



# The Hightower Recorder

Newsletter of the William Hightower Chapter  
Sons of the American Revolution



*Patriotic - Historical - Educational*

February 2021

2019 Ross Shipman Best Newsletter Award Recipient

Stay Connected to the Chapter

On the Internet:

[www.nbsar.net](http://www.nbsar.net)

On Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/SARNewBraunfels](https://www.facebook.com/SARNewBraunfels)

## In this Issue...

This Month in the American Revolution.....	1
Coming Soon.....	1
President's Message.....	2
Updates to the <i>Hightower Recorder</i> .....	2
The American Revolution and <i>Star Wars</i>	3
<i>Hightower Recorder's</i> First Video.....	3
George Washington's Rules of Civility....	3
Why Proclaim George.....	4
Chapter Submits 2020 Annual Report.....	5
Anniversaries and Birthdays.....	6
Get Your Nominations in Now!.....	6
Poor Richards Almanac.....	6
Officers and Committee Chairs.....	7

Interested in a story? Just click on it! One of our new features this month.

## Coming Soon...

- Feb 11: Chapter Meeting
- Feb 22: George Washington's Birthday
- Mar 6: NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting
- Mar 11: Chapter Awards and Officer Elections
- Mar/Apr: TXSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting
- Apr 8: Chapter Meeting
- May 13: Chapter Meeting

Get the Hightower Recorder!  
Email the Editor, Kris Krueger  
[krisk96@gmail.com](mailto:krisk96@gmail.com)



Banner of Washington's Life Guard

## George Washington's Life Guard

by Stu Hoyt

The month of February is dedicated to proclaiming George Washington's Birthday. It is difficult to understand why the Father of our Nation, who gave over 35 years of his life establishing, defending, and leading the cause of freedom is relegated to a secondary position hidden under the guise of Presidents Day when others have a named birthday. There are now seven states that recognize George Washington's birthday and Texas is not one of them. We need to promote, protect, and defend our Patriots. When, in 1775, this country chose to create an Army and a Commander-in-Chief, they chose George Washington. In March 1776, a Guard was created to protect the Commander-in-Chief. It was designed as a headquarters security team to guard the chief and his papers and positions. There actually was more of a concern for kidnapping and holding him for ransom than killing him, although there was an attempt to do that.

Washington wanted to set an example with these men, so he asked that they were to be good men, of sobriety, honesty, and good behavior, neat and clean, chosen four from each rifle regiment. They were to be between 5' 8" and 5' 10", later changed to 5' 9" to 5'10" and native born, their uniforms were to be blue coats with white facing and round hats sprouting blue and white feathers, ornamented in bearskin straps. Washington was meticulous about their appearance and behavior. Their mission would be to guard his person, baggage, and all his military and personal papers. The average size of this unit was 180 men although it swelled to 250, in 1779 to 1780, when they were camped close to the British in Morristown, New Jersey.

In spring 1776, after moving to New York City, in preparation for the arrival of the British, a member of the Guard, one Sergeant Thomas Hickey, was arrested along with other soldiers for passing counterfeit money. While incarcerated, he revealed a plot that a number of the guard would defect once the British had landed. A rumor got out that they were to kidnap Washington and blow up the munitions. Hickey was the only one tried and executed for mutiny and sedition. Continued on page 6

# *Message from Chapter President Tom Jones*

I recently sent this email to all our members asking for assistance in the execution of our Chapter Programs. I consider this email as one of my most important emails to you as your President and therefore I am having it repeated in our monthly newsletter.



Compatriots:

Our Chapter needs your assistance to help us present our certificates, medals and awards to fulfill our obligations to our patriots.

We have very active Committees that need your help.

Our George Washington Proclamation, Public Service, National Flag Recognition, Youth Awards, JROTC/ROTC, Boy Scouts Committees and Color Guard are doing a great job in their work on contacting our schools and organizations in our area and guiding their members to participate in our Programs.

Our most urgent need at this time is presenters. Presenters are our Chapter's front line visible compatriots that acquaint our citizens to our patriots and Society.

Most award presentations just take a few hours to travel to the various schools and organizations, present our awards and return home.

Colonial dress is encouraged but not necessary.

If you would like additional information on being a presenter or if you have questions on our various programs, please call me at (210) 263-9241. If I not available please leave a message.

Our Chapter, during these hard times, has been able to continue our programs thanks to several dedicated members.

Please join us.

