



# The San Antonio Compatriot

SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER #4 • TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

MARCH 2008

## MARCH'S SPEAKER

The March speaker is William Groneman III. Mr. Groneman sent shock waves through the Texas historical and antiquarian document communities in 1994 when he dared to suggest that an iconographic Mexican "diary" of the Texas revolution was a modern day fake. His session at the 1995 Texas State Historical Association meeting in San Antonio, where he presented a paper on the subject and on his book *Defense of a Legend*, drew the largest crowd in the association's one hundred year history. The controversy continues to this day. He is author of: *Roll Call at the Alamo*, *Alamo Defenders*, *Defense of a Legend*, *Eyewitness to the Alamo*, *Battlefields of Texas*, *Death of a Legend*, *September 11, 2001*, *David Crockett*, and *All Hands*. He achieved his goal of entering the New York City Fire Department in 1977, after working for three years as a Uniformed Court Officer in New York City Criminal Court. Bill served the FDNY and the City for the next twenty-five years in the ranks of Firefighter, Fire Marshal, Lieutenant, and Captain. He retired from the fire service in 2002 to continue his writing career. A full report of his presentation will be in the April newsletter

## BUSY SPRING IN STORE FOR THE CHAPTER

Compatriot Rueben Perez has speakers scheduled for April, May and June. See page 4 for the details.

### A P R I L A C T I V I T I E S

April 5<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Frank Tejada Middle School - 2909 E. Evans Rd

The Chapter will set up an exhibit booth on the grounds of the Tejada Middle School to inform students and their parents about some aspects of the American Revolution – its history, patriots, armies, uniforms and weapons. All compatriots are invited to attend and participate in this annual event.

Program events:

- Get Liberty – Compatriot John Orr (and others compatriots)
- Flags of the Revolution
- Uniforms of the Revolution - Compatriot Frank Rohrbough
- Weapons of the Revolution – Compatriot Peter Baron
- Vignettes (Short stories) of the Revolution
- Signers of the Declaration of Independence

The program will be repeated every hour during the day. Contact Frank Rohrbough for information. Home (830) 537-5452 or mobile (703) 868-8006.

Monday April 21<sup>st</sup> - 4 to 5 PM

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas has staged its Pilgrimage to the Alamo since 1925. The pilgrimage is a memorial tribute to the Alamo heroes and the heritage of Texas. A solemn, wreath-bearing procession of historic, civic, patriotic, military and school groups walks silently to the Alamo. At the same time, an announcer intones the names of the Alamo defenders from within the Alamo walls. The ceremony concludes with a brief memorial service.

April 19<sup>th</sup> - 7:45 p.m.-midnight, Villita Assembly Hall, 408 Villita St.

The 89th annual Patriotic and Historical Ball is one of the galas opening the 2008 Fiesta activities. The event, recalling early Texas with the performance of traditional pioneer dances, leads off with everyone participating in the Grand March. The first Patriotic and Historical Ball took place in 1919 to honor San Antonio's military personnel, and the event has continued since that time. Military personnel from local installations and organizations are special guests for the evening, and representatives from each local installation are presented. Free event, but ticket controlled. For tickets or more information write: State Association of Texas Pioneers, 3805 Broadway, San Antonio, TX 78209, or call 829-1168 or 822-9011.

The Executive Committee meets on Thursday April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Lion & Rose Pub - Blanco at Loop 410 at 11:30 AM to conduct the chapter's business meeting. all Compatriots are invited to attend - no reservation or notice needed.

The next chapter meeting will be on Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:30 A.M. - Aldino's at the Vineyard. The speaker will be Colonel Firmin, USAF, ROTC- UTSA on the topic of Let Freedom Ring Around the World. Make your reservations with Peter Baron.

OUR CHAPTER WILL CELEBRATE ITS 78TH ANNIVERSARY AT THE APRIL CHAPTER MEETING.

### 2008 OFFICERS INSTALLED IN JANUARY



From left to right: Brad Stephenson, Rev. James Taylor, Jim Massingill, Peter Baron, Rueben Perez, David Bowles, Jay Higginson, Frank Rhorbough - Dr. James Heath, past TXSSAR President conducting the ceremony.

