



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
FREEDOM CHAPTER**

March 16, 2021 MINUTES

VIA ZOOM



Call to Order: 6:03 PM

Mel Oller, District Vice-President

Pledges/Invocations

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag – Mel Oller

Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag – Mel Oller

SAR Pledge – Mel Oller

Invocation – John Meredith

Introduction of Guest – Jeff Lehr, new applicant for membership.

Members Present - 16

Speaker: Compatriot Ed Sellards

Saving American Sacred Soil: The American Battlefield Trust

Ed Sellards provided the Chapter with a Power Point Presentation on the history and purpose of the premier American Battlefield Preservation non-profit in the US. Using personal photos and the Trust's own videos, he demonstrated the 3 missions of the Trust: **PRESERVE, EDUCATE, and INSPIRE**. Freedom Chapter members are highly encouraged to check out the American Battle Trust's website to learn more about how they can help join in the mission of Saving American Sacred Soil.

Roundtable Introduction: none tonight due to the length of program.

Minutes of Last Meeting: No Chapter Meeting held February due to extreme weather

Treasurer's Report: none

Registrar's Report: 8 National applications approved to date for 2021

Old Business

Eagle Scout **Court of Honor** attended by President Dave Underdown and Marshall Brown. Picture in the Conroe Courier. 40 Eagle Scouts are projected to be recognized in 2021.

JROTC Medals (10) were delivered to area Senior Instructors by Ed Sellards

Mel Oller reminded Compatriots to complete a Patriot Biography entry for at least their Revolutionary War ancestor and to send a copy to Registrar Dave Hamaker.

Oration & Brochure Contest: Compatriot Oller relayed that all cash prize monies for last year's oration contest were mailed. 2021 Middle school brochure winners were determined by Chapter Officers February 28: 1) L. Fernandez, 2) D. Barg, 3) N. Allen.

Annual Supplemental and American Reports: Secretary Ed Sellards electronically submitted required annual reports 10 and 14 February, respectively.

Sam Houston's B-day and Texas Independence Day Celebration in Huntsville 2 March. Compatriots Dave Underdown, John K. Thompson, Dave Hamaker, Bob Mennell, and Ed Sellards attended the annual program and wreath laying ceremony.

Funeral for Compatriot Stanley Snipes 8 March held at Champions Forest Baptist Church. Compatriots Dave Underdown, Art Byram, John K. Thompson, Mel Oller, Dave Hamaker, and Ed Sellards served as Color and Honor Guard.

New Business

Compatriot Kelly Troublefield was asked by the Chapter to check with Wood Park and Cashner's Cemeteries about the viability of a Dec 2021 Wreaths Across America Partnership and to report back for April's meeting.

TXSSAR Annual State Convention to once again to be held via ZOOM, (Fri/Sat) 16-17 April. Registration is \$10 through the State webpage. Compatriots are encouraged to attend. State committee meetings to be conducted first 2 weeks in April.

TXSSAR Color Guard Rally to be held in Wimberly Texas, 10 April. The Color Guard will be filmed for upcoming State Convention. Compatriots Mel Oller (State CG Adjutant), John K. Thompson (Past State CG Commander), Dave Hamaker, Bob Mennell, and Ed Sellards will be attending.

This Day in History: Mel Oller standing in for Don Stone – This week in history:

- 1778 Valley Forge ordeals and the miracle of Washington's perseverance during the winter.
- 1781 Battle of Guilford Court House: While a tactical defeat for the American Army, led by Nathaniel Green in North Carolina, it turned into a strategic victory. British LT Gen Cornwallis forced to head to the Virginia Capes to be resupplied. The siege and battle of Yorktown effectively won Independence for the Colonies.

SAR Closing/Adjourn: Mel Oller 7:18 PM

IN REMEMBRANCE OF COMPATRIOT STANLEY SNIPES