



Sons of the American Revolution
Cradle of Texas Crier
Cradle of Texas Chapter # 33
www.cradletxsar.org



Volume 21 Number 07

October 2019

Michael J. Bailey, Editor

October

Next Meeting
October 12, 2019
11:30AM

Dragon Fly Restaurant
125 S Fulton Street
Wharton, Texas

Program:

Speaker:

Tom Green,
TXSSAR

Special Liaison to the DAR
and to the GWEF
Subject: Battle of Medina



Tom Green was born July 17, 1939 in his grandfather's hospital in Athens, Texas. He completed high school in Mabank, Texas in 1957 and attended North Texas University in Denton, Texas graduating in 1961.

Upon graduation from North Texas State University in May of 1961 Tom married Margo Irene Oberkamp in New

Braunfels on June of 1961, three weeks before reporting to the U.S. Navy Officer's Candidate School (OCS) in Newport, Rhode Island. After graduation from OCS, Tom attended the U.S. Navy Deep Sea Diving School in the Washington, DC for six months. Tom served on the U.S. S. Cree, a sea going salvage vessel, which served in the Viet Nam theatre when the U.S.A. was first getting involved, as well as patrolling the entrance to the Panama Canal during the Cuban missile crisis. Tom also served as Diving Repair Officer, First Lieutenant, Gunnery Officer and Navigator on the U.S.S. Piedmont, which was the oldest commissioned Navy ship in service at that time, and had been the Flag ship of Fleet Admiral "Bull" Halsey after WW-II ended. Tom completed six years of active duty in Key West, Florida as Training Officer of the U.S. Naval School for Underwater Swimmers, where most of the U.S. military divers were trained for duty in Viet Nam at that time, including some of the first S.E.A.L. team members. Margo and Tom's daughter Holly was born in the U.S. Navy Hospital in 1965 there in Key West.

Upon release from activity duty in the Navy in 1966, Tom joined the largest department store chain in Florida, became the Operating Manager for one of the Burdine's Department Stores in Miami, Florida, where he supervised the building, staffing, and stocking of three new department stores in three years. In 1972, Tom, Margo and Holly returned to Mabank, Texas where his father had operated a grocery store for 26 years, and assisted his father in operating the store until 1978 when Tom's father retired, and they sold

the family store. Tom then returned to the department store business in Dallas, serving as Operating Manager of a Joskie's store in Dallas.

In 1980, Tom moved his family to New Braunfels, Texas, the home of his wife, Margo, where Tom became active in the insurance business, owning and operating an insurance agency, as well as an insurance company for several years. In 1987, Tom sold his insurance interest to one of his partners and went to work for the Texas Department of Insurance serving as a site manager for the Receiver and later the Conservator. In 1999, Tom retired from the State of Texas and in 2003 Tom and Margo moved to Pearland, Texas, located south of Houston, to be near their daughter Holly and her family.

Tom has been active in both the Sons of the Republic of Texas and the Sons of the American Revolution before retiring, and much of his time since retirement has been taken up with promoting these two societies. Tom was the founding chapter president of the Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels Chapter #50 of the Sons of the Republic of Texas and he has also served as Hill Country District Representative of the Sons of the Republic of Texas for the past four years, and was recently inducted as a Knight of San Jacinto at the annual convention, the highest award of the SRT, which was started in 1843 by President Sam Houston during the Republic of Texas days. Tom has participated in several historic events with the Texas Army at the San Jacinto Battlefield, and recently joined the group officially, and was just appointed Admiral in the Texas Navy by Governor Perry.

Tom also served as president of the William Hightower Chapter #35 of the Sons of the American Revolution, while living in New Braunfels. Tom has served at the State level of the SAR as Vice President for

Promotion and Media Relations, as Staff Secretary, as President Elect, and recently completed a term as the President of the Texas Society. Tom now serves as the National Trustee of the Texas Society to the National Society SAR.

Tom is also a member of the American Legion and the North American Vexillological Association (the study of flags) and has collected or made over 60 historic flags of both the American Revolutionary and the Texas Revolutionary periods, and has given more than 250 Historic Flag Programs to SRT, DRT, SAR and DAR chapters, as well as historical societies, civic groups, family and professional associations, and more than 15,000 school children around the state of Texas. His knowledge of flag history is considerable; however, he always enjoys hearing a new story about the flags from the audience.

