



# The Cradle of Texas Crier

Cradle of Texas Chapter # 33  
Sons of the American Revolution



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Dr. Don Pugh, Editor

## November Meeting Postponed Until November 18

### Lawrence Jablecki to Speak

The Cradle of Texas Chapter #33, Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution will hold their regular November meeting at Windswept Restaurant in Oyster Creek on November 18, 2006 after a weeks postponement to allow the members to participate in the various Veterans Day celebrations throughout the area. The meeting will be at 11:30 a.m.

The special speaker for the meeting will be Dr. Lawrence Jablecki whose topic will be "The Struggle for Natural Rights during the American Revolution." Dr. Jablecki holds a Ph.D. from Manchester University in Manchester, England with a major in Political Philosophy and is currently an adjunct professor at both the University of Houston at Clear Lake and in the Sociology and Humanities Departments of Rice University. He has formerly served in an adjunct position at Brazosport College.

Until his retirement in 2004, Dr. Jablecki was the Director of the Brazoria County Community Supervision and Corrections Department here in Brazoria County. He has published many papers in both popular and scholarly journals. He is married to Donna Mae Jablecki, who was formerly the Science Coordinator with the Brazosport Independent School District. They are the proud parents of Nathaniel Thomas and Sarah Elizabeth Jablecki. In 1998 Dr. Jablecki was elected as a member of the prestigious Houston Philosophical Society.

### Minutes of the Meeting of October 14, 2006

The regular meeting of the Cradle of Texas Chapter, TXSSAR met at the Baytown Seafood Market in West

Columbia at 11:30 a.m. on October 14, 2006. The following members were present: Clell Sechrest, Roger Byler, Arnold Seidule, Russell Dart, Mike Rees, Don Pugh, George Easterling, Donald Mudd, Milton Wing, Garvin Germany and Jim Salisbury. The following guests were present: Mary Sechrest, Jimmie W. Read, Lee Slonek, Coryne Choate, Wanda Easterling, Paul Wofford, Kay Mudd, Ladene Rogers, Alton Rogers, Mary Nita Wing, Dorothy Salisbury, and Janice Seidule.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Dr. Mike Rees at the absence of President Tillman Daniels. The pledge to the United States Flag was led by Donald Mudd and the pledge to the Texas flag was led by Milt Wing. The pledge to the SAR was led by Judge Garvin Germany. The invocation was given by Chaplain Roger Byler. The minutes of the previous meeting and the treasurer's report were approved as printed in the Newsletter.

Announcements regarding the Veteran's Day Celebrations were offered by George Easterling and Judge Germany. Based on that information, the Board of Managers present were polled and the meeting regularly scheduled for November 11, Veteran's Day, was postponed to the following Saturday, November 18. The meeting will be held at Windswept Restaurant in Oyster Creek at 11:30 a.m.

An interesting program was presented by Michael Bailey, Curator at the Brazoria County Museum regarding Jean Lafitte and his participation in many revolutionary escapades.

The meeting closed with the SAR Closing and the benediction by Chaplain Roger Byler.

### Anniversary of TXSSAR

The 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Texas Society will be celebrated on the afternoon after our meeting on December 9 at 3 PM in Galveston at the corner of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and Church Street at the site of the Old Tremont Hotel (not the current hotel of the same name) where J. Hobart Evans

served as the organizer and first president of the Galveston Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and the beginning of the Texas Society in 1896. We are urging all



members of the Society to drive over to Galveston and participate in this recognition. We will have color guard members and local Galveston politicians in attendance and President Tom Green will be assisting in the event.

To get to the site, stay on Broadway as you come on the island and turn left on 23<sup>rd</sup> street and go about 4 blocks and the historical marker is on the west side of 23<sup>rd</sup> street. Plan to make the effort to come.

## President's Corner

I would like to pass along to you John McCain's remarks about the Pledge of Allegiance. In light of the recent appeals court ruling in California, with respects to the Pledge of Allegiance, the following recollection from Sen. John McCain is very appropriate.

The Pledge of Allegiance  
by Senator John McCain

As you may know, I spent five and one half years as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War. In the early years of our imprisonment NVA kept us in solitary confinement of two or three to a cell. In 1971 the NVA moved us from these conditions of isolation into large rooms with as many as 30 to 40 to a room. This was, as you can imagine, a wonderful change and was a direct result of the efforts of million of Americans on behalf of a few hundred POWs 10,000 miles from home.

