



The Hightower Recorder

Newsletter of the William Hightower Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution



November 2020

2019 Ross Shipman Best Newsletter Award Winner

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This Month in the American Revolution

A Hallowed E'en In October
by Stu Hoyt

In this issue...

This Month in the Revolution.....	1
Coming Soon.....	1
From the Chapter President.....	2
October Issue Correction.....	2
Rank Insignia in the American Revolution.....	2
An Admiral in the Texas Navy.....	3
SAR Annual Dues.....	4
8 on the 8th and in Patrick Henry.....	5
Birthdays.....	5
Chapter Anniversaries.....	5
William Hightower Honors Community Heroes.....	6
Dedication of a Plaque for a WWII Veteran.....	8
Chapter Leadership 2020-2021.....	8

Coming Soon...

- Nov. 12: Chapter Meeting
- Nov 13-15: TXSSAR Fall BOM
- Dec. 10: Chapter Meeting
- Jan 14: Chapter Meeting
- Feb 11: Chapter Meeting
- Mar 4: NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting
- Mar 11: Chapter Meeting

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March is known to have come in like a lion and out like a lamb. I am not sure if October has a saying, but the month has ended in some spooky ways. In the Tales of Sleepy Hollow, Washington Irving invented a skinny schoolmaster named Ichabod Crane who was chased one evening by a headless horseman and never seen again. He may have used an acquaintance with the same name, who ended up serving 48 years in the U.S. Marines and Army, but that started in the war after George Washington. The hallowed tradition was alive and well during the American Revolution, but it seemed to haunt the British Army more than it did the Americans.

The British Army as well as the American Army had its share of prima donnas. They all had their plan to end the war. One that stands out was Gentleman Johnnie Burgoyne. He came to the war from England in 1775 and experienced the Battle of Bunker Hill firsthand. He went back to England in December of 1776 and convinced King George III to accept his plan to surround the New England rebels and end the war. His plan was very extensive and would require three months to complete. It required assistance from the army based in New York but neither General Howe nor the King consented to that part of his plan before he commenced action.



British General John Burgoyne. Portrait by Joshua Reynolds, c. 1766

His next error was to launch the mission with less than half the logistics that he required. His plan worked well until he took the Gibraltar of the North, Fort Ticonderoga, then the plan went south. His plan stretch into almost six months, he was still thirty miles from Albany, his logistics was spread over two hundred miles and harassed by the enemy, and one branch of his army was turned back in their approach down the Hudson from the west.

On the 16th of October 1777, General "Gentleman Johnnie" Burgoyne had lost a third of his army, three major battles in a row, was almost out of food and supplies with his logistics line severed, and surrounded and outnumbered at least three to one with no assurance of being reinforced from New York He surrendered his army of 5,000 soldiers. This event changed the complexity of the war in America. France joined sides in February 1778 and made it a world war. Britain was pressed to change the battle plan to protect her interests, especially in the Caribbean.

Continued on page 3

Message from Chapter President Tom Jones



Compatriots,

Our Chapter continues our Monthly Member's Meeting thru the Zoom Video Conference Web site. Our meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. I invite you to join us as we discuss our Chapter's activities to fulfill our obligations to our Patriots thru these trying times. If you need Zoom Video system help, please call me or email me at tomandbet@aol.com and I will assist you or have our Chapter Zoom Technician contact you.

This month one of our new agenda topics will be our "Chaplain's Corner" to inform you of those members that are experiencing health issues or other tribulations that they would like to share with all members of our Chapter. If you would like to add your name to his listing, please call me (813) 362-4628. If I do not answer, leave a message. I will relay your message to Don, our Chaplain.

In addition, we are going to discuss how you can access information on our Chapter, State and National web sites and other communications channels to keep you informed of the Chapter's activities and programs.

The Executive Committee will provide information on the status of our budget that we will need to finance several activities ahead of us in the next 6 months to complete our youth contests and scholarships.

I know that several of you have work, family and health issues that limits your ability to be active in our Chapter.

We appreciate your financial support in your dues and would also appreciate any donations you would like to make to help our Chapter increase our Youth Awards Programs to education more children on the sacrifices that our Patriots endured for our independence.

