



## SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



### FREEDOM CHAPTER

FEBRUARY, 16, 2026, MINUTES

Call to Order: 6:30 PM

President Hamaker

**Invocation** Compatriot Lano

Compatriot Myers led the CG (Compatriots Miles, Jones, Thompson, and Tyson) in the posting of the Colors.

#### **Pledges**

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag led by Compatriot Hamaker.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag led by Compatriot Hayes.

SAR Pledge led by Hamaker.

Mission Statement led by Compatriot Hamaker.

**Members Present –20 Guests – 23.**

**Recognition of Guests:** Compatriot Hayes recognized State President Mel Oller, District 7 VP, SAR/CAR State Liaison Art Byram, himself as State Treasurer, State Color Guard Commander David Hamaker, Past Chapter Presidents; John Thompson, David Underdown, and DAR ladies present from the Mary Vaughan Corner, Robert Raines, and San Jacinto Chapters.

**Election of Chapter Officers:** At the January 2026 meeting, the nominating committee provided a list of willing and qualified candidates for office. President Hamaker opened nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were made and the slate of candidates were approved by unanimous consent.

2026 Officers:

President - Don Hayes

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Ed Sellards

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – William Myers

Secretary – Don Kluth

Treasurer – OK Jones

Registrar – Richard Huntington

Chaplain – Charles Lano

**New Members:** None.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting:** Secretary Kluth reported minutes from the January meeting were posted online to the Chapter's website and the minutes were approved as posted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Hayes reported an ending balance of \$8,384 and approved as read.

**Registrar's Report:** No formal report; however, Compatriot Hamaker stated the Chapter was doing well for 2026.

**Scouting Report:** No report.

**Youth Programs Report:** See "New Business" below.

**Media/Newsletter Report:** Compatriot Hamaker reported everyone should be receiving the newsletter. If anyone is not, please let him know.

**Proclamation Review:** No report at this time.

**PROGRAM:** Video – First in War

## **AWARDS**

Compatriots Hamaker, Hayes, and Sellards presented:

- **Chapter Awards**
  - Bill Myers – Bronze Meritorious Service Medal & Certificate.
  - Don Hayes – Bronze Meritorious Service Medal & Certificate.
  - John Thompson – Lifetime Achievement Award & Certificate.
  - Kristie Campbell – Medal of Appreciation & Certificate.
- **Color Guard Awards**
  - None.
- **Special Presentations**
  - State President Mel Oller presented Ed Sellards his George Washington Fellows Gold Lapel Pin & Certificate.
  - Jim Tyson, representing the Texas Navy, presented Charles Lano his Certificate as an Admiral in the Texas Navy.
  - Debbie McLaughlin representing the Quilts of Valor Foundation, presented quilts to:
    - Wallace Shook.
    - Charles Lano.
    - OK Jones.
    - Art Byram.
    - Ed Sellards

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Youth Program Contest Compatriot - David Hamaker
  - Three (3) Orations and Four (4) Essays
- Color Guard and other Events Compatriot - David Hamaker
  - George Washington Birthday Parade, Laredo, 21 Feb 2026
  - Medal of Honor, San Antonio, 21 Mar 2026

**ANCESTOR ROLL CALL:** No roll call.

**This Day in History** – Not presented.

**Benediction** – Compatriot Lano gave the benediction.

**SAR Closing/Adjourn:** President David Hamaker, 8:15 PM... 'till we meet again'.

### ***Sons of the American Revolution Mission Statement***

***'The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War Patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations, about the founding principles of our Country.'***