



# The Cradle of Texas Crier

Cradle of Texas Chapter # 33  
Sons of the American Revolution



Volume10, Number 5

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Dr. Don Pugh, Editor

## Meeting at Smithart's Texas Grill in Angleton

### Richard Henry Lee will be Topic

The speaker for the regular meeting of the Cradle of Texas Chapter on Saturday, May 12 at 11:30 a.m. will be Professor Kent McGaughy, Professor of History at Houston Community College, Northwest. His topic will be "The Life and Times of Richard Henry Lee." The site of the meeting will be the Smithart's Texas Grill in Angleton. Smithart's is located at 2440 North Velasco (288B) in Angleton just north of the Kroger's Grocery.

Professor McGaughy (*pronounced MA-goy*) received his B. A. in history from the University of Texas at Austin, and his M. A. and Ph.D. in history from the University of Houston. He has published articles in the *Journal of New York History*, *History in Dispute: The American Revolution*, and the *Encyclopedia of Conspiracy Theories*. He has also appeared on C-Span's Washington Journal discussing Richard Henry Lee as one of America's Founding Fathers. Professor McGaughy resides in Katy. He will be discussing Richard Henry Lee (1732-1794) and his contributions to the founding of the American Nation. Lee was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, a participant in the ratification debates over the Constitution of the United States and one of the first senators from Virginia. He will try to answer the question why, after considering all of his accomplishments, Lee remains a "forgotten founder." He will have copies of his book *Richard Henry Lee of Virginia: A Portrait of an American Revolutionary* available for purchase and signing.

### April Meeting Minutes

The Cradle of Texas Chapter #33, Sons of the American Revolution met at the Baytown Seafood Restaurant in West Columbia, Texas on Saturday, 14 April 2007 at 11:30 A.M.

Members present were Garvin Germany, Mike Rees, Arnold Seidule, Don Pugh, Russell Dart, Roger Byler, George Easterling, Tillman Daniel, Donald Mudd, and Thomas Mudd. The guests present were Earlene Pugh, Alton Rogers, Ladene Rogers, Janice Seidule, Coryne Boggs Choate, Elizabeth Melton, Fay Burke, Vernon Burke, Aaron Bell, Tammy Bell, Lauryn Bell, and Kay Mudd.

President Tillman Daniel called the meeting to order., then Reverend Roger Byler gave the Invocation followed by Russell Dart who led pledges to the Flags and SAR.



Arnold Seidule and W. Vernon Burke

Arnold Seidule presented a flag award to W. Vernon Burke and his wife, Fay

Announcements were made. Russell Dart noted that at the State meeting we received a flag award and a special recognition for our contribution to the Patriot's Fund. The \$2,000 plus contribution to the Patriot Fund was primarily the result of the State Board of Manager's meeting last August in Lake Jackson. Arnold Seidule was recognized. for his service to the youth programs and his donations to the Patriot Fund. He received one of the first Alexander Hamilton medals for his gifts. Dr. Don Pugh received

recognitions for: 1. Service on the Knight Essay Contest committee; 2. service as District Vice President and 3. a Distinguished Service Medal which can only be given once a year by the Texas SAR.

This was a superbly attended State meeting with the largest attendance by the Chapter ever: 7 members!

Don Mudd presented Lieutenant Aaron Bell of the Manvel Police Department a law enforcement medal in



**Lt. and Mrs. Aaron Bell and Donald Mudd** front of his wife Tammy and child Lauren. He has been with the Manvel Police for 9 years and a Lieutenant for three.

President Tillman asked for old business and new business of which there was none. The members ordered and ate their meals before the presentation.



**Judge Garvin Germany**

Judge Garvin Germany presented a program on the role of Masons in the Texian Revolution. He discussed the various roles of many of our Texas Heroes in the founding of the Masonic Lodge in Texas.

Roger Byler led the Chapter in a Benediction, then the group recited the SAR closing. President Tillman Daniel adjourned the group.

