



Texas Society President's Report



Tracy A Pounders

President, Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

2024-25



THE TEXAS SOCIETY, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Society President's Final Report

Tracy A. Pounders, President 2024-25

Filing Date: March 29, 2025

Dear Compatriots,

As my term as President comes to a close, this final report is offered to you with both pride and gratitude. It has been an honor to serve you and to work alongside such dedicated compatriots who share a passion for preserving the legacy of our patriot ancestors.

Over the past year, our Texas Society has achieved several milestones:

★ **Membership**: As of March 8, 2025 we have 2,731 members. We have 45 new members and 230 Junior members, so we have a firm foundation for continued growth going forward. Although we currently have 544 drops we also had 334 reinstatements this year, so its likely many of these drops will likewise be reinstated. We should work hard to continue this trend and retain as many members each year as we can.



★ **Community Engagement**: The Texas SAR has been very active in the Community this year, both at the state level and the local level. There is no way to list them all in this report. But our relationship with Wreaths Across America is very special and should continue to be nurtured. *And a special shout out to our color guards*, both the state and our locals, is well deserved. There may be no better thing that we do to get the community's attention than what we do with our color guards – it connects both children and adults to our Revolutionary War heritage and provides them the perfect opportunity to ask about the SAR and what we do. Our color guards keep our organization in the public eye – and we can't get enough of that!



★ **Youth and Education**: Our Youth Programs are strong, both at the local and State levels. Special recognition is owed to **Mark Harrison** for herding in the many awards we give out – he has been absolutely tireless – I am so thankful for you Mark! Special recognition is also due to:

- **Wayne Courreges** and his sub-committee for the Brochure Contest
- **Joe Sogan** and his sub-committee for the CAR Essays
- The Eagle Scout sub-committee
- **Larry Luby** and his sub-committee for the Oration Contest
- **David Peavy, Ron Walcik** and their sub-committee for the Knight Essay Contest
- **Wayne Courreges, Bill Sekel** and their sub-committee for the Poster Contest
- **Jack Haughton** and his subcommittee for ROTC recognitions
- **Bob Cohen** for 4-H recognitions
- **Randall Van Heyst** for the Video Contest, now a National contest as well.
- **Joe Sogan** and **Art Byram** for their support of the CAR

★ **Patriotism and Recognition**: It fills me with pride knowing just how well we do this. Our local chapters have given out literally hundreds or perhaps thousands of Bronze Good citizenship medals and ROTC medals to students – our future! And we remember our teachers as well – recognition that is absolutely deserved! Very importantly, we've honored our First Responders and law enforcement personnel with:



- The SAR Heroism Medal
- SAR Life Saving Medal
- Law Enforcement Commendation Medal
- Fire Safety Commendation Medal
- Emergency Medical Services Commendation Medal

Firemen, Policemen, EMTs, 9-1-1 operators, prosecutors and judges – they all deserve our thanks! Not only do these medals recognize our first responders for the heroic work they do for us but it permits us to get out in front of the community. Doing the right thing is an excellent way to get SAR better known in your home communities. *Please continue and expand your programs in this area.*

★ **Preservation Efforts**: We have been very active in our preservation efforts. With the 250th Anniversary of our country coming up our efforts to memorialize this has been very active.

- Special recognition is given to **Richard Zdunkewicz** and **Mel Oller** for their work on our SAR Cenotaph to be installed at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin
- **Art Byram** and **Mel Oller** with regard to the 250th bench
- *The Galvez Statute program* headed up by **Bill Adriance** and **Sam Massey** is ongoing.
- And the Galvez Trail program headed up by **Ed Butler** and **Tom Jackson**.

Additionally, our Archives, History and Yearbook Committee headed up by **John Anderson** and his committee is actively recording what we do for posterity. And last but not least is our *grave marking efforts* throughout the state. Special thanks go to our many color guard members who have attended these events, bringing dignity and well-deserved recognition to these events. **David Hamaker** and the Freedom Chapter color guard have been especially helpful to me this year in this respect.



- ★ **2029 Congress:** One of the most significant things we accomplished this year was to secure San Antonio as the site for the 2029 SAR Congress. This took a lot of work and persistence, as it was a multi-year process. Thanks to Tom Jackson and his committee for getting this done! *I can hardly wait!*



None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the collective effort of our officers, committee chairs, and active members.

For the record, my special thanks go to all of you, but in particular the following:

- **Mel Oller** for his work as your President-Elect – he just seemed to be everywhere this year. In particular he deserves my thanks for covering for me at several events this year, and all of our thanks for his work in getting us our general liability insurance and black powder insurance. *OUTSTANDING!*
- **Sam Massey**, our Immediate Past President and Trustee – for representing us at so many events out of state and for always being there to answer questions.
- **Don Hayes** for his work as your Treasurer, handling the transition in accounting, supervising our bookkeeper and assisting in the membership reconciliation – a big job!
- **Kevin Kanter** as your Secretary, for keeping track of and taking care of all the details of our members, as well as representing us at National and DAR events.
- **Dustin Whittenburg** as your Chancellor for his good legal counsel.
- **Richard Zdunkewicz** as your Staff Secretary – what can I say? Richard is the ultimate Staff Secretary, setting the agendas for our Executive, Board of Managers and State meetings, as well as the minutes. Can't say enough – above and beyond! *INCREDIBLE JOB!*
- **Ray Cox** as your Communications Secretary – kept us all connected through DADA, emails and website. And he hosted our online event registrations.

