The presentation focused on the role the Hessians played as blood thirsty mercenaries hired by the British and the Battles of Trenton and Princeton, including General Washington's bold crossing of the Delaware River in the middle of winter. The Battle of Trenton took place on December 25 and 26, 1776 and resulted in an American victory and the ultimate defeat of the British. Chapter President Hugh Ferguson is shown presenting him a Certificate of Appreciation.



The January Meeting was attended by past TXSSAR President Thomas Jackson, current Bernardo de Galvez Chapter President Hugh Ferguson and past Bernardo de Galvez Presidents, Billy Mayo and Clark Wright.



The guest speaker at our February meeting was 7th District Vice-President Richard Zdunkewicz who gave an excellent presentation on the early settlers of Canada, Mobile, New Orleans and Lake Charles - “The Chauvin-Camersac-LeBleu-Sallier Families in Louisiana.” He identified his ancestors from these families for 9 generations, two of which are recognized American Patriots (Martin Camersac and Firmin Breaux). Chapter President Hugh Ferguson presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding presentation. During the meeting Compatriot Richard Zdunkewicz displayed a Bernardo de Galvez Medal that the Louisiana Society of SAR had created and that was available to any SAR member and could be worn by any SAR member. He also provided details on how to obtain it by going to the Louisiana Society’s web page.



During our March Chapter Meeting, Guest Speaker Ray Cox from Piney Woods #51, gave an excellent presentation of the use of fifes and drums for the command and control of operations during the Revolutionary War. The presentation was titled "An Instrument of War", and Compatriot Cox played different camp and battle songs on his fife throughout the presentation. The tunes were largely taken from commonly known songs and were used for calls to wake up, retire, eat, battle, charge, and retreat. The Swiss originally employed the fifes and drums starting around the 1400’s, and they were not replaced by bugles until the time of the Civil War. Compatriot Ray Cox was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding presentation that included his playing tunes on the fife that were typical during colonial time periods.

NECROLOGY

Sadly, we have lost another long time chapter member Compatriot Billy Gene Whatley, past chapter president and color guard member. Billy was a staunch supporter of both SAR and the chapter. As a member of the color guard, he attended many Eagle Scout Honor Courts, JROTC Award Ceremonies, Memorial Day Ceremonies, etc. Billy was also an avid supporter of the Bernard de Galvez Statue project that he helped organize. He will be sorely missed as a chapter member and as a friend.

AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES

Compatriot Billy Mayo received the Past-President Medal at our January Chapter Meeting for his term from 1 January 2021 through 31 December 2022. Donald W. Schwarz received his 10-Year Member Service Certificate, and Bruce W. Roberts received his 20-Year Member Service Certificate during this period. Since both reside outside the immediate area, their certificates were mailed to them.



Registrar David Zwahr was awarded the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal by Past Chapter President Billy Mayo for his outstanding service as our Chapter Registrar during 2022. David has assisted more than 20 applicants with their applications. Chapter President Hugh Ferguson presented his Certificate and Medal to him during the February Chapter meeting.



During our February Chapter Meeting, Chapter President Hugh Ferguson swore in new Compatriots Frank Steele and Milton Betts and presented them with their membership certificates and rosettes. Compatriot Steele has volunteered to serve as the chapter Color Guard Commander upon his retirement in May.



Chapter President Hugh Ferguson presented Compatriot Harry Elmendorf a 5-Year Membership Service Certificate during our March Chapter Meeting.

YOUTH CONTESTS COMMITTEE

During the month of March the committee received nine submissions in the Sgt. Moses Middle School Brochure Contest from students at the Pin Oak Middle School. The contestants were Thanisha Burri, Santiago S. Aquirre, Allegra Garcia Atance, Gail R. Hackett, Ethan MacKay, Reese E. Reichel, Joshua Seagraves and Sukrish Vikas. The following contestants were chosen by the committee to receive the following chapter awards: Thanisha Burri – 1st Place (\$50), Ethan MacKay – 2nd Place (\$30) and Joshua Seagraves – 3rd Place (\$20). The winners were received certificates and their awards by mail. The other contestants received certificates for participating in the contest. The brochure of the first place winner was forwarded to the state committee for competition at the state level. On the 30th of March during the TXSSAR Annual Meeting, the TXSSAR judges named Thanisha Burri as named as the 5th place winner at the state level and was awarded \$100; she will be presented with the certificate during the chapter's May meeting.

During March, the committee received only one submission in the Americanism Poster Contest. The contestant, Allan Aing (a student at the Odyssey Academy Bay Area school), was named as the chapter winner; his poster was forward to the TXSSAR state committee to be entered in the state level contest. He will be presented a certificate and a check for \$50 as the chapter winner at the April chapter meeting.