### NOTES ON YOUR CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

It is the intent of the chapter to communicate with the members to keep them informed of the activities and events the chapter is involved in. In addition to mailed newsletters we are using email and our website to communicate with our Compatriot members. The executive committee has directed that the newsletter be mailed quarterly and in other months when it is published to be sent to members by email and posted on the website. The website is always up to date - check it often. To get emails you must furnish us your email address. Please send your email address to Secretary Harcourt at; [gharcourt@satx.rr.com](mailto:gharcourt@satx.rr.com)

# C H A P T E R ~ R E P O R T S

## V E T E R A N S / M I L I T A R Y

We continue to deliver books and magazines to Audie Murphy Veterans Hospital. Please bring them to the business meetings and general meetings. The donations are truly appreciated by the Veterans. Frank Rohrbough is the chairman of VETERANS / MILITARY affairs and will be reporting to us of new activities in the coming months.

## E X E C U T I V E C O M M I T T E E

The business meeting of the chapter is on the Thursday preceding the Chapter meeting. It starts at 11:30 A.M. at the Lion & Rose Pub on Blanco at Loop 410. All members are invited to attend. No reservation is needed. Lunch specials start at \$6.95.

## W E B M A S T E R

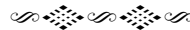
The website continues to undergo improvements under the capable direction of Max Strozier. Please come visit and see the many new features. As always at: [www.sarsat.org](http://www.sarsat.org)

## J R O T C & R O T C A W A R D S

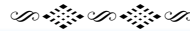
Chairman Courtland Snyder has mobilized a fine contingent of Compatriots to present the Society's awards to recipients at various schools in the area (more than 30!). If you have an interest in this important work of the chapter please contact Courtland at (210) 877-2032 or [cpsnyder63@att.net](mailto:cpsnyder63@att.net)

# L U N C H E O N R E S E R V A T I O N S

All compatriots who plan to attend Chapter Meetings on a regular basis are invited to add their names to the Standing Reservation List. To do so, contact Compatriot Peter Baron by calling 210-913-3458 or email him at [ptbaron@hotmail.com](mailto:ptbaron@hotmail.com)



**RESERVATIONS FOR THE APRIL MEETING NEED TO BE MADE BY FRIDAY THE 19<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE.**



*The Standing Reservation List is those members who have agreed to routinely attend our regular Chapter Meetings and have a meal reserved for them. Members on the Standing Reservation List who will not attend an upcoming meeting must notify Compatriot Peter Baron in advance of the meeting so they will not be charged for the meal. Since we are in a new year and have a new compatriot taking care of reservations would you please contact Peter to let him know you want to be on the Standing Reservation List?*

## STANDING RESERVATION LIST FOR 2008 - SEE ABOVE



Above: Rich Hovey Sr. is made Honorary Commander of Lackland AFB September 25<sup>th</sup> 2007  
 Left: Corrine Staacke representing the San Antonio de Bexar chapter of DAR presents a check in the amount of \$100 for the SAR's building purchase.  
 Right: Compatriot Jack Cowan was February's speaker.



It is confirmed, Daniel Hovey, eldest daughter of Compatriot Richard and Denise Hovey Jr, Granddaughter of Compatriot Richard and Pat Hovey SR is representing America in the International Junior Olympics in Manchester England, and Rick and Denise are going to be there to see her, Rick is also going to see Waltham Abbey, Resting place of Richard Hovey our Grandfather ancestor at the 10th century church 16 miles north of London. Have a great day! Danielle is a Silver Medalist 2nd Place National Champion and took 4th in the World in Palm Springs California 3 months ago. Please wish her well.

117<sup>TH</sup> SAR CONGRESS • WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA • JULY 6-12, 2007

The San Antonio chapter was represented at the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress by Chancellor General Ed Butler and his wife, Robin, who was the outgoing First Vice President of the National SAR Ladies Auxiliary, and by Rev. James Taylor and his wife, Pat.