Cradle of Texas Chapter # 33
Sons of the American Revolution
MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2019

The Sons of the American Revolution met September 14, 2019 at Bay Town Seafood, West Columbia, Texas.

Call to Order - Chapter President Rodney Weems called the meeting to order at 11:40 A.M. Win Avera led the opening pledges.

Invocation - Registrar Bill Sanders

Pledges - Vice President Carl Wiggins led the pledges to the flags of the United States of America, Texas and the Sons of the American Revolution.

Introduction of Guests: President Weems introduced Stephen Bailey,

Rachel Houston, new members to be inducted and their spouses. The new members introduced their family members who came to support them. Other guests were Bud & Mary Northington and wives of members.

Awards:

The SAR Medal of Heroism



recognizes outstanding bravery and self-sacrifice in the face of imminent danger; i.e., acts which involve great personal courage and risk to the recipient. President Weems presented it to Sergeant Stephen P. Bailey of the Lake Jackson Police Department. On May 23, 2018 Sergeant Bailey was called to a disturbance at a hotel room. The subject inside the room had saturated himself and the room in gasoline and set himself on fire. Sergeant Bailey broke into the burning room and dragged the unstable man outside and saved his life.

The SAR the **Law Enforcement Commendation Medal** is presented to those who have served with distinction and devotion in the field of law enforcement. The medal is intended to recognize exceptional service or accomplishment in the field of law



enforcement. President Weems presented the medal to Brazoria County Sheriff's Deputy Rachel Houston who responded to the active shooter crisis at Santa Fe High School on May 18, 2018. Deputy Houston entered the inner perimeter of the school while shooting was in progress. There she calmly and clearly communicated vital information to the multiple responding agencies which allowed them to adapt to changing situations in progress which led to capture of the suspect. Sheriff Charles Wagner nominated Deputy Houston as the Sheriff's Office "Officer of the Year".

10-Year Membership Certificates



were present to Bill Greenwood and Cecil Ferguson, Jr. A 5-Year will be sent to Michael Uhl.



President Weems thanked Compatriot Arnold Seidule for his 22 years of service to the Cradle of Texas in his capacity as President, Vice President, Treasurer, Registrar and dedicated participant in all activities. Arnold, also, held the office of TXSSAR Vice President of District 7 and has substantially supported the Patriot Fund with his leadership and contributions. Arnold is moving to Richards, Texas.

Approval of Minutes: - The Minutes as published in the *Cradle of Texas Crier* were approved on a motion by Bill Sanders and a second by Dr. Tillman Daniel.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Nelson Leopold gave the following report:

General Fund

Beginning Balance	
05/01/2019	\$1,936.19
<i>Deposits -</i>	
Interest	\$0.16
Dues	\$839.00
<i>Expenses</i>	
<i>Supplies</i>	\$224.00
<i>Ending Balance:</i>	
08/31/2019	\$2,551.35

McAlexander Fund¹

Beginning Balance	
05/01/2019	\$900.21
<i>Deposits</i>	
Interest	\$0.31
<i>Ending Balance:</i>	
08/31/2019	\$900.52
<i>Total Bank Balance:</i>	
08/31/2019	\$3,451.87

Reports of Officers and Committees:

- Registrar - Bill Sanders
 - Applications Completed - 0
 - Applications in waiting NSSAR approval - 1 (Bud Northington)
 - Applications actively working - 26
- Webmaster - Carl Wiggins worked over the summer on the website to improve its stability and speed at which pages load. Some of these enhancements were the following:
 - Update the web service to WordPress version 5.2.2
 - Adding May meeting material, July 4th