- **John Anderson** as your Historian – awesome job dealing with our archives issues, keeping our historical data safe and working on the Notable Texas and Texas History Vol. III projects.
- **Michael Goode** as your Chaplain – was our primary contact with the families of members who passed during the year; also for his work on the Veterans Committee which includes mustering all the information for the Stark Report, helping coordinate Wreaths Across America events and the Operation Ancestor Researcher.
- **Mark Harrison** as your VP Americanism, Contest Medals and Awards – busiest man at our meetings – he handled literally hundreds of our awards.
- Our District VPs: **Ben Pollard, Frank Keberman, Ron Walcik, Ron Turner, Michael Goode, Art Byram, Dennis Brunson, Chuck Wagner, Bill Sekel, and Tom Milson** for looking after our local chapters.
- **Ron Turner** as your Newsletter Editor – is stepping down after a job well done!
- **Jim Jones** who leads the Perpetual Fund Trustees – stepping down after a job well done!
- And **Tom Milson** for every time I voluntold him to do something for me.

As a final note, **THANK YOU** all for inviting me to your many activities this year. Roughly 50 events and meetings in my 50 week term, covering just over 16,000 miles. It was and continues to be a true blessing to me, and a FANTASTIC experience. Never has there been such a supportive and affirming group of gentlemen – you've touched my heart in a way that no words can describe.

Pictures and notes from some of those meetings and activities follow.

It is time for me to step aside and for us to welcome new leadership. **Mel Oller** is no stranger to anyone in our Society and he will do an OUTSTANDING job for you as your new President. Under his leadership, and with your continuing support and involvement, there is absolutely no doubt that the Texas Society of the SAR will continue to thrive and grow.

Going forward let us remain united in our shared purpose:

To remember our past, educate future generations, and uphold the principles of liberty and patriotism.

Thank you for allowing me to serve with you this term. God bless you all. And God Bless the Sons of the American Revolution!

In patriotism and brotherhood,



Tracy A. Pounders
President, 2024-2025
Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution

March 9, 2024 - Arlington Chapter – installed the officers



March 12, 2024 – Hill Country Chapter, Kerrville TX – featured speaker and installed new officers



March 16, 2024 – Red River Valley Chapter, Paris TX



April 6, 2024 – Dallas Chapter – was the featured speaker – dress rehearsal for the State Meeting speech.



April 11-14, 2024 State Conference in San Antonio TX – Thursday night reception for Secretary General Addington at Judge Butler's home and Friday President's Dinner



April 11-14, 2025 – Texas SAR State Convention, San Antonio – Business meetings and Formal Banquet



April 22, 2024 – Red River Valley Chapter, Paris TX – presentation of First Responder medals in front of the Paris City Council.