## President's Corner

With the recent news and publicized events taking place in Virginia, it will be followed with cries for more gun control. The liberal anti-gun regime has gained fire with these occurrences, taking the stance total elimination of guns would solve America's violence. This is not the answer. We need to return to a nation where God is a symbol of our strength as "In God We Trust" is still on our currency. We need to have a society where our Pledge of Allegiance has not been amended so the word "God" does not offend 15 percent who say God has no place in America. We have asked God to leave our schools, courthouses, assemblies and country. Guess what? When God leaves, evil prevails.

We need to preserve our Second Amendment right to bear arms. "Laws that forbid the carrying of arms...disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes...Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man." This quote from Thomas Jefferson's "Common Place Book". 1774-1776.

Taking guns off the streets give criminals the power. Stolen guns, rap sheets with multiple offenses and no regard for human lives are characteristics of that sort. If more gun education programs, background checks, or permits are mandated, so be it. Everyone who should have a firearm, if so desired, should be permitted. The problem lies not with the law-abiding public, but criminals. Our constitution guarantees us certain inalienable rights, lets not lose them.

Tillman Daniel M.D.

## Compatriot Education

### The Finances of our Organization

*Last month we began a series of articles relating to the financial information from our chapter, the Texas Society and the NSSAR. This is the second in that series.*

### The Joe M. Hill Patriot Fund

None of our dues to the State and National Organizations goes to support our Youth Programs. On the National level each these scholarship programs raise their own funds and endowments to support them. Texas, being the largest State Society participates in each of the programs that are recognized by the National Society. On the State Level, several years ago through the efforts of Joe M. Hill a State President, there begin the efforts to raise an endowment to fund these Youth Scholarship Programs. The Fund has been named after Joe M. Hill. The funds in

this endowment are raised through efforts of the Society to get members to contribute above and beyond their Local, State and National Dues. The money in this endowment fund stands now at \$335,818, which includes about \$31,000 from the Ritchie Fund. The programs are funded from the interest and earnings from these funds, the capital stays in the fund and is invested. The Patriot Fund trustees for these funds are charged with investing these funds according to the policies of the society and are invested along with the other funds that belong to the State Society. The committee that is charged with the responsibility of assigning the amounts of these funds to the various committees is the Patriot Fund Projects Committee, currently chaired by our own Arnold Seidule. Each of the committees charged with running these programs present their requests through the Contest Medals and Awards Committee and the Patriot Fund Committee honors these requests up the limits of the funds available.

The last several years the Patriot Fund has been hit with a triple blow. Donations to the fund were lagging, the interest rates received from these funds were very low because of the very strict requirements of the By-Laws in the kinds of vehicles that could be used for investments, and the inflationary trends that were causing the amounts of the scholarships to be very low. In the last two years, there have been several silent auctions at the State Meetings, including the one here in the Cradle of Texas that added a substantial amount of money to the endowment. Also through the efforts of Arnold Seidule and his committee, there have been some additional donations from our members to the fund. Also, last year the Board of Managers of the Texas Society voted a change in the By-Laws that relaxed a little the kinds of investments that could be made of the funds in the endowment. These efforts for the first time in several years gave a slightly increased amount of interest available to the funds and they were increased for next year a little over two thousand dollars from a budget of about \$14,000 to over \$16,000, still leaving us way behind many other programs of similar stature in the scholarship programs.

These funds are used to provide the Oration Contest, the Essay Contest, The American History Teacher program, the Eagle Scout Contest, the Junior ROTC contest and medals program, the Elementary School Poster Contest and, the Children of the American Revolution Essay Contest. Some of these contests include some travel expenses for contestants and allow us to enter some of the winners in the National Contests. So, it is easy to see that the amount of money available has to be stretched very thin to be able to provide some money for each venture. Some members of our chapter have been active in administering the State and local contests that choose the successful participants for these honors. The highlight of the Saturday luncheon at the State Conference is the finals for the Oration Contest and the awarding of prizes to the

successful students. This has been a very heart-warming experience for our membership.