One of the men who moved into my room was a young man named Mike Christian. Mike came from a small town near Selma Alabama. He didn't wear a pair a choes until he was 13 years old. At 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He later earned a commission by going to Officer Training School, then he became a Naval Flight Officer and was shot down and captured in 1967. Mike had a keen and deep appreciation of the opportunities this country and our military provide for people who want to work and to succeed

As part of the change in treatment, the Vietnamese allowed some prisoners to receive packages from home. In some of these packages were handkerchiefs, scarves and other

items of clothing. Mike got himself a bamboo needle. Over a period of a couple of months, he created an American flag and sewed it on the inside of his shirt. Every afternoon, before we had a bowl of soup we would hang Mike's shirt on the wall of the cell and say the Pledge of Allegiance.

I know the Pledge of Allegiance may not seem the most important part of our day now, but I can assure you that in that stark cell it was indeed the most important and meaningful event.

One day the Vietnamese searched our cell as they did periodically, and discovered Mike's shirt with flag sewn inside, and removed it. That evening they returned, opened th door of the cell, and for the benefit of all of us, beat Mike Christian severely for the next couple of hours. Then; they opened the door of the cell and threw him in. We cleaned him up as well as we could. The cell in which we slept had a concrete slab in the middle on which we slept. Four naked light bulbs hung in each corner of the room. As I said, we tried to clean up Mike as well as we could. After the excitement died down, I looked in the corner of the room, and sitting there beneath that dim light bulb with a piece of red cloth, another shirt and his bamboo needle was my friend, Mike Christian. He was sitting there with his eyes almost shut from the beating he had received, making another American flag. He was not making the flag because it made Mike feel better. He was making that flag because he knew how Important it ws to us to be able to Pledge our allegiance to our flag's Country.

So the next time you say the Pledge of Alliance, you must never forget the sacrifice and courage that thousands of Americans have made to build our nation and promote freedom around the world. You must remember our duty, our honor, and our country.

Tillman Daniel  
President Cradle of Texas Chapter

## Veteran's Day

November 11, is the anniversary of the Armistice which was signed in the Forest of Compiegne by the Allies and the Germans in 1918, ending World War I, after four years of conflict. At 5 A.M. on Monday, November 11, 1918 the Germans signed the Armistice, an order was issued for all firing to cease; so the hostilities of the First World War ended.

This day began with the laying down of arms, blowing of whistles, impromptu parades, closing of places of business. All over the globe there were many demonstrations of relief and patriotism; no doubt the world has never before witnessed such rejoicing.

In November of 1919, President Woodrow Wilson issued his Armistice Day proclamation, and in 1927 Congress issued a resolution requesting President Calvin Coolidge to issue a proclamation calling upon officials to display the Flag of the United States on all government buildings on November 11, and inviting the people to observe the day in schools and churches...But it was not until 1938 that Congress passed a bill that each November 11 "shall be dedicated to the cause of world peace and ...hereafter celebrated and known as Armistice Day."

That same year President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill making the day a legal holiday in the District of Columbia. For sixteen years the United States formally observed Armistice Day, with impressive ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where the Chief Executive or his representative placed a wreath. In many other communities, the American Legion was in charge of the observance, which included parades and religious services. At 11 A.M. all traffic stopped, in tribute to the dead, then volleys were fired and taps sounded.

After World War II, there were many new veterans who had little or no association with World War I. The word, "armistice," means simply a truce; therefore as years passed, the significance of the name of this holiday changed. Leaders of Veterans' groups decided to try to correct this and make November 11 the time to honor all who had fought in various American wars, not just in World War I. In Emporia, Kansas, on November 11, 1953, instead of an Armistice Day program, there was a Veterans' Day observance. Ed Rees, of Emporia, was so impressed that he introduced a bill into the House to change the name to Veterans' Day. After this passed, Mr. Rees wrote to all state governors and asked for their approval and cooperation in observing the changed holiday. The name was changed to Veterans' Day by Act of Congress on May 24, 1954. In October of that year, President Eisenhower called on all citizens to observe the day by remembering the sacrifices of all those who fought so gallantly, and through rededication to the task of promoting an enduring peace. The President referred to the change of name to Veterans' Day in honor of the servicemen and servicewomen of all America's wars.