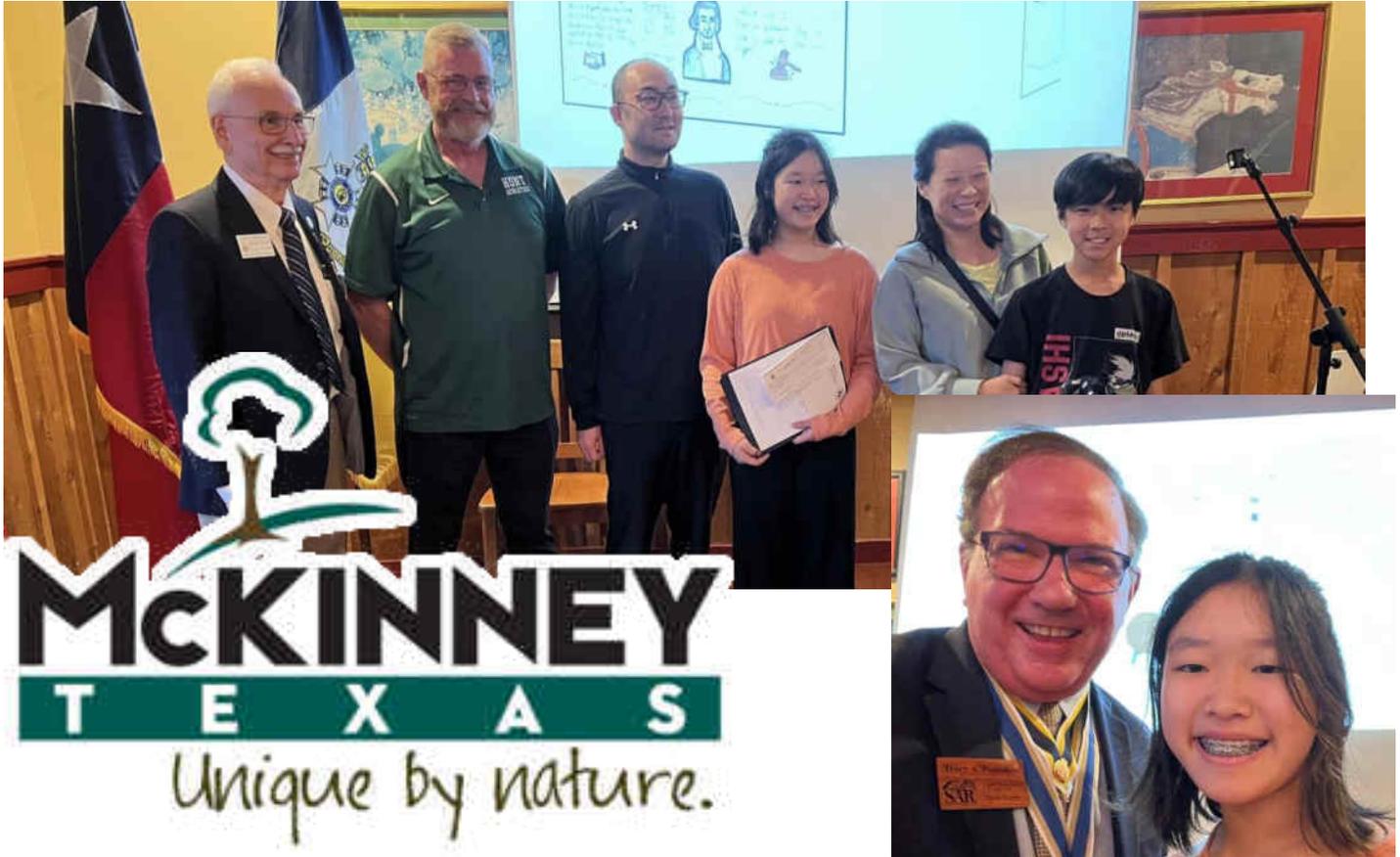
Red River Valley
Chapter Awards Ceremony
Paris City Council Meeting
April 22, 2024
5:30PM



May 11, 2024 – Dallas Chapter – Youth Awards



May 16, 2024 – McKinney Chapter, McKinney TX – presented awards to Alayna Cho, 3rd place winner MS Brochure contest



May 18, 2024 – Red River Valley Chapter, Paris TX



May 22, 2024 – Freedom Chapter – Conroe TX – featured Speaker – AWESOME audience!



May 27, 2024 – Memorial Day Remembrance at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin. SAR-DAR event.



June 1, 2024 – AM - Grave Marking of Thomas Evans Watson in Maud, Texas



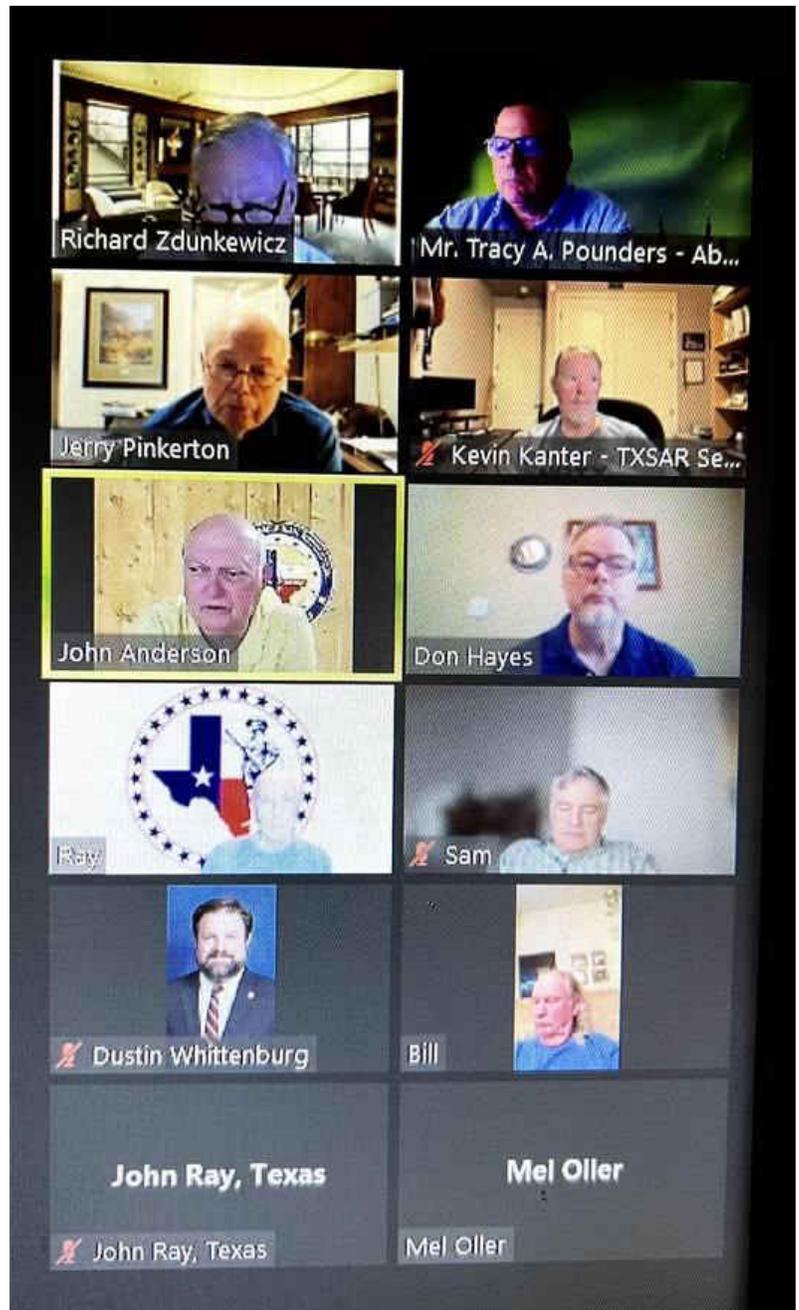
June 1, 2024 – Afternoon – Grave Marking of William Blevins, Clarksville, Texas. Also honored Benjamin Clark, Sr, James Potter Collins, David Strickland and John Tollett, Sr, graves previously marked.



