



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
FREEDOM CHAPTER**



September 21, 2021 MINUTES

Call to Order: 6:33 PM

David Underdown

Pledges/Invocations

Posting of the Colors – David Hamaker

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag – David Hamaker

Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag – Ed Sellards

SAR Pledge – Mel Oller

Invocation – Don Stone

Members Present – 23

Guests – 8

Minutes of Last Meeting: minutes from June 15 meeting posted online

Treasurer's Report: \$6,264.63

Registrar's Report: 5 applications at State; 7 applications at National; 17 approved 2021

Scouting Report: Ben Bonnett reports that Eagle Scout Awards are picking up!

Awards: John Thompson presented the NSSAR Lafayette Medal and Certificate to David Hamaker for his vast hours of volunteer service with the Patriot Research System (PRS) database.

John Thompson presented the NSSAR 250th Anniversary Medal and Certificate to Compatriots Hamaker and Sellards.

State Secretary Mel Oller presented Chapter President Underdown the NSSAR 2021 President General Education Outreach Streamer Award for programs presented to the public promoting the Sons of American Revolution and the history and heritage of our nation in 2020.

Speaker

Denton Florian, Director of the 'Sam Houston American Statesman, Soldier & Pioneer' Topic of Program: Illumination of San Jacinto Battlefield'. Program honoring the 21,500

registered Texans killed in our Nation's history. The San Jacinto Monument will be arraigned with 21,500 illuminaries on the 12th of November 2021. Key quote of the program: "We have failed to teach about Liberty". This idea to honor Texans, who gave the supreme sacrifice, was borrowed from the annual program conducted on the Antietam Battlefield, outside of Sharpsburg, Maryland. Volunteers and donations were requested to assist at the site of TEXAS LIBERTY.

Induction of New Members: Chapter President Underdown inducted the following new members: John Gillespie, Tom Stuewe, Loren Johnston, Jeff Lehr, and Pete Slough.

Roll Call: Compatriots shared the names and service of their Revolutionary War ancestors.

Old Business

- June 17, DAR San Jacinto Chapter "Never Forget Garden" Program in Tomball. Nine Compatriots served in the Color Guard in honor of the Centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.
- August 13-14, Compatriots Hamaker and Sellards attended Battle of Medina Symposium and Program in Leming, Texas (south of San Antonio). This was a Texas SAR Color Guard Event.
- August 31, Orations Presentation to 2021 winners at Paideai Classical School in Spring, Texas. Attended by Compatriots Oller, Underdown, Thompson, and Sellards.
- September 11, Patriot's Day Programs in Conroe and The Woodlands; Compatriots Underdown, Morton, Meredith, Thompson, Hamaker, and Sellards attended in uniform.
- September 17, Compatriot Thompson attended the Ringing of the Bell Ceremony in Humble in celebration of the 238th Anniversary of the U.S. Constitution.
- September 18, Compatriots Hamaker, Meredith, Marshall, and Sellards participated in the Color Guard for Texas Navy Days Program, held at the San Jacinto Monument.
- Wreaths Across America program at New Montgomery Cemetery set for 18 December 2021. Dave Hamaker has volunteered to head committee.

New Business

- Compatriot Hamaker encouraged all Compatriots to become part of the Chapter's Color Guard.
- Compatriot Hamaker announced that the Bank of Spirit Bank has agreed to sponsor the entire 130 wreaths for upcoming December WOA event! David shared the brochure announcing the event and how to access and purchase

wreaths. More details shared about the involvement of the city of Montgomery and other heritage organizations.

- Compatriot Sellards, in his role as Chapter representative on the Texas SAR Division Veterans Committee, announced a donation drive of non-monetary items for Veterans. Ed will be collecting items to take to the VA Debakey Hospital in Houston, Texas later in December. Handout with needed items was provided to all in attendance. Compatriots are requested to bring items to the October and November meetings. Larger donations to be picked up? Please contact Ed Sellards at 832-729-2457/edsellards@yahoo.com.
- September 25, Medal of Honor Parade in Gainesville, Texas (a National CG event).
- October 7-9, TXSSAR Board of Managers Meeting Clear Lake Hilton. Compatriots Kuykendall, Oller, Sellards, and Hamaker scheduled to attend.
- October 26, School Reenactor Presentation, Hope Church in Montgomery, 10AM. For 1st-3rd graders.
- November 10, Walk the Walk – 100th Anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Program 11:00 am at the Montgomery County Veterans Park in Conroe.
- November 11, The Woodlands Township Veterans Day Tribute at Town Green Park, 4:30 – 5:30 pm.
- November 20, Thanksgiving Parade announced in the city of Tomball.
- December 11, Christmas Parades in Conroe and Montgomery. Chapter will march in the early afternoon Conroe parade and is investigating if at least 4 Compatriots will be available for Montgomery, earlier in the morning.

This Day in History – By Don Stone; Sep 21, 1780: Benedict Arnold passed military intelligence about the fortifications at West Point to British Officer/Spy John Andre. Temptation of power and money combined with a sense of ingratitude for his sacrifices to the American Cause resulted in Arnold's betrayal of our country. Arnold is still considered the biggest traitor to our nation and his name is synonymous with the word TREASON.

SAR Closing/Adjourn: David Underdown 7:44 PM ...'till we meet again'