



# **BERNARDO DE GALVEZ CHAPTER First Quarter 2026 Newsletter**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of the year has been very exciting, with some great speakers and the addition of several new members. I would still like to encourage everyone to consider assuming a new responsibility this year on a committee and to strive for perfect attendance. We are starting to grow again thanks to the efforts of our Registrar, David Zwahr. We were privileged to award First Responders from the City of Dickinson Police Department and the Galveston County Sheriff's Office with a variety of First Responder Awards. We also awarded a Heroism Medal to a member of the community – Mr. Sky Decker. Thanks you for your support this year.

## **The Mission of 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**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President: Guy Taylor, Jr.**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President: Matthew D. Hewitt**  
**Secretary: Clark P. Wright**  
**Treasurer: Clark P. Wright**  
**Registrar: David M. Zwahr**  
**Color Guard Commander: Matthew D. Hewitt**  
**Photographer: Jon A. Zwahr**  
**Chaplain: Msgr. James B. Anderson**  
**Newsletter Editor: Billy C. Mayo**

**For Chapter Information and Updates, please refer to the Bernardo de Galvez Web Page ([www.bdgsar.org](http://www.bdgsar.org)) or Facebook Group (Bernardo de Galvez Chapter #1 SAR).**

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Ralph Wayne Dorchester**  
**Richard Allen Ferris**  
**George Clark Johnson IV**  
**George Clark Johnson V**  
**Benjamin Wyatt Johnson (Junior Member)**  
**Daryl Gene Lott**  
**Timothy Gene Lott**  
**Michael Mark Rogers**  
**Brian Scott Shaver**  
**Wyatt Scott Shaver (Junior Member)**



# CHAPTER MEETING PROGRAMS



**At the January meeting of the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter, the Bernardo de Galvez Society of the Children of the American Revolution (CAR) provided the program. Senior First Vice President of Texas Society Children of the American Revolution Dianne Hanegan described the Texas CAR Project and Events for 2025-2026. This year's state project is "Small Boots, Big Courage" with the beneficiary being "Camp Courage", which is a week-long camp dedicated to building leadership and horsemanship skills in military-related youth. The proper way to fold the American flag was also demonstrated by the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter Color Guard Commander and his son, a junior member of SAR. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter of the Children of the American Revolution.**



**Consul Andrzej Fafara, Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Houston, was the guest speaker at the February meeting of the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter. Consul Fafara provided an excellent program about Poland's support to the American Revolution. In his presentation, he identified two particular individuals who played significant roles in the war: Tadeusz Kosciuszko (a strategic engineer) and Kazimierz Pulaski (Father of the American Calvary). Tadeusz Kosciuszko was instrumental in planning the fortifications at Saratoga and West Point and was also a catalyst in obtaining French support. Kazimierz Pulaski became a general in the Continental Army, formed the American cavalry and Polish Legion, was the Hero of Brandywine and was killed at the Battle of Savannah. Consul Fafara also discussed the impact that the American Constitution had on the entire world; Poland was the second country to have a constitution in 1791. Chapter President John Loper presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Consul Fafara for his both outstanding and informative presentation.**

## **FIRST RESPONDER AWARDS**



**At the January meeting, Chapter President John Loper presented the SAR Heroism Medal to Sky Decker. Upon hearing an airplane crash, Sky Decker sailed out to a partially submerged Mexican**

**Navy Medical plane in dense fog and pulled Julia Aracelis Cruz Vera from a pocket of trapped air. He is to be commended for this valiant effort in saving the lives of crash victims.**



**At the March meeting of the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter, President John Loper awarded Corporal Rachel Amaro of the Galveston County Sheriff's office the SAR Life Saving Award in recognition of her professionalism, adaptability and determination that resulted in the saving of a life. Upon receiving a 911 call, she provided instructions to the caller on how to do CPR on an unconscious person until medical help arrived. This was made complicated by the fact that the caller only had the use of one arm.**



**At the March meeting of the Bernardo de Galvez, President John Loper awarded Life Saving Awards to Sergeant Dan Blackford and Officer Adam Dimas (not shown) in recognition of their quick actions in recognizing that an individual being arrested had swallowed narcotics and was overdosing; their application of multiple doses of NARCAN until medical help arrived resulted in the saving of a life.**

**Sergeants Dan Blackford and Geoffrey Millilo were awarded SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medals for their outstanding achievement in maintaining law and order. Upon responding to a call, they were fired upon by an individual; instead of returning fire, they were able to deescalate the situation without loss of life. All the officers receiving awards are members of the Dickinson Police Department.**

# CHAPTER ACTIVITIES



In January the chapter made donation of \$1,076.95 to the Clear Creek Education Foundation (CCEF) in support of the Clearview High School for the United We Stand Flag Program. The donation was used to purchase flags for the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration of the United States of America. Pictured are Cate Loper (CCEF), CCHS teachers Jacquelyn Smith and Jacqueline Schneider and Chapter President John Loper.



At the January meeting, Past President John Lenos donated the new Texas Society of the SAR flag to the chapter in recognition of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Shown in the photo are Past President John Lenos (left) and current President John Loper.



At the January meeting, President John Loper presented a 5-Year Member Service Certificate and Pin to Louis Garza. He is to be commended for his participation in chapter meetings and at special events.



At the February meeting, new members Daryl Lott (left) and Mark Rogers (right) were sworn in by President John Loper. They both complimented Registrar David Zwahr for his assistance in applying for membership.