June 8, 2024 – Dallas Chapter – sat with Past Texas President David Temple.



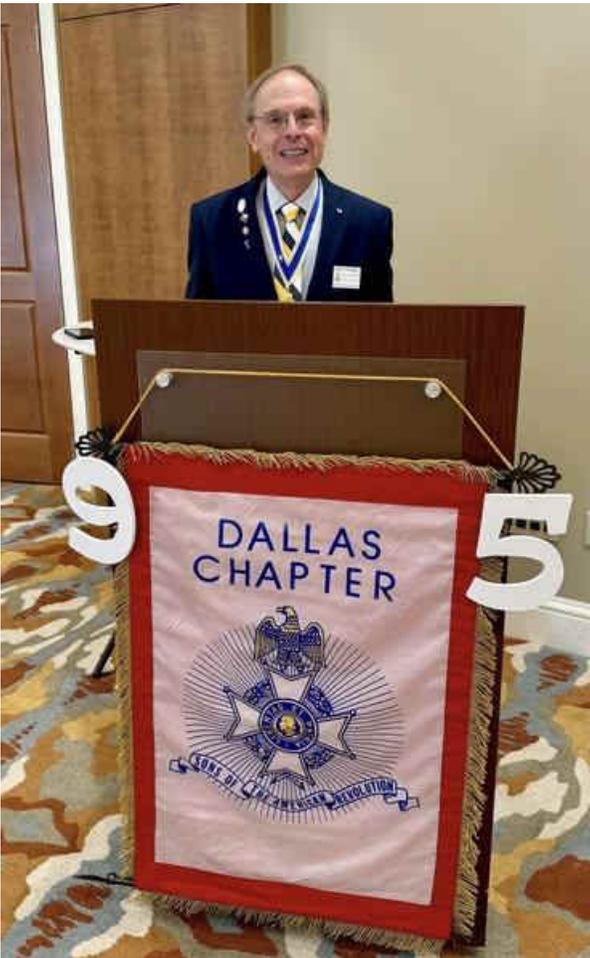
June 10, 2024 – ExComm Meeting



June 13, 2024 – East Fork Trinity Chapter SAR, Rockwall TX – speaker



July 6, 2024 – Dallas Chapter celebrating its 95th Anniversary! My sister, Gina Henderson, and my Dad Frank Pounders came with me.



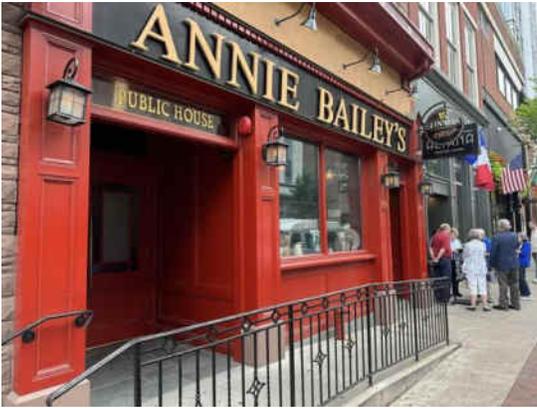
July 9, 2024 – ExComm Meeting! In advance of Congress in Lancaster PA. We have a good sized delegation going!



July 12-16, 2024 – SAR National Congress, Lancaster PA – procession to the prayer service. 2 Ex-Presidents name Jim bump into me in the hallway, Jim Kuykendall and Jim Jones.



July 12, 2024 – PM - Texas Delegation Dinner at Annie Bailey's Pub in Lancaster PA – 29 Strong!



July 13, 2024 –Front Row during Congress General Sessions (Nathan White and Ed Butler, two of our Past PGs from Texas!)





July 14, 2024 – President General's Banquet



July 15, 2024 – Installation Banquet – New President General Daryl Addington being sworn in by Chancellor-General (and Texas Compatriot) Edmon McKinley. Lots of pomp and Patriotism. And fun!