Tom Jones  
President  
William Hightower Chapter  
Sons of the American Revolution 

---

## **Updates to the Hightower Recorder Format**

By Kris Krueger

This month experience some updates to the William Hightower Recorder format. It is now easier to find the articles you want to see. The Table of Contents are now linked to the articles. See something you like in the Table of Contents, click on it and you will instantly go to the article!

The Hightower Recorder is experimenting with adding media to the newsletter, such as video and audio. For this month, video has been added. While not every issue will include media, adding media when we can add richness and depth to articles and communicating what the William Hightower Chapter is doing.

Give these updates a try. I hope they enrich your experience. 

## The American Revolution and *Star Wars*

### Wait, What?

By Kris Krueger

My son and I were watching *Star Wars* just a few weeks ago. I have been engaged in the *Star Wars* franchise for 44 years, watching movies, television shows and even cartoons, reading novels and comic books, playing video games. I had the toys when I was a kid and now, my son has the toys. I have even visited *Star Wars* attractions at Disneyland. There is little in entertainment that *Star Wars* has not touched. After more than four decades, I finally started noticing similarities between the American Revolution and George Lucas's space opus.

It was a brilliant idea. No one could have thought of it before, right? I began my research and quickly found my brilliant idea was not so original. A quick Google search found high school students, editorial writers, magazine and newspaper writers, online bloggers, and even PhD candidates beat me to the story.

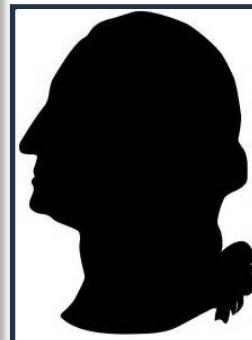
That George Lucas (creator, script writer, and director of *Star Wars*) was even able to get it made and in theaters is its own story. Hollywood and the movie industry expected it to bomb. *Star Wars* opened on May 25, 1977. It did not bomb. It rewrote the movie industry. It spawned a franchise that has dominated pop culture for almost half a century. *Star Wars* has made its way into every form: movies, television, novels, comic books, cartoons, toys, video games, music, even theme park rides. Of course, this is due just as much from its popularity as it is to the George Lucas's business sense. Anybody ever heard of "Baby Yoda" recently? That is the power *Star Wars* has on our pop culture today.

*Star Wars* is the story of a rag-tag rebellion fighting against an over-reaching empire. The rebels have everything against them. Their only hope is to stay one step ahead of the empire's massive military might. They are fighting the most powerful empire in the galaxy and no one, except maybe the rebels themselves, believe they have a chance. Sound familiar? It should. The parallels between *Star Wars* and the American Revolution are everywhere.

Heroes, villains, leaders, politics, war, sacrifice, and a final battle to earn freedom. It's all there. In fact, it even mirrors the challenges faced by a young United States. The franchise even carries on the story of the struggles of a victorious rebellion trying to organize and operate a government.

Still not sure how close *Star Wars* is to the American Revolution? I have an experiment. Using the audio from a movie trailer from *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, I edited in images of the American Revolution. Watch the video and see for yourself. You can compare it to the original on YouTube at this [link](#).

*Star Wars* is a pop culture icon that has raised three generations of Americans. As we deliver education programs about the American Revolution and the Patriots that won it, pop culture can help open doors. Kids may not know the Battle of Yorktown, but they probably know all the characters from *Return of the Jedi*. They may have never heard of von Steuben, but they can tell you Anakin Skywalker's life story. Just a little familiarity with the parallels can open an otherwise cold classroom. ☀



**Washington's Rules of Civility**  
Rule 24

Do not laugh too loud or too much at any Publick Spectacle.



The Lansdowne Portrait by Gilbert Stuart, 1796. Stuart painted 3 copies. One has hung in the White House East Room since 1800.

## Why Proclaim George!

by Stu Hoyt

My question is "Why proclaim George?" The answer is beyond, "Why not?" As this country matures, we add more and more history. Since history is just one subject that schools should teach, how do we allot the time necessary to cover almost 250 years or 400 if we go back to the first settlers. The answer seems to be to eliminate the unnecessary but then we have the question, "What is unnecessary?" Educators have teams of people and even outside influence encouraging the contents of our textbooks.

There is an expression that goes, "Out of sight, out of mind." It becomes a dangerous thought when it involves textbook contents. Take George Washington for example. Ask the average person, or a student, what is George Washington's birthday, let alone, who he was, and they are unable to answer. I asked a group of Boy Scouts and their parents attending a city council meeting in which a George Washington Proclamation was being read. The closest that they could come was February.

