

BERNARDO DE GALVEZ CHAPTER
Second Quarter 2026 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 2nd Quarter of the year has been very exciting, with some great speakers and the addition of 13 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 present youth awards during the second quarter, as well as multiple JROTC awards. We also celebrated Memorial Day and participated in various America 250 events. Thank 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
1st Vice-President: Guy Taylor, Jr.
2nd 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) or Facebook Group (Bernardo de Galvez Chapter #1 SAR).

Welcome
New 2026 Chapter 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
Lynden Wayne Lynch Jr. (Transferred In)
Christopher Glenn Moody
Randall Charles Moody
Michael Mark Rogers
Brian Scott Shaver
Wyatt Scott Shaver (Junior Member)

CHAPTER MEETING PROGRAMS

APRIL MEETING



Trione, CEO and Co-Founder of TriFitness Gym, was the guest speaker at the April meeting. His presentation focused on the necessity of exercise programs for senior citizens to maintain a healthy way of life; he also emphasized need for interaction with others. Chapter President John Loper presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Jake Trione for his informative presentation.

MAY MEETING

The May meeting program was dedicated to presentations of the Youth Award Winners. The winners of the Joseph Plumb Martin SAR Video Contest showed their award winning video via YouTube and a large screen TV. The winner of SAR George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest and the CAR Essay Contest read her essay. The chapter's winner in the SAR Poster Contest displayed her poster and discussed it.

Past President William Adriance attended the TXSAR State Conference in April and confirmed that he would be the TXSAR Annual Report Sub-Committee Chairman for the current year. He spoke to the changes that have been made in the reporting systems – the consolidation of the Stark Report, the Americanism Report, the Flag Report, etc. into the SMART Report.

JUNE MEETING



Mr. David Avila, Museum Director of the San Jacinto Battleground Historic Site, was the guest speaker at the June meeting. Mr. Avila provided an excellent program about the history of the battleground and the current capitol project underway. Chapter President John Loper presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Avila for his both outstanding and informative presentation.

FIRST RESPONDER AWARDS

In April, President John Loper presented the EMS Award to Brendon Michelson and the Fire Safety Commendation Award to Allen Portman, both members of the League City Fire Department. Since they were unable to attend the March meeting, the awards were presented at their fire station.

SAR ROTC AWARDS



At the 10th of April La Porte High School JROTC Awards Program, President John Loper awarded the SAR Bronze R.O.T.C. Medal to Cadet Major Dylan Thatcher in recognition of his outstanding leadership qualities, military bearing and excellence, thus exemplifying the high ideals and principals which motivated and sustained our patriot ancestors.

At the 2026 Dickinson Independent School District JROTC Awards Program in April, President John Loper awarded the SAR Bronze R.O.T.C. Medal to Cadet 1st Lieutenant Gabriella Paradis in recognition of her outstanding leadership qualities, military bearing and excellence, thus exemplifying the high ideals and principals which motivated and sustained our patriot ancestors.





At the 2026 Texas A & M Maritime Academy ROTC Awards Program in Galveston, President John Loper awarded the SAR Silver R.O.T.C. Medal to Midshipman First Class Cameron Gerald in recognition of his outstanding leadership qualities, military bearing and excellence, thus exemplifying the high ideals and principals which motivated and sustained our patriot ancestors.

During the 2026 Ball High School JROTC Awards Program in April, President John Loper awarded the SAR Bronze R.O.T.C. Medal to Cadet Dallas McClung in recognition of her outstanding leadership qualities, military bearing and excellence, thus exemplifying the high ideals and principals which motivated and sustained our patriot ancestors.





Group Photo of all of the presenters at the Ball High School Awards Ceremony.



During the 2026 Clear Creek Independent School District JROTC Awards Program in May, President John Loper awarded the SAR Bronze R.O.T.C. Medal to cadets from the Clear Creek High School, the Clear Lake High School, the Clear Brook High School, the

Clear Springs High School and the Clear Falls High School in recognition of their outstanding leadership qualities, military bearing and excellence, thus exemplifying the high ideals and principals which motivated and sustained our patriot ancestors. Pictured above are Chapter President John Loper, Cadet SSG Ozias Walker, Cadet SGT Matthew Koza, Cadet 2LT Traci Bui, Cadet PFC Ashlin McKinnis and Cadet SSG William McGlothlin.



