

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



NEWSLETTER

November 2016



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

All the eyes of the world were on George Washington, who had just defeated the greatest army and naval forces in the then known world. The forces of Great Britain had stood down and evacuated New York, their last holdings of the original American Colonies. He had power at his grasp and the world was waiting for his next move. That move shocked them just as the "First Shot Heard Round the World" back in 1775. Converse to what they expected, he stepped down and this is, basically, what he had to say to his troops near Princeton, NJ, on 2 Nov 1783. He opened by summing up the prior eight years. It was a miracle that so many from diverse backgrounds, with differing opinions of the conditions which spawned the outcry for our cause of liberty could unite together as a disciplined army and instantly became but one patriotic Band of Brothers. He went on to say that these United States would be ever indebted to them for their sacrifice, which they long endured. He reminded them of their abilities and resourcefulness and encouraged them to transition those skills to harness the opportunities that lay ahead both at home and the movement west. He encouraged them not to dwell on the hardships and the dark hours that they experienced on the field but to build on the glorious victory, much like those of his fellow citizens, towards affecting these great and valuable purposes on which our very existence as a nation so materially depend. He closed with a statement to all those who followed his lead from the general to the private. "May ample justice be done them here, and may the choicest of heaven's favors, both here and hereafter, attend those who, under the divine auspices, have secured innumerable blessings for others; with these wishes, and the benediction, the Commander in Chief is about to retire from service. The curtain of separating will soon be drawn, and the military scene to him will be closed forever".

November has come and gone and with it Thanksgiving and all the leftovers. We have a lot to be thankful for, a great country, a great heritage, a great lineage, health and prosperity. The William Hightower chapter also has much for which to be thankful. We have a great membership with diligent workers, a great outreach program, which is bringing in new members, and a great color guard, which is a great representation of the chapter and SAR. Take a moment to be thankful for all that you have.

We did not attain our goal to mark two hundred veterans grave with flags but we are not writing it off as a loss. WE can still search out those veterans graves in our community and get them on the list for next year. There is a program called "Wreaths Across America". So on Dec 17th, we are attempting to work with DAR, VFW, American Legion

and the SM CAP to honor our fallen veterans at a Veterans Memorial in San Marcos. More information will follow.

Earlier in the year, I asked the membership to come up with a name for our wonderful newsletter. I stated that we would give \$25.00 to the member who came up with the winning name. I will rekindle that challenge. We will announce the title of our newsletter at our January meeting. Be part of that fun contest. I have invited a special guest to speak at our December meeting. His name is Abraham Clarke, who signed the Declaration of Independence. I would also like to have an Executive Board meeting on Sat. 10 December, at 10 AM at the home of Jerry Bullock. Be prepared to discuss the first quarter of 2017, the 2017 officers and board, and our 2017 goals.

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

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The November meeting is one of the most rewarding since it is when the chapter members present the Public Safety Awards for Police, Fire, EMS and Heroism. Compatriot Lou Colantoni has chaired this committee for several years and has done an outstanding job of selecting finalists from the many awardees submitted from five counties. The chapter joined him in thanking the awardees and their families for their presence and for “going above and beyond” for the safety of the rest of us.



Firefighter, Richard Chalk, has been with the Seguin Fire Dept. since 2008 and is known as an exceptional paramedic with vision, and also for his good nature and positive attitude. His strong knowledge of emergency medicine was instrumental in developing the Field Training Officer Program as

well as assisting in the development of specifications for a new ambulance. In addition he suggested and developed a cadaver class for the department personnel at the University Health Science Center. He is also a member of the firefighter advisory committee. The chapter proudly presented him with the Emergency Medical Services

Award. Pictured are Compatriot Lou Colantoni, Firefighter Richard Chalk, and President Stuart Hoyt.



Seguin firefighter, Ryan Hale, is a consummate professional who also has a real passion for his job. He assisted, at risk of serious bodily harm, in the rescue of an unconscious woman from a burning structure which saved her life. He was recognized for his participation in the rescue and awarded the Seguin Fire Dept. Medal of Valor. He also plays a key role in the new employee training program, serves on several committees and is the Honor Guard Commander. The chapter awarded him the Fire Safety Commendation Award.

Deputy Martin Ferguson from the Comal County Sheriff's Office was one of several deputies and officers called to Bulverde to disarm a man who wanted to claim "suicide by cop." Deputy Ferguson's car received several bullets with another entering Deputy Ferguson's lower abdomen. He continued to address the threat, demonstrating extreme bravery and valor, disregarding the unknown status of his injury. The chapter proudly awarded him the Medal for Heroism.



