

TEXAS SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
WILLIAM HIGHTOWER Chapter #35



NEWSLETTER

March 2016

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Whereas most of the American colonies were huddling with their backs to the cold north wind and looking forward to the first signs of spring, the folks in Boston were generating their own form of heat by harassing the British soldiers who had been sent from England to control the unrest that was brewing in that area of the colonies. Trouble had been astir since the British Parliament had taken it upon itself to require the colonies to pay for the cost of quelling the French incursion during the French and Indian war of 1750 to 1757. It didn't help that Britain had its own war with the French called the Seven Year War. They were quite in debt and were looking for any help that would alleviate the stress on their economy. The backlash from the Stamp Act caused Parliament to rethink that proposal but not the desire to make the colonies pay through some other form of taxes. Some of the colonies were more vocal than others but the folks in Boston, kindled by a man named Samuel Adams and a little Rum, decided to take it out on a poor British guard and the Custom House on a cold evening on March 5, 1770. He was able to turn the other cheek to the spitting and name-calling but the icy snowballs were a little too much. He called for assistance and soon Captain Thomas Preston had eight soldiers there to back up the weary snow covered guard. No amount of encouragement by the Captain was able to overcome the crowd tainted by anger and spirits. Even though those eight soldiers heard the command to hold fire, the constant enticing and snowballs caused one of them to squeeze the trigger and others soon followed. There were five men on the ground before Captain Preston could get his soldiers under control. Today, we know the incident as the "Bloody Massacre on King St." Ironically, Samuel's cousin John Adams would be called on to defend those soldiers in a trial that next October. Two would receive branding on the cheek as a convict rather than hanging. The battle was on.

I enjoyed the March meeting because it was the end of the chapter's business year and a time to say thank you for all the good that has been done. I could not recognize every one but I was able to commend the staff that supported me during this past year. We still have a few spots to fill but the team will be ready to get off to an exciting start on 1 Apr. Whether you are on the staff or a loyal member of the chapter, your assistance is needed to make this a great year for the chapter.

In order to make a difference, we not only need to set some goals but we need to exceed them. None of this can be done without you. It will cost us to achieve what we aspire to do. We were forced to pass a budget based on members' dues but much of what we do and did was accomplished by private donations. We have included a scholarship fund in

our dues but that money is restricted to scholarships. I have asked the finance committee and the webmaster to come up with a way to accept online private donations. I will also institute a Fund Raising Committee. Until then, you can help by sending a check to the chapter via the Treasurer at our PO Box.

This next year I would like to get to know and honor you. Please email or send me your bio. We would like to recognize your civic and military accomplishments. Get involved with your assigned committee by email. I would like an email copy of your NSSAR record copy, awards and achievements for our personnel files. Don't forget to include your birthdate.

Join us at the April meeting to honor the scholarship winner of 2016. Make time to attend Folkfest in NB on 9 and 10 Apr. Join us at the 126 State Convention in Plano from 31 Mar to 3 Apr. Be an active member, wherever you are. We need you.

Stu Hoyt, Pres. WH#35, TXSSAR, NBSAR.net

March is the end of the fiscal year for the Chapter and the time to present the new slate of officers for FY2016-17. L-R, President Stu Hoyt, Vice President Steve Polk, Secretary Ed Blauvelt, Treasurer Terry Hardeman and Historian Travis Tate.

The Chapter also proudly acknowledged prospective members. Compatriot Mike Pryor introduced Associates Don Allen, Kris Kruger, Tom Jones and Jim Lanning. Compatriot Lou Segaloff introduced his friend, Mike Carpenter, the Mayor of the city of Schertz, TX.

Awards were then presented by President Hoyt with the assistance of Compatriot Blauvelt.

The first awardee was Compatriot Patrick Hollis who was presented with two awards. For his service from 1 Jan. 2015 to 31 March 2016, he received the Chapter Medal of Distinguished Service for distinguishing himself as Registrar by recruiting, researching, birddogging, and following through to add seven new members to the Chapter rolls. As Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, he not only developed a guide by which to



recruit scholarship applicants, he developed a quantifying method to grade each application. As a compatriot concerned with the promotion of his chapter, he encouraged other members to provide material on our Revolutionary Compatriots and the history of the period while editing and coordinating with the local newspaper to publish a minimum of twenty-four articles. His unselfish devotion to the promotion of this Chapter in the public view warrants recognition by this award.