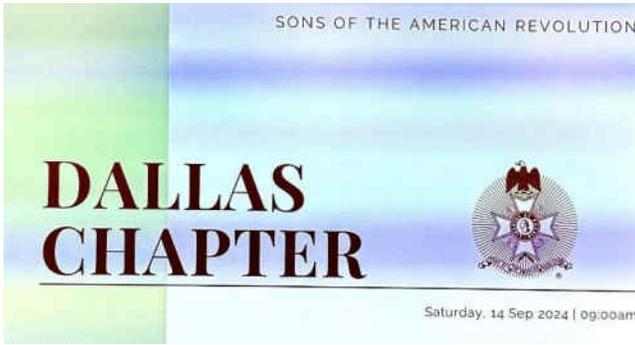
July 27, 2024 – Memorial Service for Compatriot and Past Texas President Tom Green – honored him with seven Past Texas Presidents at my side. And our color guard made it really special. Great job, Guys!



Thomas Bruce Green III
1939 - 2024



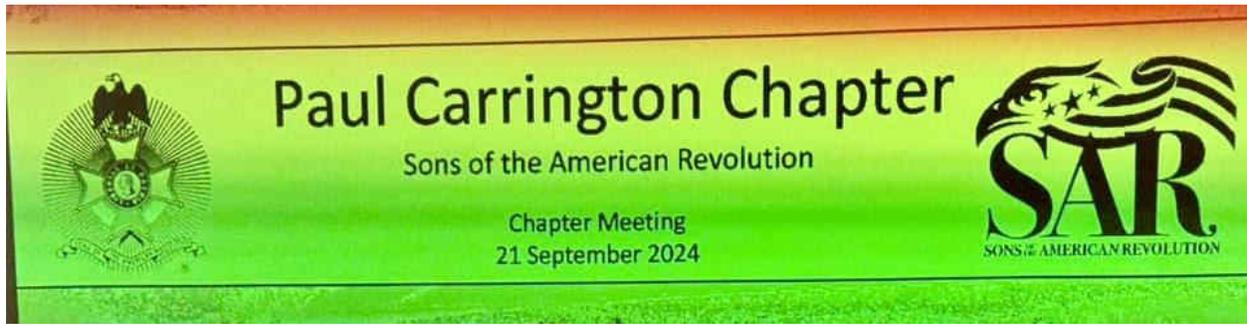
September 14, 2024 – Dallas Chapter – presented our national youth award to Reagan Van Heyst



September 19, 2024 – McKinney Chapter



September 21, 2024 Paul Carrington Chapter – Featured Speaker / great group! The Rev Dr Marci Pounders, my wife, was with me and led the prayers. Was honored to join them for their Board meeting afterward.



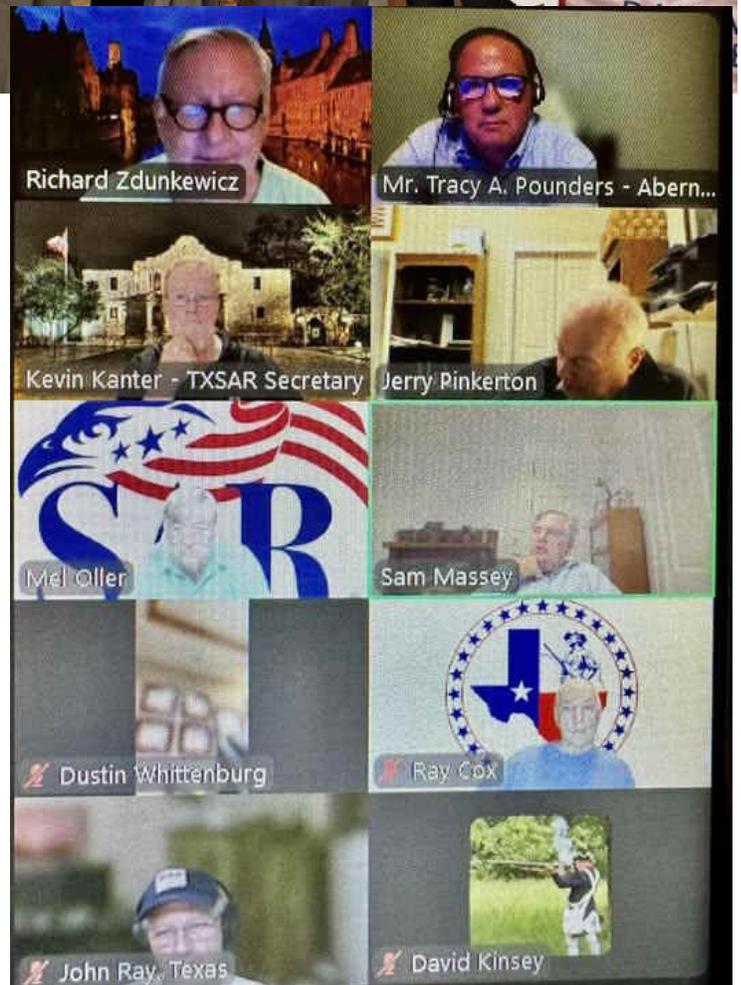
October 3-6, 2024 – Fall Leadership Meeting, Louisville KY – Friday night Banquet with my Marci and our Texas Compatriots! Wish we'd gotten a full group picture.