If you were listening, if this was taught when you went to school, you might remember February 22, 1732. Actually, he was born on February 11, 1731 under the Julian calendar and it was adjusted in 1752 when Britain and her colonies changed to the Gregorian calendar. Although his birthday was celebrated each year he was President and for many years after his death, it did not become an Act of Congress until 1879. In 1971, all that changed when the Uniformed Monday Holiday Act was implemented creating "long weekends." In February, the third Monday was the long weekend, which folded both Lincoln and Washington into that holiday. Coincidentally, neither the 12th nor the 22nd would ever be included in that period. It was commercial advertising that labeled that weekend "Presidents Day."

This was the beginning of George Washington, the "Father of our Nation," becoming lost in commercialism and lost to history. Is this the way we treat a man who gave over 35 years of his life to the establishment of the greatest nation the world has ever known? I do not know that it was done intentionally but that is what is happening. There are seven states presently which officially recognize Washington's Birthday. That is up three states from when I started this campaign four years ago. Texas is NOT one of those states. Texas has the largest society in the SAR and the largest George Washington's Parade, in Laredo, yet it does not recognize the birthday of the "Father of our Nation."

George Washington was chosen as Commander-in-Chief over some very capable men, men with more military experience than he had. He was given little support and even less backing. He started out with 90-day recruits. It took almost four years to get enlistments up to three years. He had to pay his army with worthless currency, borrow money from friends, beg states for soldiers and supplies, then fight his top generals (appointed by Congress) because they all wanted his job.

During the period between the end of the war and the First Constitutional Convention, he continually worked to make the national governing body stronger. James Madison even asked him to use his name, influence, and backing to make the Constitutional Convention happen because they could not get a quorum of states in the first attempt. When they actually formed, he was asked to preside over the Convention.

If that was not enough, he was asked to serve as the first President of the newly formed United States under the Constitution, not only once but twice. During that time, he established numerous precedents for the Office of President, which have been carried on to the current administration. Historians may find kinks in his armor, but I am not sure if there is one of them that could do all that he accomplished, and in that time period, and under the conditions that this man did.

Is this the way we should treat a hero, a patriot, a statesman? No, not in this great state! Don't let the "nay-sayers" knock him down, step on his heritage, and tear him from the pages of history. Do your part to get February 22 recognized in Texas, as George Washington's Birthday. "These are the times that try men's souls!" ☀

## Chapter Submits 2020 Annual Report

By Kris Krueger

Each year, chapters across the nation submit their annual reports. The William Hightower Chapter submitted its report December 31. The Chapter's 2020 Annual Report reported 6,093 points in the Americanism category and 1,500 points in the President General Streamer category. The Annual Report covers all chapter activities from January through December each calendar year.

The Annual Report uses a point system for the Americanism, President General's Streamer, and the President General's Cup competitions. Like all competition, it can do more. As a competition, we can measure ourselves against other chapters. As a chapter, we can measure ourselves across time. We can use the report to help us identify what we are doing well and what we can do better.

The competitions organize chapters into four categories: 1-49 members, 50-99 members, 100-199 members, and 200+ members. The William Hightower Chapter is in the 50-99 members category. So, how did our Chapter do in the competitions? For 2020, we will not know for a while. The closest comparison is 2019.

The National Society posted the 2019 results on its members' site. How competitive were we? Of the 58 chapters in our category, the William Hightower Chapter scored:

- 13th Place Nationally in the Americanism Competition, and the highest score in the Texas Society
- 12th Place Nationally in the President General's Streamer Competition, and the 2nd highest score in the Texas Society
- 8th Place Nationally in the President General's Cup, and the highest score in the Texas Society

