



SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
FREEDOM CHAPTER



September 19, 2023 MINUTES

Call to Order: 6:30 PM

Art Byram

1st VP Hamaker led the Color Guard (Johnston, Lano, Hayes, Kluth) in the posting of the Colors

Pledges

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag – led by Art Byram

Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag – led by David Hamaker

SAR Pledge – led by Art Byram

Invocation – Don Stone

Members Present – 29 **Guests** – 17

Minutes of Last Meeting: minutes from the August 2023 meeting posted online, seconded by Pete Slough, and approved.

Treasurer's Report: \$10,991.47; seconded by John Meredith and approved. A \$5,000 donation was made to the Chapter from the Kim Morton Foundation.

Registrar's Report: Registrar Huntington. 3 new applications to State; 5 applications at National; 19 new members to date. .

Ancestor Roll Call: None this month.

Recognition of Guests: 1st VP Hamaker recognized Past President General Tom Lawrence (meeting speaker); State Secretary Mel Oller; SRT Lone Star Chapter President Rusty McLaughlin; all the DAR ladies present, and guest Jeff Feister.

New Members: 1st VP Hamaker inducted William 'Butch' Cain and presented him with his membership certificate. President Art Byram presented him with the membership rosette.

Awards: President Art Byram and 1st VP Hamaker presented the Compatriot Grave Marking Medal to Loren Johnston, Jr.

Chapter Veterans Chair Sellards and President Byram presented the Military Service Medals to Raymond Smith and Thomas Davis; The Military War Medal was presented to Butch Cain.

Program

Past NSSAR President General Tom Lawrence: 'The Boston Tea Party and the path toward the Revolution'.

Backdrop: The East India Stock Company was established with the Crown's blessing in 1698. It was composed of members of Parliament, a small group of rich merchants, and the royal family. Within a few decades The Company became an economic and military giant, rivaling the British Crown itself. The entire tea business was a monopoly, but the American colonies were very adept at avoiding the taxes imposed by buying tea smuggled into America by the Dutch. Taxes imposed by the Parliament during the 1760's to help pay for the Seven Year's War (French and Indian War) were all repealed except for the Tea Tax due in large part to the Sons of Liberty in Boston.

Spurred on by their successes, the Sons of Liberty, led by Samuel Adams and supported by the very wealthy Boston merchant John Hancock, schemed together to deprive the British of their tea by having their own Tea Party. Dressed as Indians and under the cover of darkness, the Sons of Liberty rowed out into Boston harbor on the evening of December 16, 1773. They boarded the 3 East India ships carrying 92,000 pounds of tea and proceeded to remove it from the 342 lead-lined chests and dump it into the water.

Tom stressed that this action brought on four 'intolerable acts' from the British Parliament in retaliation, the worst being the closing down of Boston Harbor. This action unified the colonies like nothing else, resulting in the 1st Continental Congress of held in Philadelphia from September 5 to October 26 of 1774. The countdown to the Revolution had begun.

Tom's program was an outstanding review of the road to Revolution and the primary cause...*Tea? Maybe why coffee is so preferred today.....something to sip on....*

President Byram presented Tom with an American Flag as a token of THANKS!

[CG EVENT CATEGORIES: N: National S: State C: Chapter]

Upcoming Events and Color Guard Activities

S	20-22 Oct	TXSSAR BOM	College Station
C	26 Oct -	US Naturalization Program	Bryan
C	04 Nov -	Compatriot Grave Marking Program	San Antonio
C	10 Nov -	JROTC Klein ISD Veterans Day	Klein
N	11 Nov -	Montgomery Co Vets Comm/Vets Day	Conroe
C	13 Nov -	Twin Creeks DAR Meeting	Spring
S	02 Dec -	Dickens on the Strand Parade	Galveston
C	09 Dec -	Christmas Parade	Conroe
C	15 Dec -	Lady Washington DAR Christmas Lunch	Houston
N	16 Dec -	Wreaths Across America	Montgomery

Old Business

- Compatriot Charles Lano qualified for the NSSAR 250th Silver Medal
- Compatriots Byram, Hamaker, Lano, Sellards, and Kluth attended the annual Patriot/1st Responders Day Program at the Main Fire Station in The Woodlands on 9/11/2023.
- Compatriots Meredith, Lano, Byram, Hayes, and Sellards participated in various Elementary School assemblies in support of the Coushatti Trace DAR Chapter and Constitution Week.
- Compatriots Byram and Sellards attended the Houston Honor Flight Homecoming at Hobby Airport 30 September. Over 400 greeted the returning Veterans from Washington D.C. The Honor Parade through the Airport was led by Art and Ed. Thanks to Susan Byram for taking great pictures and videos.

New Business

- President Byram announced that the Freedom Chapter has worked with a local company to produce a granite bench (an NSSAR 250th project) for the upcoming new Education Building being built at the Montgomery County Veterans Park in Conroe. The Company is donating the bench, so there will be no cost to the Chapter. The Veteran's Commission has just voted to approve the project. The location of the bench will be placed at the front entrance of the building. A ribbon cutting ceremony for the new building is scheduled for November 11, 2023, Veterans Day.
- 1st VP Hamaker announced that the Wreaths Across America event is fully funded for 2023. A big thanks to Compatriot Tom Stuewe for his efforts!
- Compatriots Hamaker and Sellards announced that the Chapter will be conducting the second Chapter Compatriot Grave Marking Program in November; date to be determined at October meeting.
- Coushatti Trace DAR Chapter and Freedom Chapter is teaming up at Travis Middle School in Conroe, 17 and 18 October, for school/class presentations.
- November Chapter Meeting date changed from 21 November to 14 November due to Thanksgiving.
- State Secretary Oller encouraged all Compatriots to pay their upcoming annual dues online.

This Day in History – by Don Stone;

19 Sep 1776: Final Presidential Address of George Washington warning Americans of 'frightful despotism' and factions vs. factions.

19 Sep 2023: The New York City Council voted to remove a Statue of George Washington, citing that any works of art depicting those who owned slaves were men 'participating in crimes against humanity'. Beyond Sad.....

SAR Closing/Adjourn: President Art Byram, 7:33 PM 'till we meet again'