His second award was the Meritorious Service Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster, for his service from 1 Jan. 2009 to 31 March 2016. During this time Compatriot Hollis distinguished himself by serving as Secretary, Vice President, President, State District Vice President and Registrar. He has served on the Scholarship, ROTC, Essay and Orientation committees. He is the organizer and interface in Folkfest, Fourth of July Parade, New Braunfels' Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, and currently the editor of 24 articles on the SAR to the Herald-Zeitung newspaper. His unselfish devotion to the promotion of this Chapter in the public view warrants recognition by this award.

Compatriot Terry Hardeman was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his service from 1 Jan. 2011 to 31 March 2016. During this time he distinguished himself as the Chapter Treasurer, Registrar, and Chairman of the Financial Committee. He has also given of his time by supporting the booth at Folkfest and marching in the Fourth of July Parade. His unselfish devotion to the promotion of this Chapter in the public view warrants recognition by this award.





The Bronze Children of the American Revolution – Sons of the American Revolution Medal of Appreciation was awarded to Compatriot Cliff Caskey for his meritorious service from 1 Jan. 2009 to 31 Dec. 2102. During this period he served as President of the C.A.R. as a representative of the William Hightower Chapter. His duties included enhancing membership, promoting the purposes of the C.A.R., and encouraging future membership into the SAR. His unselfish devotion to the promotion of this Chapter in the public view warrants recognition by this award.

President Hoyt presented Compatriot Steve Polk with the Certificate of Appreciation Medal for his support and service as Vice President of the Chapter this past year.



Secretary Ed Blauvelt (right) presented President Hoyt with the Certificate of Patriotism Award for his service during the Vietnam War, which is signed by NSSAR President General Lawrence.



There was a group presentation of the Meritorious Service Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to Compatriots Lou Colantoni, Jerry Bullock, Cliff Caskey and Travis Tate.



Two ladies received awards for their service to the SAR.



Mary Colantoni was awarded the Martha Washington Medal for her service from 1 Jan. 2003 to 31 Dec. 2005. During this period Mary stood by her husband, the only member to have served three consecutive terms as President of the William Hightower Chapter #35. Her unselfish devotion warrants recognition by this award.

The Lydia Darragh Medal was awarded to Milynn Tate for her meritorious service to the Chapter from 1 Jan. 2010 to 31 Mar. 2016. During this period Milynn has stood by her husband, Secretary and Historian of the Chapter. She has diligently served as editor of our newsletter during this time and missed very few meetings, even on her birthday in 2015. She is truly a “behind the scenes” heroin. Her unselfish devotion to the promotion of this Chapter in print warrants recognition by this award.



The Awards portion of the meeting culminated in a picture of all of the awardees: Cliff Caskey, Lou Colantoni, Jerry Bullock, Mary Colantoni, Stu Hoyt, Milynn Tate, Terry Hardeman, Patrick Hollis, and Travis Tate.



Announcements:

Mar. 31st to Apr. 3rd is the 126th Annual TXSSAR Convention in Plano, TX

April 9-10 are the dates for Folkfest 2016 at the Heritage Center. The Chapter will be setting up their booth and displays. Members and their families are encouraged to attend. Compatriots who have uniforms are asked to wear them or to wear patriotic colors.

April 9th is the date for the Parade of Heroes in Gatesville, TX at 10 a.m.

April 14th WH#35 monthly meeting Program will recognize the Chapter Scholarship winner and present a review of the 126th Annual TXSSAR Convention. Also the Committee List will be distributed.

President Hoyt's goals for 1016/17:

- *Recruitment of at least 10 new members. Recruitment is ongoing. Posters are available to take and share, thus encouraging more interest and applications into the SAR.
- *Location and placement of flags on 200 veteran's graves
- *Promotion of historical articles via the media
- *Organization of our Color Guard to attend events
- *Selection of a history teacher for the History Teacher of the Year Award
- *Enhancing our "Speakers' Bureau"
- *Participation of the Chapter in three outside activities during the year

The next meeting at Granzin's is April 14th.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nbtksam> Website: <http://www.nbsar.net>