I look forward to hearing from you and/or seeing you on my computer at our next Chapter Meeting. If you have never participated in a Zoom Video, try it with us. Many organizations are now using them to be able to continue their meetings and programs.

Your support for our Chapter's dedication to our Patriots is very much appreciated.

Come and join us. ❄️

Tom Jones, President

Correction from Our October Newsletter

In our October issue of *The Hightower Recorder*, we included a story about the Patriot Medal. A glaring mistake was left out of that story. Our own Compatriot Blair Rudy is a 2020 recipient of the Patriot Medal. He was recognized for his 15 years of service to our Society and the positive impacts he has made in carrying the mission of the Sons of the American Revolution into our many communities. Congratulations, Blair, on your well-deserved recognition and sorry we missed you in the original story. ❄️

Rank Insignia in the Continental Army Part 2: Commissioned Officers 1776-1779

By Ed Blauvelt & Kris Krueger

Part 2 of this series is Continental Army commissioned officers rank insignia.

Colonels wore a gold lace epaulet on each shoulder, a red or pink hat cockade, a red waist sash and a brass hilt sword. Lieutenant Colonels wore a gold lace epaulet on each shoulder, a red or pink hat cockade, a red waist sash and a brass hilt sword. Majors wore a gold lace epaulet on each shoulder, a red or pink hat cockade, a red waist sash and a brass hilt sword. Captains wore a gold epaulet on the right shoulder, a yellow, white or buff hat cockade, a red waist sash and a brass hilt sword. Sub-Alterns wore a gold lace epaulet on the left shoulder, a green hat cockade, a red waist sash and a brass hilt sword. ❄️



An Admiral in the Texas Navy by Stu Hoyt

The Texas Navy or the Navy of the Republic of Texas was formed in September of 1836 and merged with the US Military Forces in February 1846. To counter a Tidelands dispute with the federal Government, Governor Price Daniels reestablished the Texas Navy in 1958. Although the tidelands dispute was settled in 1960, the Texas Navy continued as a social club. In 1972, the Texas Legislature renamed the organization as the Texas Navy Association. Members can nominate new members by supporting an application to the governor. If approved, the Governor declared the recipient an Admiral in the Texas Navy.

Throughout the years since being established, many members of the TXSSAR have been nominated and approved as Admirals in the Texas Navy. Recently, one of the more renowned citizens of the State of Texas and an Admiral in the Texas Navy passed away. Karen Ruth Thompson was born and raised in Austin. Her family goes back, not only to the first Stephen F. Austin Colony, but to Jamestown in 1607. She was a lover of history and authored seven books. She was a member of the DAR, and the Daughters of the War of 1812, as well as the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

Since many members of the TXSSAR and many Past State Presidents are Admirals in the Texas Navy, the TXSSAR Color Guard was asked to carry the colors at her funeral on 1 Oct at 11am in Austin, TX. TX SAR CG from left to right are: Wayne Courreges, Jr. Ken Toole, and Jim Clements, Jr. of the Patrick Henry Chapter and TX SAR State CG Commander, Blair Rudy of the William Hightower Chapter. 🇺🇸



A Hallowed E'en In October
Continued from page 1

General Clinton, now in charge, moved the American plan to the south and left General Cornwallis to clean up the action. Things were working well for the British until the fourth general and Washington's choice, Nathaniel Greene, was placed in charge of the Army of the South. He started with little or no army at all but strategically divided what he had to wear down the British army in the South and force General Cornwallis into a corner, called Yorktown, in 1781.

Now it was a game of chess with the right pieces in the right place at the right time. Washington's desire was to get the British Army out of New York City and was maneuvering French General Rochambeau out of Rhode Island and into a more favorable position in New Jersey. They were in place in the Spring of 1781 waiting for support from French Admiral De Grasse when word came that he was heading for the Chesapeake Bay. Washington sent a message to General Lafayette to contain Cornwallis, they were on their way. Washington must have called on God to help him move two large armies out from under the nose of the British without being detected but he did just that.

God must have been with their Navy as well, because a small British Fleet was to meet with a larger fleet from New York in the sea off the Virginia Coast. But when they arrive, the larger fleet was nowhere in sight, so they sailed on to New York. Conversely, Admiral De Grasse was to sail his fleet from Haiti and meet with a smaller fleet from the Caribbean. He arrived first. Since the conditions were right, he chased the British fleet out of the bay covering Yorktown, exposing Cornwallis's only route of support or escape.