During the 2026 Texas City JROTC Awards Program in May, President John Loper awarded the SAR Bronze R.O.T.C. Medal to Cadet Staff Sergeant Wyatt Southern Ballard in recognition of his outstanding leadership qualities, military bearing and excellence, thus exemplifying the high ideals and principals which motivated and sustained our patriot ancestors.

CHAPTER JROTC SCHOLARSHIPS



During the April meeting of the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter, President John Loper awarded a Chapter Scholarship to JROTC Cadet Captain Isaac Daigle in recognition of his outstanding leadership qualities, military bearing and excellence, thus exemplifying the high ideals and principals which motivated and sustained our patriot ancestors.



the Ball High School JROTC Awards Ceremony in April, President John Loper awarded a Chapter Scholarship to JROTC Cadet Joshua Mann in recognition of his outstanding leadership qualities, military bearing and excellence, thus exemplifying the high ideals and principals which motivated and sustained our patriot ancestors.

YOUTH AWARDS



At the May meeting, Chapter First Vice-President Guy Taylor, Jr. presented a SAR Essay Medal, Certificate and cash award to Rebecca Ulczynski being the chapter's first place winner in the SAR George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest. She also won first place in the chapter's Children of the American Revolution (CAR) Essay Contest and received a

Certificate and Cash Award for her essay. Pictured above from left to rights: First Vice President Guy Taylor, Rebecca Ulczynski and Chapter Past President Billy Mayo.



At the May meeting, Chapter First Vice-President Guy Taylor, Jr. presented SAR medals, certificates and cash awards to Kathryn Ulczynski and Rianne Damman for being the chapter's first place winners in the Joseph Plumb Martin SAR Video Contest. They also won first place for their video at the Texas Society level and will receive scholarships upon enrolling in college. Pictured above from left to rights: First Vice President Guy Taylor, Kathryn Ulczynski, Rianne Damman and Chapter Past President Billy Mayo.



At the May meeting, Chapter First Vice-President Guy Taylor, Jr. presented a SAR Certificate and cash award to Laura Ulczynski being the chapter's first place winner in the SAR Poster Contest. Pictured above from left to rights: First Vice President Guy Taylor, Rebecca Ulczynski and Chapter Past President Billy Mayo.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES



At the April meeting, Chapter President John Loper swore in Ralph Dorchester and Randall Moody as new members of the SAR and the chapter. Pictured above from left to right are Chapter President John Loper, Ralph Dorchester, Randall Moody and Chapter Registrar David Zwahr.



At the April meeting, Captain Hector Echevarria, the Senior Military Instructor at La Porte High School, accompanied Cadet Captain Isaac Daigle(who was receiving a scholarship award). Captain Echevarria described the activities and accomplishments of Cadet Daigle and of the JROTC program. The JROTC program is very active and includes a flight simulator to train cadets in flying.





On May 3rd, the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter held its first family picnic (at the least the first in recent history) at the Centennial Park in Friendswood. Several members of the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter of the Children of the American Revolution were in attendance at the picnic. Although the participation was not what was hoped for, those attending enjoyed the day and camaraderie. Pictured above are some of the SAR and CAR members that attended the picnic. Other family members were in attendance.



At the June meeting, Chapter President John Loper swore in George C. Johnson IV as a new member of the SAR and was welcomed into the chapter. Pictured above from left to right are Chapter President John Loper, Compatriot Johnson and Compatriot Robert Henegan.

TEXAS SAR ACTIVITIES







The photos above were provided by chapter compatriot William Adriance, who attended both the Texas State SAR meeting in April and the dedication of the Texas SAR Cenotaph at the Texas State Cemetery honoring the patriots of the American Revolution who are buried in Texas. The photo below is of Texas Governor Greg Abbott being sworn in as a member of the Sons of the American Revolution during the cenotaph ceremony.