There has been one recent program that has been instituted to assist the Texas Society in raising money for these events. Arnold Seidule and his committee had administered a program to award pins for different levels of giving to the Patriot Fund. This program has been supplanted by a new process which awards the Alexander Hamilton Medal to any person whose cumulative gifts to the Patriot Fund has met or exceeded \$1,000. The medal is in the process of being struck, but several of our members of the State Society were awarded this medal at the State Conference. Among these was Arnold Seidule. Also, there has been a special certificate devised to present to chapters who have exceeded this goal. The Cradle of Texas chapter received one of these certificates mainly because of the gifts made from the silent auction and the historical tour at our recent Board of Managers meeting here in Lake Jackson. One of the new changes in this program has been to allow members to designate which of the projects they wanted their funds to go in addition to contributions in the past to the general Patriot Endowment Fund.

However what process we need to effect to raise sufficient funds for these programs, the net condition is that we must raise much larger amounts of money to keep these programs from being marginalized by the paltry amounts of the scholarship prizes. If you have checked the newspapers lately and seen the rising costs of tuition at even our State supported colleges and Universities, a couple of thousand dollar scholarship, while helpful, does not have the effect of the same amount of scholarship from only a couple of years ago. We encourage our membership to contribute to these funds by sending your donation to our TXSSAR Treasurer, James T. Jones, Jr. PO Box 10178, College Station, TX 77842. If you would like further information contact Arnold Seidule.

NEXT: Topic 3. Perpetual Membership Program

## Patriotic Holidays

### Memorial Day – May 30

Most Americans nowadays have forgotten the meaning and traditions of Memorial Day. To help Americans re-educate and remind Americans of the true meaning of Memorial Day, the “National Moment of Remembrance” resolution was passed in Dec 2000 which asks that at 3 p.m. local time, for all Americans “To voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a Moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to ‘Taps.



### Flag Day – June 14

Inspired by these three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day – the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 – was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities

for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14<sup>th</sup> of each year as National Flag Day.

### Declaration Day – July 4

The first newspaper to print the Declaration was the Pennsylvania Evening Post on July 6, 1776. On July 8th the Declaration had its first public reading in Philadelphia's Independence Square. Twice that day the Declaration was read to cheering crowds and pealing church bells. Even the bell in Independence Hall was rung. The "Province Bell" would later be renamed "Liberty Bell" after its inscription - Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto All the Inhabitants Thereof. Although the signing of the Declaration was not completed until August, the 4th of July has been accepted as the official anniversary of United States independence. The first Independence Day celebration took place the following year - July 4 1777. By the early 1800s the traditions of parades, picnics, and fireworks were established as the way to celebrate America's birthday.

## Important Dates

NSSAR Congress, Williamsburg, VA Jul 6-11, 2007  
 TXSSAR Board of Managers, Boerne Aug 3-5 2007  
 NSSAR Leadership Meet, Louisville Sep 27-29, 2007  
 TXSSAR Board of Managers Plano Oct. 26-28, 2007  
 TXSSAR State Conference, Arlington Mar 27-30, 2008  
 TXSSAR Board of Managers, Tyler, Aug 1-3, 2008

**This May meeting will be the last Official meeting until September 8. Be sure to mark that date now on your calendar.**

### FINANCIAL REPORT

April 30, 2008

General Fund Balance 27 Mar 2007		\$3,005.18
Total Income	\$0.00	
Balance		\$3005.18
Disbursements		
Guest Lunches	\$39.35	
JROTC Medals and folders	\$16.00	
Total Disbursements	\$55.35	
Balance April 30, 2007		\$2949.83
Barbara McAlexander Fund		
Deposit February 1, 2007		\$1000.00
Total Bank Balance April 30, 2007		\$3949.83

### Cradle of Texas Officers for 2007

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