On July 6<sup>th</sup> while Ed Butler was meeting with the NSSAR Executive Committee, Rev. Taylor was a participant in the all day SAR Genealogy Seminar. Judge Butler started the annual seminar as Genealogist General, the previous two years. That evening 300 of the 621 attendees had a festive colonial dinner at the historic James Shields Tavern. Food was served family style, and nobody went away hungry. Fiddlers and entertainers in period costume kept us laughing.

On Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup> seven busloads of SAR members and their wives toured the Yorktown Battlefield, where the British were finally defeated in the American Revolutionary War. The group also visited the Yorktown visitor's center and museum. Box lunches were served aboard the bus. That evening over 600 attended the Virginia host society's welcome reception. The food was delicious.

On Sunday morning, many SAR committees met. That afternoon, over 100 uniformed color guardsmen marched to the annual SAR Memorial Service at Williamsburg Methodist Church. Our former chapter member Al Jamison, was one of the newly departed to be honored at this beautiful service. Robin and Pat attended the First Lady's (Wanda White) Reception afterwards. We ate dinner in private groups that evening before the Rumbaugh Orations final contest. Ed Butler met with the SAR Foundation Board until midnight.

On Monday morning the opening session of the Congress was started with the huge color guard posting the colors to the beat of a drum and fife. Ed sat at the head table next to Linda Gist Calvin, newly elected President General of the DAR. At that meeting Ed gave his report as Chancellor General. That evening was Awards Night, and although the Texas Society won several awards, it did not fare as well as in previous years. The Georgia SAR Society won more than its share of awards. Ed, as a Minuteman, participated in the Minuteman Awards ceremonies.

The second session of congress started on Tuesday morning, the highlight of which was the report of the nominating committee. Ed and Jim both attended the George Washington Fellow's luncheon, and Rev. Taylor, by pledging a \$1,000.00 donation, became a new George Washington Fellow. Robin and Ed had a free afternoon, and spent it by the hotel pool, eating an early dinner there. Texas had 27 members registered, and many brought their wives. All posed for a group photo before the banquet that night. Men were in white dinner jackets or period dress. Many of the Texas ladies were period dresses. This banquet honored the outgoing officers, including Ed Butler, the outgoing Chancellor General. All of the General Officers were introduced and paraded to the head table from the rear of the room. The SAR America's Freedom Award was presented to the History Channel, and a Bronze Good Citizenship Medal was presented to the Director of Programming, Charley Mayday. The Keynote speech was by the former Governor of Virginia. Greeting were read from U.S. President, George W. Bush.

The highlight of the final session of the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress was the election of new General Officers. All General Officers, by virtue of their office, are automatically Trustees of the society. Those elected were as follows:

Bruce A. Wilcox	VASSAR President General
David N. Appleby	MOSSAR Secretary General
<b>Edward F. Butler, Sr.</b>	<b>TXSSAR Treasurer General</b>
Peter Keltch	OKSSAR Chancellor General
Chuck Bragg	INSSAR Genealogist General (2 <sup>nd</sup> Term)
Tim Bennett	DCSSAR Registrar General (3 <sup>rd</sup> Term)
David Sympton	KYSSAR Historian General (3 <sup>rd</sup> Term)
Richard Brockway	WVSSAR Librarian General
Rev. Stan DeLong	CASSAR Chaplain General (2 <sup>nd</sup> Term)
Dr. Robert Judice	LASSAR Surgeon General

At 11:00 a.m. seven bus loads of SAR members and their families left on a five hour tour of Jamestowne, including the Jamestowne Visitors Center and Jamestowne Island. It was a great historical tour, but the amount of walking almost did Ed in.

That evening all the new General Officers were dressed in white tie and tails and the ladies had on beautiful cocktail dresses. Again, all the new officers were announced and paraded from the rear of the room to the head table. Outgoing Chancellor General Butler swore in the new general officers, except for the new president general, who was sworn in by the new Chancellor General, Judge Peter Keltch. Our Ed Butler was then sworn in as Treasurer General. by Judge Keltch, who mentioned that he and Judge Butler were sworn in at the same time as Federal Administrative Law Judges, and that they had been classmates at the National Judicial College – 16 years ago. The feature speaker was Dr. Richard Kelso, the chief archeologist at Jamestowne, who gave a wonderful power point demonstration. The Congress was officially adjourned that evening.