In the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration Contest, William Lance Cartwright was the only contestant at the chapter level and was named winner. His essay was forwarded to the state committee where he will compete with other contestants during the annual TXSSAR Annual Meeting. He will receive his chapter certificate and award during our April Meeting.

FIRST RESPONDERS RECOGNITION PROGRAM COMMITTEE

During this period several different law enforcement agencies and fire departments were contacted and asked to nominate individuals that have performed outstanding service and/or heroic acts during the past year. Nominations were received from the Texas City Police Department, the Galveston County Sheriff Office, the League City Police Department, the La Marque Police Department and the League City Fire Department. Nominated individuals were approved and will be receiving appropriate awards during April and May chapter meetings.

JROTC and ROTC AWARD COMMITTEE

The Clear Creek ISD, the Dickinson ISD and the Galveston ISD were contacted to obtain their annual nominations of their outstanding cadets to be nominated for the Bronze SAR JROTC Certificate and Medal. Nominations have been received for all seven high schools that with their districts, and the chapter will begin recognizing these cadets during the JROTC Award Ceremonies in April and May.

For the first time in the chapter's history, JROTC chapter scholarships have been made available by funds received from the 7th District Vice-President Richard Zdundewicz. The chapter contacted the three districts and requested that a nominee be identified for each of the districts. Only the Clear Creek ISD and Dickinson ISD nominated cadets for these scholarships. As a result, a \$750 scholarship will be given to one cadet from the Clear Creek ISD and to one cadet from the Dickinson ISD.

The chapter annually recognizes one ROTC cadet from the Texas A & M Maritime Academy in Galveston with the SAR Silver ROTC Certificate and Medal. The academy has nominated a cadet for this award to be presented at the ROTC Award Ceremony in April.

VETERANS COMMITTEE

Compatriot Billy Mayo is the chapter's chairman of this committee and meets with the TXSSAR Committee Chairman along with other chapter chairmen via ZOOM on at least a quarterly basis. Each chapter must file a Stark annually that records the activities of chapter members support to veterans with visits, donations, etc.; activities honoring veterans by decorating graves with flags or flowers; and participations in Memorial Day and Wreath Across America activities. TXSSAR Chairman Rohrbough encourages members to track ongoing activities throughout the year by using **Stark Activities Tracker Form** located on Texas SAR Private Website. Go to Tab "Reports/Forms", Scroll down to "Veterans Worksheet (Excel)" at bottom of the list and click on it to **download** the Form to your computer. The document will appear on your computer. Open the Form and enter data. Members can then forward a copy of their "Veterans Worksheet" to their chapter chairman, who consolidates all the information and prepares the Chapter's Annual Stark Report. If this seems to be too much trouble, then just provide the chapter chairman with the information via an email.

FLAG COMMITTEE

SAR recognizes individuals and organizations that consistently display the American Flag at their homes or businesses with a Flag Certificate. Chapter President Hugh Ferguson is currently the Chairman of the Flag Committee. If you know of someone in your neighborhood (including yourself) that displays the "Stars and Stripes" and would like to present them with a Flag Certificate please provide President Ferguson with the names and addresses of the individuals. He will provide you with the certificate at our next chapter meeting, so that you can personally present it to the individual.

HISTORY COMMITTEE

The TXSSAR History Committee meets via ZOOM usually once a quarter. The committee is in the process of preparing "Texas SAR History Volume 3." Currently the committee is reviewing older volumes, Rosters, President lists, etc. The new information that is needed is new information on Patriots that are buried in Texas, Patriot and Compatriot Grave markings, Deceased Veterans, Past Texas Patriot Medals, Chapter Formation Stories, etc. Our Chapter History Committee members are Clark Wright and Billy Mayo, who will work of the history of our chapter. If anyone would like to provide information, please send it to either Clark Wright or Billy Mayo.

KROGER COMMUNITY AWARD PROGRAM

As you have been previously informed, the chapter received news that it was approved for the Kroger Community Award Program. The chapter will receive a donation from Kroger depending on how much our members spend at Kroger's. Anyone who has a Kroger's Reward can go to Kroger.com and connect their account to our chapter. This is not limited to members only; you can encourage family and friends to enroll as well. If you shop at Kroger's and do not have a Rewards Card, you will have to create an account – which is a good deal.

To enroll simply log onto Krogers.com, sign in, click on "my account", click on "Community Rewards" (lower left screen), and in the search box enter **ER869**. After clicking on search, "The Sons of the American Revolution, Galveston Texas" will pop up and then click on enroll. Members are strongly encouraged to enroll in this program to help our chapter fund its various projects and programs.

CHAPTER GROUP PHOTOS



January Meeting



February Meeting



March Meeting

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 13 May – JROTC Awards Ceremony @ Clear Creek High School
- 20 May – Chapter Meeting at Kelley's
- 29 May – Memorial Day Ceremony at Seabrook Veterans Park