During the siege, there was a small window of opportunity for Cornwallis and his remaining army to escape by land north across the river at Yorktown. Again, God may have been on the side of the Americans because a severe storm came in during the night of the planned British escape and destroyed some of their transportation. The British abandoned that plan. The rest is history because the war in the American Colonies was just about over with Cornwallis surrendering his large army of another 5,000 men on October 19, 1781. The defeat broke the spirit of the British, they wanted no more war with their colonies in America. Two large defeats four years apart in the month of October turned out to haunt British domination in America. BOO-HOO! 🇺🇸

Sons of the American Revolution Annual Dues

By Kris Krueger

Dues. Fees. The most difficult conversation in our Society. Dues and fees finance our programs. The SAR uses a menu of dues and fees for revenue across the National Society, State Societies, and Chapters.

The SAR is a federated system between the National Society, State Society, and local Chapters. Each collect dues and membership fees. When a Compatriot pays annual dues, the total is broken into National, State, and Chapter portions to support programs at their levels.

The National Society keeps a reference manual of the different fees. The NSSAR Membership Cost Reference Manual 2018 is the most current and available at this [link](#). The reference manual outlines all costs by the National Society.

The SAR recognizes it is made up of families and offers discounted rates for submitting certain applications, such as junior membership and supplemental applications. Compatriots should check these discounted fees when working with family members.

The Texas Society has made finding the menu of dues and fees even easier. The Texas Society maintains a website that can calculate all dues and fees. It shows what portion goes to the National Society, the Texas Society, and the local Chapter. You can find the website at this [link](#). The Texas Society's website is wonderful tool every Compatriot should get familiar with.

The Texas Society also makes it easier to pay annual dues. Texas Society has a website to pay dues online. The website will automatically calculate the dues owed and allow payment using a credit card. You can find the website at this [link](#). The website is updated annually and is ready to collect the next year's dues usually in October.

New Membership Applications	
(amounts shown at each level include application fees and first year's dues)	
NISSAR	\$115.00
Texas SAR	\$44.00
CHAPTER (no chapter selected)	
TOTAL:	

New Junior Membership Applications - New Line	
(you are applying as a Junior member and the ancestor you are applying under has not been documented or approved through the SAR, DAR or C.A.R. in the past - amounts shown at each level include application fees and first year's dues)	
NISSAR	\$85.00
Texas SAR	\$32.00
CHAPTER (no chapter selected)	\$6.00

Texas Society's Fee Calculator Website

ID	Description	Chapters	Cost
10	Primary Chapter Dues	Select Primary chapter	0.00
20	1st Secondary Chapter Dues	Select 1st Secondary chapter	0.00
21	2nd Secondary Chapter Dues	Select 2nd Secondary chapter	0.00
22	3rd Secondary Chapter Dues	Select 3rd Secondary chapter	0.00
23	4th Secondary Chapter Dues	Select 4th Secondary chapter	0.00
24	5th Secondary Chapter Dues	Select 5th Secondary chapter	0.00

Special Membership Categories		Amount
28	Dual Membership with Primary Chapter in another state	0.00
29	Junior Members	0.00

Unrestricted Donations		Amount
30	Patriot Endowment Fund, Unrestricted	0.00
32	Center for Advancing America's Heritage	0.00

Specific Award Programs		Amount
40	American History Teacher Award	0.00
41	Endowment Fund: 2021 Expenses	0.00
42	C.A.R. Endowment Fund: 2021 Expenses	0.00
43	Endowment Fund: 2021 Expenses	0.00
44	Eagle Scout	0.00
45	Endowment Fund: 2021 Expenses	0.00
46	Essay	0.00
47	Endowment Fund: 2021 Expenses	0.00

Texas Society's Payment Website

Society. They pay for programs that honor the service and sacrifices of the Patriots that won our freedom, educate the next generation of those Patriots, and protects the ideals and traditions those Patriots started.

Dues are paid for the calendar year, from January through December. The Texas Society By-Laws require requires each Compatriot to get a notice by November 1. Compatriots have from November 1 through December 31 to pay dues for the following year. The Texas Society also provides for a grace period. As long as dues are paid by February 1, Compatriots remain active.