October 12, 2024 – Dallas Chapter – recognizing Nick Harper with the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal and my Dad's 95th Birthday (Compatriot Rev. Frank Ponders, Past President of Dallas Chapter).



October 14, 2024 – ExComm Meeting



November 2, 2024 – Texas Board of Managers Meeting, Austin Texas – Your officers hard at work!

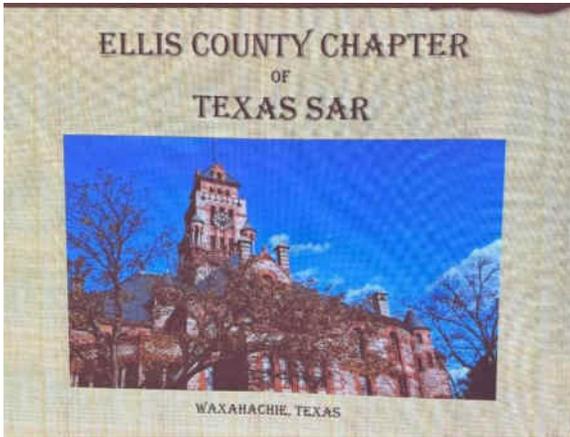


Our National awards from Congress. We didn't have enough hands to hold them all!

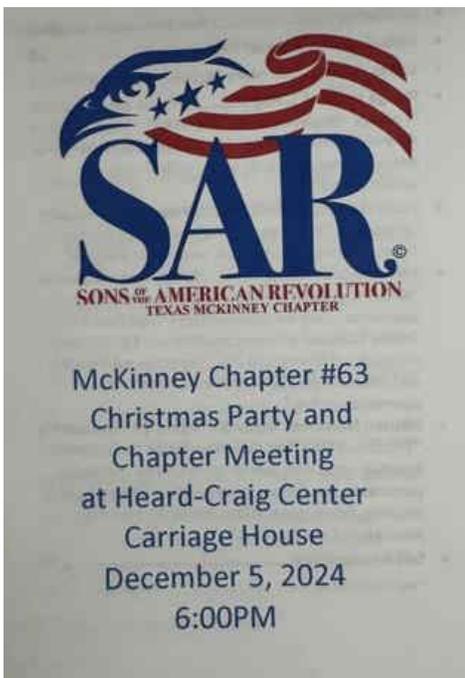
November 16, 2024 – Grave marking of William Gates in Washington on the Brazos Texas.



November 23, 2024 – Ellis County Chapter – Installed officers and participated in the Chapter's 1 year anniversary.

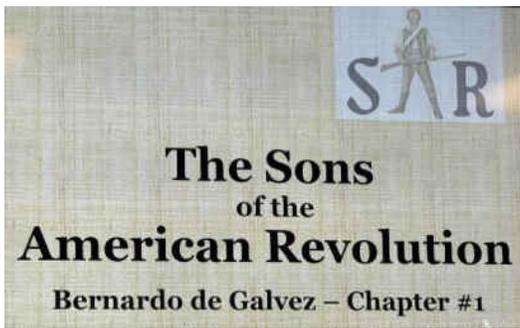


December 5, 2024 – McKinney Chapter Christmas Party





December 7, 2024 – Bernardo De Galvez Chapter, Galveston – installed officers and presented Liberty medals

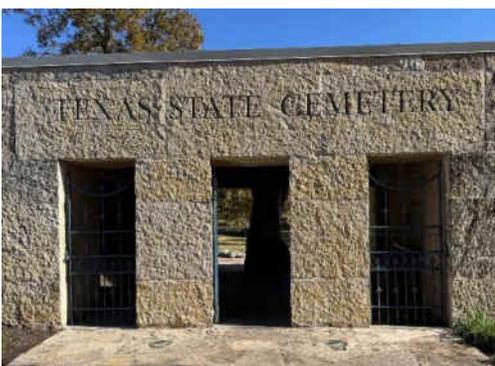


December 7, 2024 – Dickens on the Strand Parade, Galveston Texas – my wife, Rev Dr Marci Ponders joined us. It rained, and was cold, but we had a heck of a good time! Thanks, Sam, for the gloves!



December 10, 2024 – Texas State Cemetery, Austin, TX

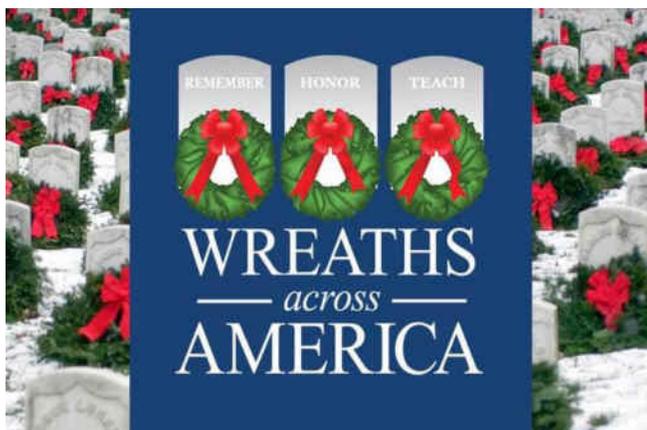
Met with the Texas State Cemetery's Director – getting some final details worked out for the upcoming Cenotaph installation.



