



BERNARDO DE GALVEZ CHAPTER Fourth Quarter 2025 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year to date has been a busy and productive year for our Chapter and Color Guard. We have enjoyed several excellent presentations from guest speakers and our Color Guard has participated at numerous events.

In 2026 we still have several open slots for officers and Committee persons, including 3rd Vice President, Programs Committee, History Committee and Registrar support. Please consider volunteering to spend a few hours on a committee to help.

Your attendance at our monthly meetings is also important to show support of our mission, welcome new prospects, and recognize those receiving awards – First Responders, Youths, etc.

We should all be proud of our Chapter heritage and work hard to continue to serve our communities, educate our youth about the founding principles of our country, and honor our patriot ancestors.

The Mission of the SAR

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our country.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: John R. Loper

1st Vice-President: Guy Taylor, Jr.

2nd Vice- President: Matthew D. Hewitt

Secretary: Clark Wright

Treasurer: Robert M, Cassat, Sr.

Registrar: David Zwahr

Color Guard Commander: Mathew D. Hewitt

Photographer: Jon Zwahr

Chaplin: Msgr. James B. Anderson

Newsletter Editor: Billy Mayo

Editor-in-Chief

Billy Mayo

Send articles and photos to:
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CHAPTER MEETING PRESENTATIONS



At the October meeting of the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter, Compatriot Hugh Ferguson was the guest speaker and provided an excellent presentation on his patriot ancestor his Jean-Baptiste Chaison (1745-1854). He was born in Nova Scotia but moved to the American colonies as a result of the French and Indian War. He was present at the English surrender at Yorktown and participated in a number of battles, include some in the South. Jean eventually up living his later in an area north of the present city of Beaumont. Local SAR and DAR chapters have erected monuments in Beaumont commemorating his life.

At the November meeting of the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter, Wayne Lynch was the guest speaker and provided an excellent presentation on the "Battle of King Mountain." The Battle itself was fought between Patriots and Loyalists residing on the border between North and South Carolina. This battle won by the Patriots was the first victory in the southern colonies. Chapter President John Loper provided him with a Certificate of Appreciation for his presentation.



AWARDS



At the October meeting of the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter, President John Loper presented Compatriot Ronald L. Mason his 25-Year Membership Service Certificate and Pin.

At the October meeting of the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter, Compatriot Pete Lenos accepted a 10-Year Membership Service Certificate and Pin for his grandson Compatriot Aidan Minor, who is a Junior Member living in Boerne, Texas.





At the October TXSAR Board of Managers meeting, Compatriot Billy Mayo was awarded the SAR Silver Color Guard Medal along with TXSAR President Mel Oller and others.



At the November meeting of the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter, Chapter Secretary Clark Wright presented Chapter President John Loper with his SAR University Diploma for completing the "Chapter President" course.

At the December meeting of the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter, First-Vice President Guy Taylor, Jr. was presented the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal by Chapter President John Loper. Compatriot Taylor has done a job in both his elected position and as the chapter Facebook manger.





At the December Bernardo de Galvez Chapter meeting, Chapter Treasurer and Web master Clark Wright was awarded the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal by Chapter President John Loper. Compatriot Wright has continued to do an excellent job in both of his positions.

At the December meeting of Bernardo de Galvez Chapter, Chapter President John Loper presented Chapter Registrar David Zwahr with the Texas SAR Chapter Service Medal. Compatriot Zwahr has continued to do an outstanding job as registrar.



COLOR GUARD ACTIVITIES



On October 11th, color guard members of the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution participated in the Welcome Home Event for Honor Flight veterans at Hobby Airport. Color guard members participating were President John Loper, Past President Hugh Ferguson Jr. and Color Guard Commander Matthew Hewitt. Chapter members also attending this event were Chapter Registrar David Zwahr and Chapter Photographer Jon Zwahr.