The final recipient for the evening was Sheriff "Bob" Holder who was elected to his post in 1997. He is a former Marine and also a graduate of the National Sheriff Institute, F.B.I. National Academy, the Leadership Command College and the Texas Governor's Management Program. He was employed by the Texas Department of Public Safety for thirty years. Sheriff Holder is a longtime resident of Comal County where he previously served as the Highway Patrol Sergeant from 1977 through 1993. He is an active member of the community where he has and continues to serve in many local civic organizations

as well as a board member on several state and national civic and charitable organizations. His service to the public covers almost half a century. It was an honor to present Sheriff Holder with two awards, the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal and the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal:



Following these presentations a group photo was taken. Left to right: Registrar Mike Pryor, Lou Colantoni, Ryan Hale, Bob Holder, Richard Chalk, Martin Ferguson, Stu Hoyt.



After the presentation all veterans were asked to stand and WWII veterans were acknowledged:



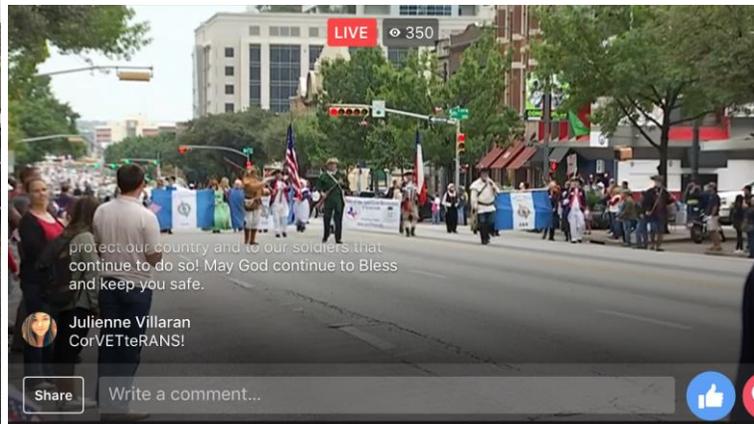
The last special event of the evening was the induction of Compatriot Kristopher Keith Krueger. He entered through his patriot ancestor, John Nicolas Whisenant. The pictures below show him (1) receiving the oath from President Hoyt while Registrar Mike Pryor monitors, (2) the presentation of the rosette from Compatriot Pryor, and (3) receiving his membership certificate from President Hoyt.



----- Veterans Day Parade -----



Austin SAR/DAR before the parade followed by picture of the SAR/DAR/CAR ready to march. Last picture is of President Stu Hoyt with Austin Police Chief Acevedo followed by parade pictures. Last picture is of corvette club. Some pictures are from Facebook.





----- Flag Ceremony at the San Marcos, TX, CAP -----

On the evening of November 15th the TXSSAR Color Guards of the William Hightower and Patrick Henry Chapters joined the San Marcos Civil Air Patrol TX-435 David Lee 'Tex' Hill Composite Squadron in their Flag Raising Ceremony. The chapters thoroughly enjoyed the interaction with the cadets and hope that it was a positive experience for them. President Hoyt also had the opportunity to share some thoughts on leadership with those cadets. Comprising the Color Guards were James Clements and Robert Hites of the Patrick Henry Chapter and Jerry Bullock, Mike Pryor, John Booth and Don Chandler of the William Hightower Chapter. In the first picture below are James Clements and Robert Hites and in the second is Jerry Bullock conversing with three cadets.



----- The Texas Compatriot, Fall 2016 Issue -----

In this latest issue are several Color Guard pictures, some which include our illustrious President Hoyt. Also, the editor used one of President Hoyt's letters. He works diligently on behalf of the chapter and it's an honor to see him rewarded in this way.

----- Reminders -----

- Executive Board Meeting in December
- December Program: special guest, Abraham Clarke, NJ, signer of the Declaration of Independence
- Next meeting: December 8th at Granzin's Restaurant, 6 p.m. supper/7p.m. meeting

Color Guard Events: **18 Feb George Washington Parade**, Laredo, TX muster at Ramada Inn 6:30A for Int'l Bridge, 9:00A for parade. (Must submit a release form to Tom Green)

NAME THE NEWSLETTER Contest, submit your suggestions to President Hoyt or to Secretary Blauvelt. Winner to be selected in January and awarded \$25!

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