Ed had to stay for a three hour executive committee meeting the following morning. Ed recommended that Rev. James Taylor be placed as a member of both the NSSAR Genealogy Committee and the NSSAR Chaplain's Committee. Ed and Robin had rented a car after flying into Norfolk, VA. Jim and Pat drove and visited some historic sites on the way up, and worked in a little genealogy.

President General Wilcox appointed the following members to the NSSAR Executive Committee:

Jack London	DCSSAR Current President of the SAR Foundation
Larry Perkins	OHSSAR Former VPG of the Central District
Steve Leishman	DESSAR Former VPG of the Mid Atlantic District
J. Michael Jones	AZSSAR Current VPG of the Rocky Mountain Dist.

At the Congress, over \$40,000.00 was raised for the Center For Advancing American Heritage. The land is paid for and we have about \$3,000,000 in contributions to build the new center, which will house a new library across the street from headquarters in Louisville. It will take about another \$3,000,000 to endow the center's maintenance and upkeep in perpetuity. All members are encouraged to give as much as they can afford for the important project, which will allow us to reach school children all over the United States.

*Judge Ed Butler*

As your probably already know, Virginia Barry passed peacefully away on Sunday, 13 January 2008. All of her children were there. I was able to arrive at her bedside about an hour before she died. She passed away peacefully and in no pain. She had requested that she be cremated and her ashes be scattered in the Hudson River Valley near Bear Mountain, the area she loved so much when she grew up in New York state. A memorial service was held in Hous-ton and her ashes will taken to New York by the family for a later memorial service. I am back in San Antonio and will try to get on with my life without that wonderful lady that I loved so much. *Harry Long*



## CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2008

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CHANCELLOR ~ BRADLEY STEPHENSON  
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THIS NEWSLETTER IS EDITED AND PRODUCED BY GEORGE HARCOURT. CONTACT HIM WITH ANY SUBMISSIONS, SUGGESTIONS, ADDRESS CHANGES OR COMMENTS. **AN EDITOR AND PUBLISHER IS SOUGHT** - CONTACT G. HARCOURT.

## MEETINGS ON THE HORIZON

DATES/MEETING TYPE	CHAPTER OR CITY	LOCATION
1-3 August 2008 - BOM	Capt Wm Barron Tyler	Holiday Inn Select
24-26 October 2008 BOM	Temple-Killeen	
2009 State Conference 19-22 March	Nacogdoches	Fredonia Hotel



## CHAPTER CALENDAR

### CHAPTER MEETINGS

APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup> • WEDNESDAY  
LUNCH • ALDINO'S VINEYARD  
11:30 A.M. • \$20  
SPEAKER • COLONEL FIRMIN

MAY 28<sup>TH</sup> • WEDNESDAY  
LUNCH • ALDINO'S VINEYARD  
11:30 A.M. • \$20.  
SPEAKER • SAPD CHIEF McMANUS

JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup> • WEDNESDAY  
LUNCH • ALDINO'S VINEYARD  
11:30 A.M. • \$20  
SPEAKER • PETE VAN DE PUTTE  
CEO DIXIE FLAG

EC BUSINESS MEETINGS  
ALL MEETINGS AT 11:30 AM

LION & ROSE PUB  
BLANCO @ LOOP 410

APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup> - THURSDAY  
MAY 22<sup>ND</sup> - THURSDAY  
JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup> - THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> - THURSDAY  
OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup> - THURSDAY  
ALL ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE

### WEB SITES

SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER #4  
[WWW.SARSAT.ORG](http://WWW.SARSAT.ORG)

TEXAS SOCIETY  
[WWW.TXSSAR.ORG](http://WWW.TXSSAR.ORG)

NATIONAL SOCIETY  
[WWW.SAR.ORG](http://WWW.SAR.ORG)



## Child - 60th

Don and Betty Child celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 4, 2007. A family celebration is planned for late summer. The couple was blessed with two children, David (deceased) and Linda Child Nairn. Their lives are enriched with two grandchildren, Andrew Nairn and Amy Nairn Pitzel (husband Jason), and one great-grandson, Mathias Joseph Pitzel. The former Betty Cotulla married Donald Eugene Child on June 4, 1947 at Palm Heights Methodist Church, San Antonio.