At the annual Veteran's Day event at the Seabrook Veterans Memorial Park in Seabrook, the Bernardo de Galvez Color Guard posted the Colors, and Compatriot John Loper played taps at the conclusion of the ceremony. Bernardo de Galvez Chapter members participating in the ceremony were Chapter President John Loper and Compatriot Hugh Ferguson. Chapter Registrar David Zwahr and Compatriot Thomas Loper also attended the ceremony



At the 2025 Annual Dickens on the Strand Parade, Compatriots from the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter, the Freedom Chapter and the Robert Rankin Chapter prepare to march in the parade. This parade is an annual Texas SAR Color Guard Event.



Group photo of Texas SAR Color Guard Member and members from the TX Children of the American Revolution (CAR) participating in the Dickens on the Strand Parade.



Bernardo de Galvez Chapter Color Guard participated in the Wreaths Across America wreath laying ceremony on Saturday December 13th at the Lakeview Cemetery in Galveston, Texas. They were there to honor military members who had served and to remember those that had fallen. The Chapter Color Guard consisted of Matthew Hewitt (Bernardo de Galvez Chapter Color Guard Commander) on the U.S. Flag, Compatriot Robert Hanegan on the Texas Flag, Aries Hewitt (Junior member and representing Cub Scout Pack 442) as the U.S. Flag Guard, and John Loper (Bernardo de Galvez Chapter President) as the Texas Flag Guard. Compatriot John Loper also played Taps after the 21-gun salute.



The Bernardo de Galvez Color Guard conducted a flag replacement ceremony for a long time DAR member and then presented her with a SAR Flag Certificate for her flying the U.S. Flag. Chapter Color Guard members conducting the ceremony were Chapter President John Loper, Color Guard Commander Matthew Hewitt and Compatriot Robert Hanegan.

CHAPTER ELECTIONS



At the December meeting of the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter, Texas SAR President Mel Oller installed the new Bernardo de Galvez Chapter Officers for 2026. The following were installed in the positions shown: John Loper (President), Guy Taylor Jr. (First Vice-President), Clark Wright (Secretary/Treasurer), David Zwahr (Registrar) and Matthew Hewitt (Second-Vice President).

CHAPTER GROUP PHOTOS



OCTOBER CHAPTER MEETING

Seated From Left to Right: Pete Lenes, Billy Mayo and Clark Wright. Standing From Left to Right: David Zwahr, Ronald Mason, Elaine Mason, John Loper, Sue Lenes, Hugh Ferguson, Robert Cassat, Charles McBee, Wayne Lynch, Patty Lynch, Rick Ferris, Dianne Hanegan and Robert Hanegan.



NOVEMBER CHAPTER MEETING

Seated From Left to Right: Robert Adams, Clark Wright, Pete Lenes and Louis Garza. Standing From Left to Right: Jon Zwahr, Clark Johnson, David Zwahr, Mike Rogers, William Adriance, Dalton Davis, Wayne Lynch and John Loper.



December Chapter Meeting

Seated: Aries Hewitt, Collin Adams, Windy Jones, TX SAR President Mel Oller, Dianne Hanegan and Kylie Ramsey. Standing Thomas Jackson, Jon Zwahr, Steve Zwahr, Robert Cassat, David Zwahr, Sam Massey, Art Byram, Guy Taylor, Robert Adams, John Loper, Clark Wright, Robert Hanegan, David Hamaker, Ed Sellards, Michael Miles, Bill Myers, Matthew Hewitt and Don Hayes.

2025 AWARDS/CERTIFICATES

Awards by NSSAR to Chapter and/Chapter Members

Col. Joe M. Hill Patriot Fund Award – Bernardo de Galvez Chapter 1 (April)

The Galveston Award – Bernardo de Galvez Chapter 1 (April)

SAR Bronze Color Guard Medal – John Loper (July)

SAR Bronze Color Guard Medal – Billy Mayo (July)
SAR Silver Color Guard Medal – Billy Mayo (October)
SAR University Diploma – John Loper - “Chapter President Course” (November)