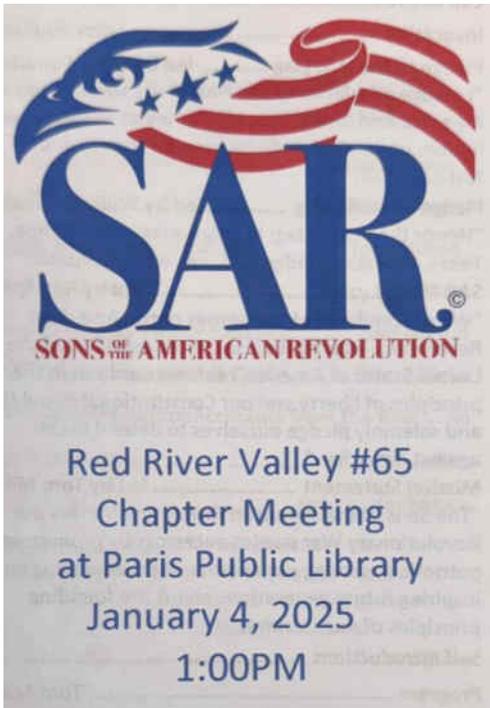
December 14, 2024 – Gen. Levi Casey Chapter DAR – featured Speaker “Christmas in the Revolution” – received the Bronze (chapter level) Hannah White Arnett SAR recognition medal.



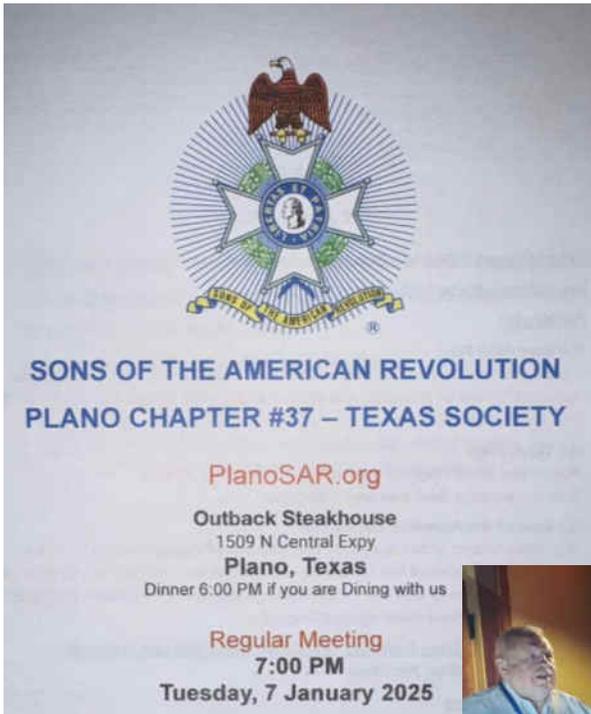
December 14, 2024 – Wreaths Across America – awesome event – so many of our chapters participated.



January 4, 2025 – Red River Valley Chapter, Paris TX – swearing in of officers – and enjoying my birthday with my friends and Compatriots!



January 7, 2025 Plano Chapter, Plano TX – installation of officers and featured Speaker – “Christmas in the Revolution” – Chapter gave me one of their Ross Perot eagles – thanks!



January 11, 2025 – Cradle of Texas Chapter, Bay City TX – installed officers and chatted with one of our national youth contest winners (and history enthusiast!).



