



Agenda

William Hightower #35 TXSSAR

13 Feb 2020

President: Steve Polk, LG
Vice President: Tom Jones
Secretary: Ed Blauvelt
Treasurer: Stan Trull

Registrar: Michael Pryor
Chaplain: Don Chandler
Historian: Stu Hoyt
Parliamentarian: Clifford L. Caskey

Thursday, 13 Feb 2020, regular meeting at Granzin's Bar-B-Q, 660 West San Antonio Street, New Braunfels, TX 78130.

The man known as the "Father of his country" was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia on February 11, 1731. That was not a typo. England was under the Julian calendar at the time of George Washington's birth. It was not until England changed to the Gregorian calendar, in 1752 making his birthday February 22, 1732 as Commander in Chief of the Army, his birthday was regularly celebrated. There was one time in Feb. of 1776 when he was so concerned with seizing Boston from the hands of the British Army that he spent the entire day at his headquarters in Cambridge. As President his birthday was a festive occasion. He looked forward to dancing with the ladies and they with him. When he retired at Mount Vernon, the tradition of his birthday celebration continued and so did the dancing. Americans celebrated Washington's Birthday long before Congress declared it a federal holiday. The centennial of his birth prompted festivities nationally and Congress established a Joint Committee to arrange for the occasion. At the recommendation of the Committee, chaired by Henry Clay of the Senate and Philemon Thomas of the House, Congress adjourned on February 22, 1832 out of respect for Washington's memory and in commemoration of his birth. Prompted by a memorial from the mayor and other citizens of Philadelphia, the House and Senate commemorated the 130th Anniversary of Washington's birth by reading aloud his Farewell Address. Washington's Birthday, however, did not become a legal holiday until January 31, 1879 when Congress added February 22nd to the list of holidays to be observed by federal employees in the District of Columbia. Washington's Birthday was celebrated on February 22nd until well into the 20th Century. Recognizing the birthday of the "Father of our Country" all came to an end on 1 Jan 1971 when his birthday was absorbed by the "Monday Holiday Law" creating long week ends. Today most cannot tell you what is the date of George Washington's Birthday. A tragic way to treat a national hero.

Social Hour: 6 to 7PM

13 Feb 2020

Business meeting: 7 to 8

- I. Call to order: Vice President Tom Jones
- II. Invocation: Chaplain: Don Chandler
- III. Pledges to the Flags
 - a. U.S. Flag
 - b. Texas Flag
 - c. S.A.R. Flag
- IV. Introductions:
 - a. Special Guests – TBD
 - b. Essay/Oration Contestants
 - c. Potential chapter members
- V. Essay/Oration Contest -Joe Cox
- VI. Induction of new member -none
- VII. SAR Chapter Awards – open
- VIII. Annual Broken Arrow Ceremony
- IX. Old Business:
 - a. Approval of Jan 2020 minutes.
 - b. Approval of the Treasurer's Report –Feb
 - c. Historian: history update
 - d. Registrar's Report
 - e. Committees: Essay, Oratory, ROTC, Color Guard, Events, Scouting, and Flag.
- X. New Business:
 - a. President's Comments:
 - i. Feb – Elections for Officers for 2020
 - ii. Feb – Oration Contest
 - iii. Mar– New Officer Installation/Awards
 - iv. Mar – Spring Conf. - The Woodlands – 26 to 29 Mar.
- XI. Patriot Review – Robert Duckworth
- XII. Guest speaker – Review of Essay and Oration Contest winners
- XIII. Benediction: Chaplain Don Chandler
- XIV. Recessional
- XV. Adjournment: next meeting is 12 Mar 2020 at Granzin's.