# CHAPTER COLOR GUARD ACTIVITIES



During this quarter, color guard member Robert Hanegan served color guard duties at the Texas Daughter of the American Revolution state convention on March 12<sup>th</sup> (left photo). He also served at the Texas Society of the Children of the American Revolution state convention on March 27<sup>th</sup> (right photo).

## DEATHS of MEMBERS



Charles Douglas McBee, Jr. passed away on 14 February 2026. Compatriot McBee had been a member of the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter since 1 July 1987 and participated in several chapter activities. He attended the reinstatement of the chapter ceremony in 1986 prior to becoming a member. He served on different committees such as the JROTC Committee. Compatriots John Loper, Billy Mayo, Ronald Schoolcraft and Robert Gindratt attended his funeral. Chapter President John Loper presented a Memorial Certificate to his Family.

# CALENDAR OF FUTURE CHAPTER EVENTS

- 10 APR - La Porte High School JROTC Award Ceremony @ 6:00 PM  
17 APR - Dickinson High School JROTC Award Ceremony @ 5:00 PM  
18 APR - Chapter Meeting at Kelley's @ 11:30 AM  
25 APR - Texas A & M Marine Academy ROTC Award Ceremony @ 1:30 PM  
28 Apr - Lone Star College America 250 Event \*\*  
30 APR - Ball High School JROTC Award Ceremony @ 5:30 PM
- 03 May - Chapter Family Picnic - 4:00 PM-6:00 PM - Location TBD  
08 May - Moody Methodist Church 250th America Event \*\*  
09 MAY - Clear Creek ISD JROTC Award Ceremony & 9:00 AM  
16 MAY - Chapter Meeting at Kelley's @ 11:30 AM  
25 MAY - Memorial Day Event \*\*
- 14 JUN - Flag Day  
20 JUN - Chapter Meeting at Kelleys @ 11:30 AM
- 04 JUL - 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade @ Friendswood \*\*  
04 JUL - 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade @ Tiki Island \*\*  
18 JUL - Chapter Meeting at Kelley's @ 11:30 AM
- 15 AUG - Chapter Meeting at Kelley's @ 11:30 AM
- 19 SEP - Joint Chapter Meeting with DAR \*\*
- 17 OCT - Chapter Meeting at Kelley's @ 11:30 AM
- 11 NOV - Veterans Day \*\*  
21 NOV - Chapter Meeting at Kelley's & Election of 2027 Officers
- 05 DEC - Chapter Meeting at Kelley's & Swearing in of Officers  
05 DEC - Dickens on the Strand Parade \*\*  
19 DEC - Wreaths Across America \*\*

\*\* (Color Guard Event)

Note: Chapter members are encouraged to attend Color Guard events.

# CHAPTER GROUP PHOTOS



**January Meeting Group Photo**

**Seated:** John (Pete) Lenes, Sky Decker, Windy Jones and Louis Garza. **Standing:** Diane Hanegan, William (Rick) Sullivan, Kylie Ramsey, Robert Hanegan, Robert Adams, Mrs. Jeff O'Brian, Jeff O'Brian, John Loper, Guy Taylor Jr., ??, Clark Wright, David Zwahr, Matthew & Aries Hewitt, Doylton Davis, and Jon Zwahr.



**February Meeting Group Photo**

**Seated:** Billy Mayo, Joe Clingerman, John (Pete) Lenes and Louis Garza. **Standing:** Jon Zwahr, David Zwahr, John Loper, Daryl Lott, Mike Rogers, Robert (Bob) Adams, Clark Wright, Andrzej Fafara (Polish Consulate), Wayne Lynch and Aries & Matthew Hewitt.



**March Meeting Group Photo**

**Seated:** Wyatt Shaver, Billy Mayo, Clark Wright, John (Pete) Lenes, Louis Garza and Jon Zwahr.  
**Standing:** David Zwahr, Brian Shaver, Robert Hanegan, John Loper, Guy Taylor Jr., Mike Rogers, Daryl Lott, Rachel Amaro, William (Bill) Adriance, ??, ??, ??, Geoffrey Millilo, Dan Blackford, Matthew & Aries Hewitt and Kay Lohec.

## **MERCHANDISE**

### **Bernardo de Galvez Chapter Items**

Please refer to the chapter's website [Bernardo de Gálvez Chapter #1 - Sons of the American Revolution](#) for information on purchasing caps and shirts with the Bernardo de Galvez or the SAR logo. You may bring your own caps or shirts to have the logos embroidered on them. Two sources are **Embroidry Plus**, 330 Genesis Blvd, Unit C, Webster, TX (phone number 281-332-0200 and **Top Gear**, 1019 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, Galveston, TX (phone number 4090766-7571).

### **NSSAR Items**

There are many items on the NSSAR website [StoreFront – Sons of the American Revolution Merchandise Online Store](#) that members may order; for example, caps, shirts, ties, etc. There are also several America 250<sup>th</sup> items available. All members can order the SAR Members Badge and name tag; however, most medals have to be awarded at the chapter, state or national level.

### **Color Guard and Militia Uniform Items**

There are several sources for Color Guard and militia uniform items. Townsends ([Townsends](#)) is well known but expensive. One of our members found a source on eBay that was much more reasonable ([Royal Military Jackets](#)); he obtained a uniform there for about one half of the cost as compared to Townsends. The chapter has some uniform items available if you are interested in obtaining a uniform please contact the Color Guard Commander Matthew Hewitt.