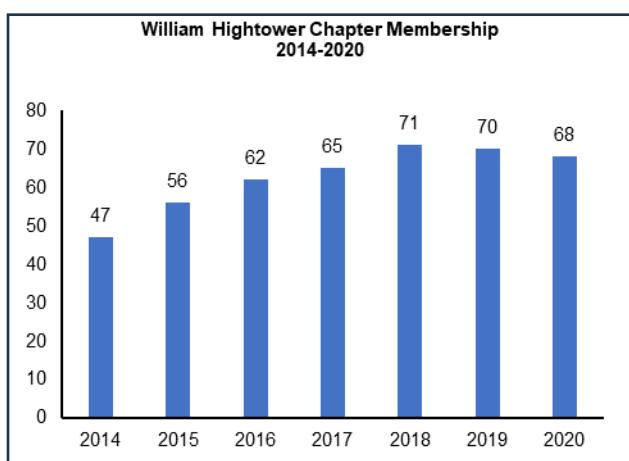
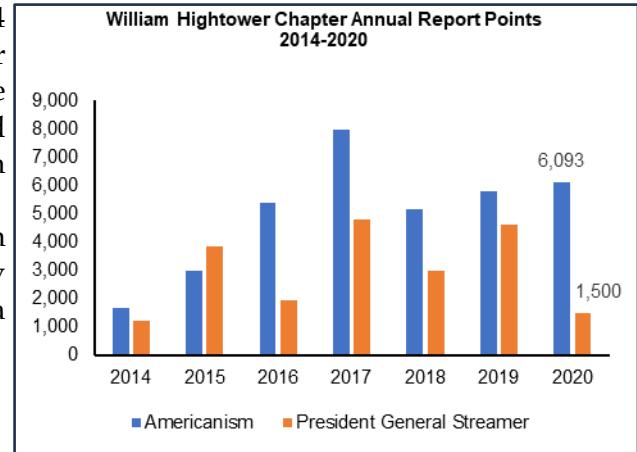
How will we do in 2020? It is impossible to predict because of COVID-19. The pandemic is impacting chapters across the country at every level, especially the ability to interact with their communities. So many activities were cancelled in 2020, it will be interesting to see how able chapters were to participate in different activities.

We can also use the Annual Report to look at ourselves. We can compare our Annual Reports from past years to get a sense of our overall direction, look for strengths, and find weaknesses to improve. I have compared the Annual Reports from 2014 to 2020.

William Hightower's average score for Americanism from 2014 to 2020 is 5,012 points. The average President General's Streamer score is 2,982 points. The highest year for points was 2017, where Americanism scored 7,960 and President General's Streamer scored 4,790. It is an impressive outcome for a great year. In comparison, in 2020, even with COVID-19, we had our second-best year since 2014.

The impact on the William Hightower Chapter can be seen in the President General's Streamer competition. The score is greatly impacted by the lack of community events to participate in. Here is a comparison:

- 2017: 4,790
- 2019: 4,595
- 2020: 1,500



While 2020 should be considered a stand-alone year because of the pandemic, the Annual Report can help us keep track of how the Chapter is doing over time. While the competitions are great and keep us motivated, these reports can continue to help the Chapter grow even after the trophies, certificates, and streamers are presented.

*Happy Birthday to our Compatriots  
And Remembering our Patriot Ancestors*

Happy Birthday, Compatriots

John C. Wommack, February 11

Don Richey, February 15

Russell Hooten, February 20

Kris Krueger, February 28

**Remembering our Patriot Ancestors**

John Lanning, ancestor of James Lanning, born 2/27/1757

Morgan Cryer, Sr., ancestor of Clyde Parsons, born 2/22/1756

William Lomax, ancestor of Francis Sloan, born 2/14/1744

## HEAR YE! HEAR YE! Compatriot Society Anniversaries February

Steve Polk, 26 years

Stu Hoyt, 10 years

Mike Pryor, 6 years

Jason Nelson, 4 years

John B. Hall, 3 years

Rodney Young, 2 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

### Get Your Nominations in Now!

By Kris Krueger

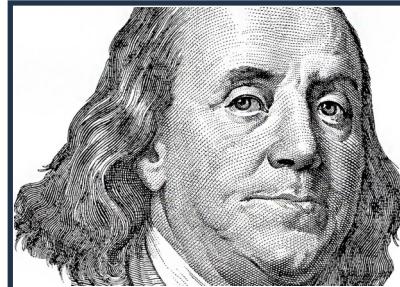
The last day to get nominations in for the March awards ceremony is Friday, February 12. If you have a Compatriot or a Friend to the Chapter you would like to nominate, send your nomination to Awards Committee Chair Kris Krueger at [krisk96@gmail.com](mailto:krisk96@gmail.com) or send them to Chapter President Tom Jones at [tomandbet@aol.com](mailto:tomandbet@aol.com).

Know someone you think needs to be recognized, but not sure what to recommend? You can see our special insert in the January *Hightower Recorder*, available at this [link](#). ☀

### George Washington's Life Guard

Continued from page 1

The Guard was an elite group in the Continental army and there were many false claims of being one of these chosen few, but I can claim that one of my Patriot Ancestors, Moses Cutter, became a member of this elite group in his last year of service in the Continental Army, 1783. ☀



### Poor Richards Almanac

When you're good to othere, you are best to yourself.

# *William Flightower 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: Open  
Medals, Awards & Citations: Kris Krueger  
Public Events: Patrick Hollis  
Public Service Awards: Open  
Publicity & Media: Will Moravits  
ROTC & CAP: Tom Jones  
Scouting: Kris Krueger  
Youth Awards & Contests: Will Moravits

