



THE SAN ANTONIO COMPATRIOT

San Antonio Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

Compatriot Edward Heath, President — Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, Editor July-August 2012



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Schedule of Chapter Events. In early July, we again participated in the Independence Day Celebration by returning to the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort for our Second Annual Educational and History Program. We gave a one and a half hour program to over 120 hotel guests and staff members, speaking on various events of the American Revolution. Participating in the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort Program as Color Guardsmen were Compatriots Peter Baron, Stephen Rohrbough, James Taylor and myself. Other members participating included: Ed Butler, Frank Rohrbough Bud Davenport, Jay Lewallen, George Harcourt, Jim Massingill, Joe Ware and Santos Villarreal. Compatriot Edward F. Butler, Past President-General of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and a member of our Chapter, was the Keynote Speaker. Compatriot Jim Massingill instituted a new element into our program whereby selected members of our Chapter would meet face-to-face with children in the audience to “share their Patriot Ancestor’s story as how they contributed to the cause for liberty”. For more information about this event, see below.

Many of our members have worked to advance the activities of our Chapter and the Texas Society throughout 2011. In doing so, they were recognized recently at NSSAR’s Annual Congress in Phoenix, AZ in July. Our Chapter received the **USS Stark Memorial Medal** for Chapters 100-199 for Service to Veterans and the **Liberty Bell Americanism Award** (Honorable Mention); Compatriots Frank Rohrbough and Peter Baron were awarded the National Societies **Liberty Medal** for recruiting ten new members into SAR. These awards and medals will be presented by TXSSAR President Robert Clark at the State Societies Board of Mangers Meeting in Temple, TX on October 6th. Respectively, *Edward A. Heath*

CHAPTER CELEBRATES INDEPENDANCE DAY

This year we celebrated the 236th anniversary of our nations Declaration of Independence from England. At the invitation of Ms Melody Campbell-Goeken, Director Public Relations & Marketing for the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa we provided our **educational and historical event** for hotel guests visiting the resort on July 3rd. (For more details, see pages 2.) On July 4th, we joined the Granaderos Y Dames de Galvez at the National Cemetery at Ft. Sam Houston where tribute was given to our veterans who served this great country and have been laid to rest. The “Salute to the Union” Program, which includes the firing of the cannons saluting the 50 states, was cancelled this year opting for a jointly held program with the City of San Antonio. (For more information about our program, go to page 3.)



(Above) Compatriots Peter Baron, Past Chapter President and current Genealogist, and Jay Lewallen, Chapter Educational Programs Chairman, speak to the children about the uniforms and accoutrements of the Revolution and activities of daily living during the revolutionary period campaigns.

Hyatt Hill Country Resort Program:

Past President National Society of SAR Edward. F. Butler gave the Keynote Address which sought to learn the audience's knowledge of the American Revolution. He asked the children a series of questions from the names of the 13 original colonies to naming some of the heroes of the revolution. This interaction allowed children to answer the questions thus revealing how well they recalled details of the American Revolution. Compatriot Butler went on to share details events of the

queros from San Antonio de Bexar, La Bahia (Goliad) and El Fuertes del Cibolo. Butler said "what is important to know is the ranchers who sold beef to Galvez and the drovers were all patriots." According to Butler, "All the men who were members of the Spanish army and the local militia during the time in question, qualify as patriots within the definition of the Sons of the American Revolution and are eligible for membership." As a new initiative, Compatriot Jim Massingill pre-selected members to meet with children in the audience to "share their Patriot Ancestor's story on how they contributed to the cause of liberty". In giving tribute to all those who fought and supported the American Revolution, we conducted a "Ringing of the Bell" Ceremony for the Original 13 Colonies in the Order in which they became a colony. As Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, Master of Ceremonies, read off the name of each colony and its historical contribution to the founding of these British Colonies, Compatriot Jay Lewallen rang the bell as a tribute.

American Revolutionary cause to include Spain's contributions during the war. Butler stated "It is well known that an army travels on its stomach." During the period 1779-1782, somewhere between 9,000 and 15,000 head of cattle were provided to the Governor of New Spain, General Bernardo de Galvez' Army, by ranchers living along the San Antonio River between San Antonio and Goliad." Butler went on to say "These herds of cattle and horses were driven from Texas to Louisiana by soldiers, militiamen, Indians, and va-



(Above) Judge Butler tells the 120 plus hotel guests about the Texas Connection to the American Revolution through the Command of General Benardo de Galvez, the Spanish Governor of New Spain.