Compatriots can use the notice they receive in the mail to pay their dues, but there is an easier way in Texas. It is highly recommended to use the website.

All dues go to the State Society. The State Society then distributes them where they need to go at the beginning of the calendar year. This way, Compatriots only pay once. The Texas Society will then send the National Society their portion and send each Chapter their portion.

Some Compatriots are dual members of other Chapters and other State Societies. There are dues for these memberships as well. The Texas Society websites can help figure the cost, pay the fee, and distribute the dues to the appropriate organization when paid on the website.

Compatriots pay various dues and fees to support the goals of our

Eight on the Eighth and in Patrick Henry by Stu Hoyt

The average age of chapter members in the SAR Chapters is slowly creeping up to the point where the Society may become extinct. An incentive of the society is to recruit not only new but younger members. Many of us have sons and grandsons, but encouraging interest is like pulling teeth. For some reason, young people just cannot get excited about sitting around talking to old people.

When I was a boy the place to be was the barbershop, where young people could sneak in behind a comic book and hear all kinds of old tales and war stories. Today, Sport Clips is not the same and young folks' interest is more than a generation gap away.



On October 8, young Harry Tooke turned 8 years old. One of his presents was to be inducted into the Patrick Henry Chapter of the Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution. It did not hurt that his dad was the President of the Chapter. Four members of the SAR crashed the party to induct young Harry into the TXSSAR.

From left to right are: Wayne Courreges, (acting Historian), Ken Tooke, President, Harry Tooke (just turned eight), Jim Clements, State Secretary (and acting Registrar), all from the Patrick Henry Chapter, and witnessed by Stu Hoyt of the William Hightower Chapter and a dual member of the Patrick Henry Chapter. The guy on the right is eight, two. 🇺🇸

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

Compatriot Society Anniversaries

November

Cliff Caskey, 21 years
Lou Colantoni, 20 years
Nicolaas Deal, 13 years
Patrick Hollis, 13 years
Cleburne Mathies, III, 12 years
Michael Mark, 8 years
Allen Chandler, 6 years
Tim Jones, 4 years
Tom Jones, 4 years

Thank you for your continued service to our Society and your dedication to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and promoting education to future generations

*Happy Birthday to our Compatriots
and our Patriot Ancestors*

Happy Birthday, Compatriots!

Luke Werner, November 3
Dana Gunter, November 6
Robert Hall, III, November 7
David Elkins, November 8
Travis Tate, Jr., November 9
John Hall, November 10
Westley Hensley, November 13

Remembering our Patriot Ancestors

Thomas Nelson, Ancestor of Jason Nelson, born
November 25, 1745
Henry Ledbetter, Ancestor of John C. Womack
and John E. Womack, born November 19, 1721

William Hightower Chapter Honors Community Heroes

By Lou Colantoni and Kris Krueger

In October, the William Hightower Chapter presented Public Service Awards to our community law enforcement, fire safety, and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). This year, the Chapter went to our local heroes to present the awards. The William Hightower Chapter is one of the few SAR Chapters in the Texas Society that presents all five Public Service Awards: Medal for Heroism, SAR Life Saving Medal, Law Enforcement Commendation Medal, Fire Safety Commendation Medal, and the Emergency Medical Services Commendation Medal. This year was no different. Additionally, this year we recognized several departments for their patriotism in flying the American Flag. Of course, the Chapter's ability to present these awards is a testament to the hard work and dedicated service our first responders have to our communities.

On October 20, Compatriot Lou Colantoni paid a special visit to Station 51, Canyon Lake Fire & EMS. Lou visited the station to deliver the Fire Safety and EMT Commendation Medals; and, a Flag Certificate to the station.

The 2020 recipient of the Fire Safety Commendation Medal is Engineer Brett Parker. The EMT Commendation Medal was presented to Firefighter Skyler Overton.

On October 26, Lou visited the Comal County Sheriff's Department. Lou presented the Heroism Medal, SAR Life Saving Medal, and the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal. Deputy Eddy Luna received the Heroism Medal. Deputy Rene Luna received the Life Saving Medal. Deputy Nick Norte received the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal. All three of these deputies earned their recognition from a single action.