Awards by TXSAR to Chapter and/Chapter Members

Texas SAR Flag Presentation Award – Bernardo de Galvez Chapter 1 (April)
Bernardo de Galvez Bronze Color Guard Medal – John Loper (July)
Bernardo de Galvez Silver Color Guard Medal – Billy Mayo (July)

Awards by Chapter to Chapter Members

Certificate of Appreciation – Billy Mayo (January)
Certificate of Appreciation – David Zwahr (January)
10-Year Membership Award – Thomas, Austin, Caleb, Jarrod and Henry Loper (January)
10-Year Membership Award – Ronald W. Schoolcraft (February)
10-Year Membership Award – Paul E. Kettler (February)
5-Year Membership Award – Joshua Labay (August)
5-Year Membership Award – Matthew C. Jackson (September)
Certificate of Appreciation – Hugh Ferguson (October)
25-Year Membership Award – Ronald L. Mason (October)
10-Year Membership Award - Aidan Minor (October)
5-Year Membership Award – Gary L. Donovan – (December)
15 –Year Membership Award – Aaron R. Mason (December)
Chapter Distinguished Service Medal – Guy Taylor, Jr. (December)
Bronze Good Citizenship Medal – Clark Wright (December)
Texas SAR Chapter Service Medal – David Zwahr (December)

Awards by Chapter to Non-Chapter Members

SAR Eagle Scout Certificate – Brandon Baker (March)
SAR Eagle Scout Certificate – Emerson McDowell LeBlanc
SAR Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest – Collin Adams (Chapter 1st & TXSAR 3rd Place)
Certificate of Appreciation - Captain Hector Echevarria (La Porte JROTC) (May)
Certificate of Appreciation - Kathleen Maca (June)
Certificate of Appreciation - Ms. Maria Baños Jordan of the Texas Familias Council (July)
Certificate of Appreciation - Jason Fung - Buffalo Soldiers National Museum (August)
SAR Flag Certificate – Buffalo Soldiers National Museum (August)
Certificate of Appreciation - Wayne Lynch (November)
SAR Flag Certificate – Joy Talbert (December)

Youth Awards

SAR George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest - Benjamin Crossno (Chapter 1st & TXSAR 5th Place)
SAR George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest – Nicol Wells (Chapter 2nd Place)
SAR Middle School Brochure Contest - Bella Eden Shabelansky, Reethi Kavalpatti & Scarlett Garcia.

First Responder Awards (April)

SAR Life Saving Medal - Dickinson Police Department Officer Daniel Ammons
SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal - La Marque Police Department Christian Narvaez
SAR Life Saving Medal - Galveston County Sheriff Officer Jeremy Ornelas
SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal - Henry A. Trochesset (Ex-Galveston County Sheriff)
SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal - Texas City Police Department Investigator Shelbi Webb

ROTC/JROTC Awards

SAR Silver R.O.T.C. Medal - Midshipman Kade Johansen (Texas A & M Maritime Academy)
SAR Bronze R.O.T.C. Medal - Cadet Captain Juan Estrada (Galveston I .S. D.)
SAR Bronze R.O.T.C. Medal - Cadet Major Colt Nicholus Rawls (La Porte I. S. D.)
SAR Bronze R.O.T.C. Medal - Cadet Capt. Ryan Reddy (Clear Creek HS)
SAR Bronze R.O.T.C. Medal - Cadet 1st Lt. Carson Hough (Clear Lake HS)
SAR Bronze R.O.T.C. Medal - Cadet 1st Sgt. Shaun Smith (Clear Brook HS)
SAR Bronze R.O.T.C. Medal - Cadet Capt. Colbey Smith (Clear Springs HS)
SAR Bronze R.O.T.C. Medal - Cadet PFC Ozias Walker (Clear Falls HS)
SAR Bronze R.O.T.C. Medal - Cadet 1st Lieutenant Kasandra R. Rogriguez (Texas City I. S. D.)

Chapter JROTC Scholarship Awards

Cadet Major Colt Nicholus Rawls (La Porte I. S. D.)
Cadet Captain Juan Estrada (Galveston I. S. D.)



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