Many of the members of our chapter and the Texas



Society were participating in the special events of this important day.

## Important Dates

Cradle of Texas Chapter Meeting	Dec. 9, 2006
TXSSAR 110 <sup>th</sup> Ann., Galveston	Dec. 9, 2006
NSSAR Leadership Meet, Louisville	Feb 23-25, 2007
TXSSAR 112 <sup>th</sup> State Convention	
San Antonio	Mar 22-25, 2007
NSSAR Congress, Williamsburg, VA	Jul 6-11, 2007
TXSSAR Board of Managers	TBA
NSSAR Leadership Meet, Louisville	Sep 27-29, 2007
TXSSAR Board of Managers Meeting	
Plano	Oct. 26-28, 2007
TXSSAR State Convention, Ft. Worth	March, 2008
NSSAR Congress, Sacramento, CA	July 2-9, 2008

## Dues Notices

Be on the lookout in your mailbox for your annual dues notice. They should be mailed in just a few days. Please take care to write your check and get them in very quickly as it saves the society money and our officers time in their schedules. Your dues are the lifeblood of our Society. The annual dues are \$47.00 which includes \$9.50 for our chapter which is really the only funds that we have on which to operate for a year, \$12.50 for our State operations and \$25.00 to operate the National Society.

In your dues notice there are opportunities to make gifts to the various programs of our State Society. The Youth programs are funded principally from interest on funds that our membership has contributed. We call these funds the Patriot Funds and your gifts are needed to fund the scholarships and expenses for the various youth programs; for example, the Knight Essay Contest, the Oration Contest, the History Teacher program, and the JROTC and Eagle



Scout programs. Our funds have not generated enough interest in the last several years to fund these programs at meaningful levels. These gifts are tax deductible. It is possible this year to donate funds directly for the current operation of these programs. You will see how this done on the information in your dues request letter. Please get these in prior to the first of the year.

## Report from the Board of Managers Meeting

Our chapter was well represented at the recent meeting in Houston. In attendance were President Tillman Daniel, Arnold Seidule, and Don Pugh. There was ample discussions of the proposed By-Law Changes that were in the last issue of the Texas Compatriot that will be up for vote at the Annual Meeting in San Antonio in March. The changes in the way that gifts are contributed to the Patriot Fund was approved and will be reflected in this year's dues request letter. The President's Council, which is composed of the Presidents of the various chapter met and reported a successful training session. There were many committee meetings held. Most of the business of the Texas Society actually begins in these committee meetings and recommendations are developed for the Board of Managers and the Society as a whole.

One side note. We still are receiving compliments from those who attended the meeting that we hosted in August. All are very complimentary and remark that it is a meeting to remember. Congratulations to our Chapter.

## December Meeting

Vice President Mike Rees has planned an exceptional meeting for December. The place has yet to be arranged. However, the program will include as a special speaker, Professor Ira Gruber who will speak on African Americans in the Revolutionary War. Those of us who attended the National Congress remember the special program that was announced to identify the 5,000 plus African Americans who served in the Revolutionary and consequently their descendants eligible for membership in the Society. Also in attendance will be Mr. Clarence Sasser, the only Medal of Honor Winner in Brazoria County who has contributed in many ways to the life of the citizens in the county. A special guest will be Ms. Evelyn Opaku a naturalized United States Citizen from Ghana, West Africa. Ms. Opaku has two children who have graduated or are attending the United States Military Academy.

## Special Exhibits

There are two important exhibits in the area that may be of interest to our Compatriots. The Houston Museum of Natural Science has a special Benjamin Franklin Exhibit that is attracting a lot of interest.

The second exhibit is Alexander Hamilton: The Man that Made Modern America. This traveling exhibition is based on the original exhibition at the New York Historical

Society. It will be shown from December 21, 2006 through February 16, 2007 at the Harris County Public Library Cy-Fair College Branch. For further information see the Harris County Public Library Website. The library is located at 9191 Barker Cypress, Cypress, Texas 77433.

### FINANCIAL REPORT October 31, 2006

General Fund Balance Sept. 28, 2006	\$3,121.40
Income	
Kroger Share Funds	\$102.83
Total Income	\$102.83
Disbursements:	
Guest Lunch	13.04
Total Disbursements	\$13.04
Balance Oct 31, 2006	\$3211.29

### Cradle of Texas Officers for 2006

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