Lou Colantoni Presenting the Fire Safety Commendation Medal to Engineer Brett Parker



Lou Colantoni Presenting the EMT Commendation Medal to Firefighter Skyler Overton



SAR Fire Safety Commendation Medal



SAR EMT Commendation Medal

On Thursday, August 20, 2020, the three deputies were attempting to serve a felony warrant on Springwood Drive, off of Spring Branch Road in Comal County. Deputy Eddy Luna, Deputy Rene Luna and Deputy Nick Nolte set a perimeter around the house due to the suspect previously fleeing the residence. Dialog was established by the deputies to bring the suspect out peacefully. The suspect refused to come out and deputies attempted to enter the house. Deputy Nolte saw the suspect holding a shotgun and yelled "gun!" Both deputies at the front door tried to evade the shot. Deputy Luna was struck by the blast in his right arm. Deputy Nolte held the suspect who dropped the weapon at gunpoint. Deputy Eddy Luna moved himself to a position of safety on the side of the house. He was joined by Deputy Rene Luna who had been watching the back of the house. They assessed the wound and immediately applied a tourniquet. This more than likely saved the life of Deputy Luna. Backup officers soon arrived and assisted in taking the suspect into custody. Deputy Eddy Luna was flown to University Hospital in San Antonio where he went through multiple surgeries on his arm.

Unfortunately, despite the heroic and unending efforts of the hospital team, Deputy Luna lost his arm. He has the biggest heart, steadfast determination, and strongest resolve. Through this whole ordeal, he has committed himself to his rehabilitation and prosthetic fitting so that he can return to duty.



Lou Colantoni presents (from left to right) the Heroism Medal to Deputy Eddy Luna, the Life Saving Medal to Deputy Rene Luna, the Flag Certificate to Sheriff Mark Reynolds, and the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal to Deputy Nick Nolte



SAR Heroism Medal



SAR Life Saving Medal



SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal

Dedication of a Plaque for a WWII Veteran

by Stu Hoyt

The Admiral Chester A. Nimitz Museum, known as The National Museum of the Pacific War resides in the old Nimitz Hotel in downtown Fredericksburg, TX. Located on highway 290, the museum is dedicated to educating youth on the Greatest Generation. Their motto is, "We inspire our youth by honoring our heroes". There is a wall just outside the main building which houses the plaque of some of those heroes. Any family of one of those heroes of the Pacific War may donate a plaque of that family member and have it unveiled at a special ceremony.

Jim Horton, SAR member of the Patrick Henry Chapter and his sister Donna Byrd former DAR member of the Capt. James Jack Chapter, now living in Mason dedicated a plaque to their father, Major Horace E. Horton, US Army Air Corp in the Pacific. The family asked the TX SAR Color Guard to post the colors at this unveiling. The event was held at high noon on 28 Sept 2020. Below is the Color Guard from left to right are: Jim Clements (Patrick Henry and William Hightower) and Blair Rudy (William Hightower), TXSSAR CG Commander, with Family members Jim Horton (SAR) and Donna Byrd (DAR) followed by Stu Hoyt of the William Hightower Chapter and Robert Hites of the Patrick Henry Chapter. 🇺🇸



William Hightower Chapter Leadership

2020-2021

Officers

President Tom Jones
Vice President Ed Blauvelt
Secretary Kris Krueger
Treasurer Stan Trull
Registrar Robert Duckworth
Chaplain Don Chandler
Historian Stu Hoyt
Parliamentarian Cliff Caskey
Sergeant at Arms Robert Duckworth
Past President Steve Polk
Webmaster Will Moravits
Newsletter Editor Kris Krueger

Committee Chairs

Color Guard: Blair Rudy
Flag Awards: Tom Jones
Finance & Budget: Stan Trull
Fund Raising: Steve Polk
George Washington Proclamations: Joe Cox
Grave Marking: Cliff Caskey
Medals, Awards & Citations: Kris Krueger
Public Events: Patrick Hollis
Public Service Awards: Lou Colontoni
Publicity & Media: Will Moravits
ROTC & CAP: Tom Jones
Scouting: Kris Krueger
Youth Awards & Contests: Will Moravits