Dear Compatriots,

There is still room on the SAR trip to Scotland, May 6-16. We will be tracing the steps of John Paul Jones and will visit the ancestral home of George Washington.

Tour cost is \$2,395.00 per person double occupancy, which includes breakfast and dinner daily, all entrance fees, a welcome reception, luncheon and a special evening of Scottish food & entertainment. The single supplement is \$575.00. Group roundtrip airfare from Newark to Glasgow is \$860.00 per person.

Anybody interested should contact Kate Graham, Caledonian Travel at 770-979-1010 or email her at [caledonians@mindspring.com](mailto:caledonians@mindspring.com)

I am anxiously awaiting a return to a pub in Edinburgh that makes the best dessert I have ever had - steaming hot, "Sticky Toffee Pudding". We have a good group already signed up and this should be a very enjoyable trip.

Fraternally, Ed Butler



Above: Mrs. Jim Heath portrays a friend of Martha Washington as our speaker at the January 2008 chapter meeting.

Below left: Robert Santana Fire Safety Commendation award recipient for 2007. Below right: Michael Mumme received the EMS Commendation for 2007



William Chacon Salinas • Born: Feb. 14, 1921 • Died: March 9, 2008

Survived by: Wife Diana R. Salinas; daughters Aurora Martinez and Julie Salinas Toscano; stepsons Armando and Gerald Salinas, Rock Anthony Harrison; sisters Angela Salinas Fernandez and Carmen Salinas Maldonado; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Burial at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. By fighting in World War II, William Chacon Salinas preserved his family's rich history of honor and devotion to America. Today, as he's laid to rest at Fort Sam Houston, friends and relatives will remember him as a kind, humble man who loved ballroom dancing and almost always wore a tie, his sister said.

Salinas, 87, died Sunday at a local rehabilitation facility from apparent heart failure.

Born in Houston on Valentine's Day, Salinas lived nearly all his life in San Antonio. He joined the Army and was an Air Corps gunner on flights over the Pacific, including the Philippines, Okinawa and Iwo Jima. Many of his letters reached home full of passages that had been inked out by war censors.

That frustrated his younger sister, Angela Salinas Fernandez. She wrote to him, asking him to keep writing letters "just to say he's all right."

He came home from the war a bit different from the caring, attentive brother Fernandez had known. He had malaria, and one day threw down a Spam sandwich she had made, tired of eating processed meat in the Army. Having killed for his country, he felt bitterness for a while toward the Japanese.

In 1947, like his father, a World War I veteran who was an aircraft painter, Salinas got a job painting planes at Kelly Field. He worked there until his first wife died of cancer in 1972.

His ancestors included José de Urrutia, a Spaniard and leading expert on American Indians who was a captain at the San Antonio de Bexar Presidio in the 1730s, and Pablo Salinas, who served at the 1835 Siege of Bexar, the first major campaign in the Texas Revolution. William Salinas, also a descendant of Francisco Manuel Salinas, who helped supply horses and mules to colonists in the American Revolutionary War, belonged to the Sons of the American Revolution.

There were few regrets for the man known as "Willie," or "Popo," as his grandkids called him. He'd often brought friends home to share his family's homemade sweets as a boy, and remained as sweet-tempered with his son Richard Salinas, who served in Vietnam and died in 2004, and his daughter Aurora -- his "little princess." As his health worsened, he stayed close to his sister and her husband, Tito M. Fernandez.

He felt he'd carried on the Salinas tradition of honor, and was glad to have survived the war. "He'd say he was lucky the pilot never got killed, or he would've died," his sister said.