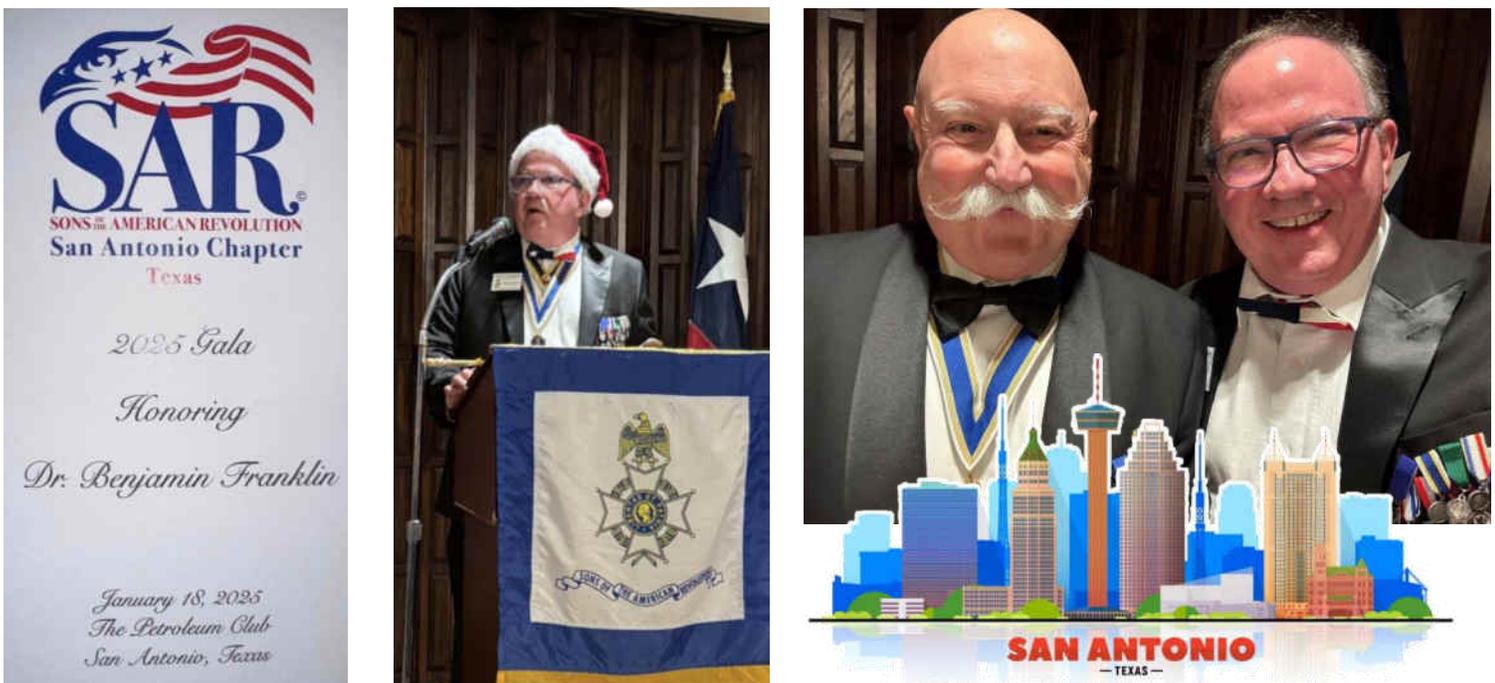
January 13, 2025 – Ex Comm Meeting – Zoom



January 16, 2025 – McKinney Chapter – officer installation and new member induction. My son, Alex Pounders, joined me from Corpus Christi. Took the pic of the balloon on the way to the meeting.



January 18, 2025 – San Antonio Chapter Gala – installed officers and was featured speaker “Christmas in the Revolution” – thanks to Blair Rudy for the invite and gift of William Chris wines!





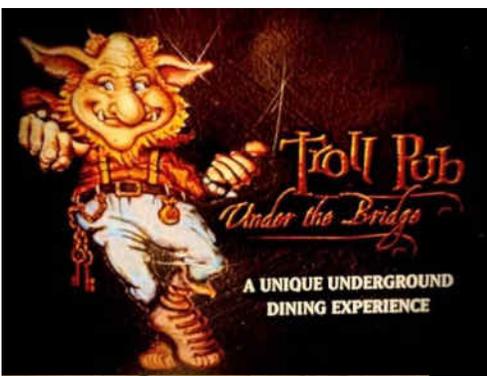
February 8, 2025 – Brazos River Chapter, Grandbury TX – installed officers and gave a short talk.



February 22, 2025 – Washington’s Birthday Celebration Parade, Laredo TX – was 36 degrees and raining, but Laredo came out for this parade! Marci and I had an AWESOME time! I was dancing in the streets!



February 27-March 1, 2025 – Spring Leadership – Louisville KY – Texas Delegation Dinner at the Troll Pub Under the Bridge. It was both under a bridge and underground – really!



February 28, 2025 – Spring Leadership Meeting, Louisville KY – Friday Night Banquet.



March 1, 2025, Spring Leadership, Louisville KY – formal banquet.



March 8, 2025, Dallas Chapter – First Responder Recognition. Installed the Treasurer. Tom Milson and Tom Whitelock hammed it up with me. The Fireman's baby wears a tiny Dallas Fire Dept golf shirt.



March 13-16, 2025 – DAR Convention, Houston TX. Shared greetings for the SAR on opening night and received the Silver (State) Hannah White Arnett medal. Honored to hang out with Lt. Gen Marshal Bradley Webb (bad ass General in the Bin Laden raid!). Thanks to Texas State Regent Susan Johnston for the invite!



March 27-30, 2025 – Texas State Meeting, Richardson TX – looking forward to it!

Mark your Calendar for the 130th Texas SAR Convention

*March 27 – 30, 2025 at the Hilton
Richardson Dallas in Richardson, Tx*



Hilton Richardson Dallas – Located approximately 17 miles from Dallas Love Field and 23 miles from Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport.

Local Attractions - Located 11 miles from the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum and Southern Methodist University, 16 miles from the Dallas Arboretum Garden and 13 miles from the Perot Museum of Natural and Science.

Restaurants and Shopping – Multiple restaurants within 5 miles and three shopping centers within 5 miles on North Central Expressway (U.S. 75).