(Above from Left to Right) Compatriot's Peter Baron, Stephen Rohrbough, Jay Lewallen, James Taylor, stand ready to present the Colors to over 120 hotel guests in our opening ceremony.



(Above) Compatriot Jay Lewallen speaks to hotel guests about the weapons used in the American Revolution and demonstrates his Period Flintlock Rifle.

As part of our program, Compatriots Peter Baron explained the derivation of the Revolutionary Period uniforms and their weapons. A musket firing demonstration was held requiring some of the children to read out the firing commands for the musket firing. First, Compatriot Baron fired his 75 caliber "Brown Bess" Musket. Because muskets were not accurate beyond 75 yards, they were fired in volleys. Trained soldiers could fire their muskets in unison about 3 to 4 times a minute. Such rifles were used by snipers because they were more accurate up to a range of 150 yards and

could take out individual targets where needed. However, these weapons could only be fired at one shot every 90 seconds. When used in tandem these weapons served field commanders well. Of course, as the battle proceeded and rounds of firings diminished, field commanders called for the fixing of bayonets to the muskets and advancement to engage in hand to hand combat until the battle was decided. In later engagements, Patriot Commanders would alter this European Style combat and fire from covered surroundings and ground cover.

INDEPENDENCE DAY TRIBUTE

Besides participating in the Hyatt Regency Event, our chapter also paid tribute to fallen military service members at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery in an event sponsored by the Order of Granaderos y Damas de Galvez. Over 16 Patriotic Organizations placed wreaths at the Pavilion as part of a formal program saluting our Nation's Founders and servicemembers who died in service to their country.

Compatriots Stephen Rohrbough and Lan Kelly carry the SAR Banner while Compatriots Bud

Davenport presents our Chapter Wreath. **(Photo at Top Right)** The Musket Detail from SASAR and the Granaderos fired their muskets during the Roll Call of the 13 Original Colonies. SASAR's Compatriot Peter Baron (3rd from left) was quoted in the San Antonio Express News on July 5th as saying, "he wears the uniform of the 5th VA Continental Line to pass along the country's history—it's a good way to teach our revolutionary history to the children." **(Photo Lower Right)**



TXSSAR FALL BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING

After years of review and discussion about the need for three Board of Managers (BOMs) Meetings per year, Compatriot George Harcourt, Chairman of the State Planning Committee, proposed to reduce the number of BOM meetings per year to two meetings. Motion passed. Thus, the only BOM that will be held outside of the Annual State Conference will be held in **Temple TX on October 5-7, 2012**. Chapter members are invited to attend this meeting and the various committee meetings that lead up to the **Annual State Conference in Dallas, TX April 4-7, 2013**. For more information about TXSSAR's BOM, go to <http://www.txssar.org>.

**Hilton Garden Inn
1749 Scott Boulevard
Temple, TX**

For room registrations, go to www.temple.gardeninn.com or call (254) 773-0200

Registrations need to be made by September 22, 2012

The group code is **TXSSAR**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

Chapter Business Meetings: Lion & Rose Pub, Sonterra Blvd 410, usually held on the 2nd Thursday each month at 11:30 A.M. (**next Meetings are on September 13th and October 11th.**)

Chapter General Meeting: Petroleum Club on 3rd Wednesday each month at 11:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. (**Next Meetings will be held on September 19th and October 17th.**)

Special Events:

- **Operation Ancestry Research,** September 6 and 27 (Thursdays), 1 PM at BAMC Wounded Warrior Family Support Center.
- **Operation Ancestry Research,** Two other training dates will be set up in October (TBD)
- **Harris Middle School History Fair,** October 6 (Saturday), 8 AM - 3 PM. (To Be Confirmed)
- **First Annual Veterans Day**

Gala, November 3rd (Saturday), 6-9 P.M., Petroleum Club.

- **US Military Veterans Association Parade,** November 10th (Saturday) Assemble at 11 A.M., Parade starts at Noon.

To learn more, go to our Chapter Webpage :

www.sarsat.org