



Bernardo de Galvez Chapter #1

FOURTH QUARTER 2024 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

During the year, it has been an honor and privilege to serve as your chapter president, and I would like to thank you for your support during the year. During the year, the chapter has inducted two new members, has added two new JROTC units to list of the seven that it already supports and has continued to support the SAR Youth Awards and the Public Service Awards Programs. The chapter Color guard has continued to participate in Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Wreaths Across America, DAR Constitution Week and Dickens on the Strand activities. It was a privilege to induct five members into the NSSAR Veterans Corps. The chapter was fortunate to have some excellent guest speakers during the year – Flem Rogers, David Zwahr, Jean Nonus, Irene Walters, John Espinosa, John Shradar and Richard Gray.

Enough about what was accomplished by the chapter during 2024, I would like to strongly encourage you to support your new chapter president John Loper and the new board of officers during the coming year. Your support is essential to the success of the chapter and to it accomplishing its mission and purpose. We have all taken the oath to support the organization, so please step up and lend a hand. During the past year, I have presented several Member Service Certificates to members that I rarely see at the meeting; please at least provide support by attending the meeting.

SECRETARY’S MESSAGE

This is your Newsletter! Please provide any articles, information or photographs you would like to see in the

newsletter to Secretary John Loper at jloper@lopergroup.com. If you have any suggestions for improving the Newsletter, please let me know. Our meeting attendance has improved this year, and we hope some of our new members will begin to play a more active role in Chapter activities. I look forward to serving as your President next year and ask that you give Clark Wright your full support as he takes on the additional duties of Secretary.

INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

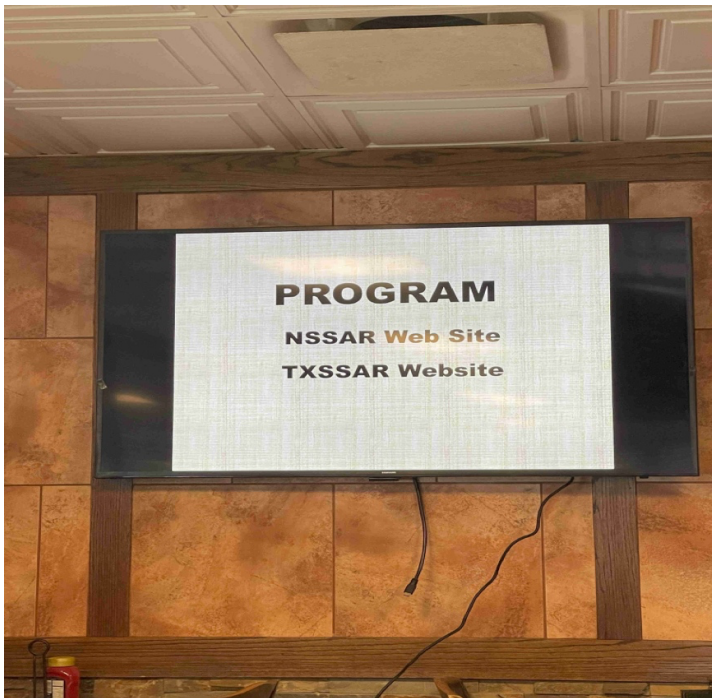


Kyle Michael Ehrlich was inducted and welcomed into the chapter; his son Noah M. Ehrlich was also inducted as a Junior member of the SAR.

CHAPTER MEETING PRESENTATIONS



During our October Chapter Meeting, Richard Gray gave an excellent presentation titled “Under Fire” about his firsthand experiences as a Chaplain serving in the Vietnam War. He entered active duty as a Chaplain with the rank of Captain in the U.S. Army in 1970. He served in Vietnam for thirteen months and was awarded 2 the Bronze Star Medals and the Joint Service Commendation Medal while based at the Military Assistance Command – Vietnam headquarters in Saigon. He shared several very heartfelt moments, and his presentation and service were appreciated by all.



During our November Chapter Meeting, President Billy Mayo presented a brief overview of the NSSAR and TXSSAR web sites and encouraged all members to familiarize themselves with the information available on these sites.

SPECIAL EVENTS

VETERAN'S DAY



Color Guard Members Billy Mayo and John Loper posted the Colors at The Veterans Day Ceremony held in Seabrook, TX. Mr. Loper also played TAPs at the event. Several other Chapter members were present for the ceremony.

DICKENS ON THE STRAND



Our Chapter along with multiple participants from State and other local chapters provided a rousing presentation of Flags, Muskets, Drums and Fifes as we marched in the Parade once again this year.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



President Billy Mayo and Secretary John Loper posted and retired the Colors for the Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Lakeview Cemetery in Galveston, TX on December 14, 2024. The Ceremony was sponsored by the George Washington Chapter of the DAR and was very well attended.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2025

The following slate of officers were inducted during our December Chapter Meeting:

- President – John Loper
- 1st Vice President – Guy Taylor, Jr.
- 2nd Vice President – Matthew Hewitt
- 3rd Vice President – Open Position
- Secretary – Clark Wright
- Treasurer – Robert Cassat, Sr.
- Registrar – David Zwahr
- Chaplain – Monsignor James Anderson



AWARDS



Compatriot David Zwahr received the Liberty Medal during our December Chapter Meeting. The Chapter also received the Partners in Patriotism Award, presented by TXSSAR President Tracy Pounders.

NEW YOUTH AWARD

National NSSAR has approved a Youth Video Contest starting in the upcoming year. Contestants include all Middle School and High School students, and entries may be submitted by an individual or a group. Video lengths should be 3 to 5 minutes. Prizes for the 2024-2025 school year will be \$1,500 for 1st Place and \$500 for 2nd Place. The 1st Place winner will also receive a stipend of up to \$1,500 to reimburse expenses to attend the NSSAR National Congress. The Deadline for submissions at the National Level is 15 February.

It is time to contact schools about all our Youth Awards Programs, as well as JROTC Awards and Scholarships.

CHAPTER GROUP PHOTOS



November Chapter Meeting



December Chapter Meeting

2025 CHAPTER CALENDAR

- 18 Jan – Chapter Meeting



For information and updates, please refer to the Bernardo de Galvez Web Page (www.bdgsar.org) or Facebook Group (Bernado de Galvez Chapter #1 SAR)