CHAPTER COLOR GUARD ACTIVITIES

Lone Star College 250th Celebratory Event



On April 28th, the Bernardo de Galvez Color Guard was joined by members from the Piney Woods Color Guard to present Colors at the Lone Star College (at Kingwood) 250th Celebratory Event. Pictured above are Compatriots Ray Cox, Billy Mayo, Robert Henegan, John Loper and William Myers.

Galveston County Community College Spring Choral Event

At the May 8th Galveston County Community College Spring Choral event held at the Moody Memorial First United Methodist Church, members of the Bernardo de Galvez color guard posted the Colors. Pictured from left to right are Chapter President John Loper, Compatriot Robert Henegan and Compatriot Frank Steele.





Memorial Day Ceremony









John Loper, Billy Mayo, Robert Henegan & Matthew Hewitt

At the 2026 Memorial Day Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Park in Seabrook, the Color Guard of the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter 1 participated in the ceremony by raising the flag and by Compatriot John Loper playing Taps. The chapter Color Guard consisted of Compatriots John Loper, Billy Mayo, Robert Henegan, and Matthew Hewitt. BSA Troops 848 and 849 and BSA Pack 389 posted the Colors and handed the flag to be raised off to the Color Guard Commander Matthew Hewitt. The ceremony was attended by veterans of the different services as well as the general public.

Welcoming Honor Flight of Veterans





When the Honor Flight of Veterans arrived at Hobby Airport on May 30th, Compatriot Robert Hanegan from the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter and compatriots from the Freedom Chapter, the Capt. John McAdams Chapter and the Piney Woods Chapter had the privilege and honor of leading the procession of veterans to their welcome home celebration.

DEATHS of MEMBERS

No Deaths This Quarter

FUTURE CHAPTER EVENTS

04 JUL – 4th of July Parade @ Friendswood **

04 JUL – 4th 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



April Meeting Group Photo

Seated: John Loper, Billy Mayo, Clark Wright and Louis Garza. **Standing:** Jon, Zwahr, David Zwahr, Guy Taylor Jr., Ralph Dorchester, Doylton Davis and Randy & Carla Moody.



May Meeting Group Photo

Seated: Jon Zwahr, Billy Mayo, John (Pete) Lenes, Louis Garza, Laura Ulczynski and Kathyrn Ulczynski. **Standing**: David Zwahr, Matthew Hewitt, Aries Hewitt, Daryl Lott, Guy Taylor, William Adriance, Randy Moody, Doylton Davis Jr., Dean Growcock, Clark Wright, Cindy Damman, Robert Adams and Rianne Damman.



June Meeting Group Photo

Seated: Jon Zwahr, David Zwahr, Louis Garza and Clark Wright. **Standing**: Robert & Dianne Henegan, John Loper, Guy Taylor, Daryl Lott, Doylton Davis Jr., George C. Johnson IV, William Adriance, David Avila and Robert Schnurizer.

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 embroiled on them. Two sources are Embriodry Plus, 330 Genesis Blvd, Unit C, Webster, TX (phone number 281-332-0200 and Top Gear, 1019 53rd Street, Galveston, TX (phone number 4090766-7571).

A new shipment of the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter Coins have arrived. See the Chapter Treasurer Clark Wright to purchase them.

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 250th 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.



Bernardo de Galvez

23 July 1746
Macharaviaya, Spain

30 November 1786
Tacubaya (Mexico City), Mexico

Bernardo Vicente de Galvez y Madrid, 1st Count of Galvez was a Spanish military leader and government official who served as colonial governor of Spanish Louisiana and Cuba; he later served as Viceroy of New Spain.

At the age of 16, Bernardo de Galvez was a career soldier and was a veteran of several wars in Europe, the Americas and North Africa. Under orders of the Spanish Crown King Charles III, he supported the colonists and their French allies in the American Revolution; he helped facilitate vital supply lines and frustrate British operation in the Gulf coast. Under his command, Spanish troops achieved several victories on the battlefield – conquering West Florida and eliminating the British Naval forces in the Gulf of Mexico. This campaign resulted in the formal return of all Florida to Spain under the Treaty of Paris.

Galvez role in the American war effort made him a hero in both Spain and the newly independent United States. The U.S. Congress hung his portrait in the U.S. Capitol in 2014, and he also became one of only eight people to have awarded honorary U.S. citizenship.