¹ Available for purchase of uniforms for SAR Color Guard Members

celebration at Holly Farms and July 4th parade in Friendswood

- Added links to 2018 Officer of the Year nomination and Law Enforcement Recognition Certificates
- Added links to 2019 Bronze JROTC Awards, Eagle Scout recognitions in West Columbia and El Campo
- Grouped GALLERY pages to speed the loading of pictures
- Added a Chapter Reports Archive for capturing annual TXSSAR and NSSAR reports
- Community Outreach/Education
 - Rodney Weems reported the following:
 - JROTC Medals - 3 presented by Michael Bailey, 1 by Bill Sanders, 1 by Rodney Weems
 - Flag Certificates - 11 presented in Sweeny ISD by Rodney Weems
 - Law Enforcement Certificates - 13 in Brazoria County, 5 in Wharton County, 8 in Matagorda County by Rodney Weems
 - Eagle Scout Certificates - 3 in West Columbia by Win Avera, 1 in El Campo by Bill Sanders
 - Bill & Pat Sanders setup Constitution Week

displays at Louise High School and Louise Junior High School.

- Compatriot Sandy Weems reported that NSSAR has opened the **Military Service Medal** application process. You may go online and make application or turn you service information into Sandy.

Induction of New Compatriots:

Registrar Sanders inducted new Compatriots and Arnold Seidule presented the Challenge Coins.



Registrar Sanders, Joe Hudgins, Jason Brent Miller, David S. Hall, David E. Hall, Donald Congdon, Jr. and Junior Member Gavin Jake Congdon

Members Present: Rodney Weems, Dr. Bill Griffiths, Carl Wiggins, Bill Sanders, Win Avera, Sandy Weems, Tillman Daniel, Arnold Seidule, Jason Miller, Joe Hudgins, David E. Hall, David S. Hall, Cecil Ferguson, Don Congdon, Gavin Congdon, Nelson Leopold, Bill Greenwood, John Liles

Guests Present: Connie Avera, Caroline Wiggins, Pat Sanders, George "Bud" Northington, Jr. and Mary Northington, Merle Hudgins, Jenni Frenzel, Sandy Miller, Carroll Griffiths, Dee Hall, Donna Hall, Margaret Ferguson, Misty Congdon, Michael Cudmore, Doc Blakely, Stephen Bailey, Ashley Bailey, Harper

Bailey, Marlies Greenwood, Rachel Houston, Darren Mauery

Next Chapter Meeting: October 12th, Dragon Fly Restaurant, 125 S Fulton St, Wharton, Texas. This will be catered BBQ at \$11.00 per plate, only cash is accepted. Please RSVP to Carl Wiggins by October 10th at cmwiggins1@comcast.net or mobile (703) 665-6269 so that the caterer can be prepared.

SAR Recessional: Carl Wiggins

Motion for Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Nelson Leopold at 1:38 p.m. and seconded by Jason Miller and approved by all.

BENEDICTION: Bill Sanders

Next Meeting
October 12, 2019
11:30AM

**Dragon Fly Restaurant,
125 S Fulton Street
Wharton, Texas 77488
Phone: (979) 332-8118**

<https://dragonflywharton.com/>



DAR Celebrates Bells Across America 17 September, 2019



Laura Otto, Chapter Regent of The Asa Underwood Chapter, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution opens the event.



Cradle of Texas Chapter # 33, Chaplain Michael Bailey: Robby Roden, Brazoria Historical Militia: Tom Green, Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, provided support.



Chapter Chaplain Bailey opens with prayer.



Compatriot Tom Green gives opening words.



Loretta Washington, Columbia Historical Museum, leads songs of inspiration.

Thanks to the many members of the SAR Chapter #33 who took the time to support this event and show their faith in the United States Constitution.

Thanks to the DAR Asa Underwood Chapter for sponsoring this event for so many years.

Special thanks to Bill Sanders who worked in his area for the event and rang the Methodist Church Bell in Louise, Texas. No picture was available because Compatriot Bill rang the bells in the rain.

Compatriot M. Bailey gives a lecture on WWI equipment at the Gathering Place, an Alzheimers support group.



Texas Navy Day
Freeport Historical Museum
Freeport, Texas



Texas Navy Admiral Michael Bailey gives a lecture on period naval equipment.



Texas Navy Admiral Andy Hall, THC Marine Archaeological Steward, give a lecture on the ROT Invincible



Flem Rogers, of the Brazoria Historical Militia, gives a lecture on period weapons.

2019
Officers of the
Cradle of Texas Chapter #33

PRESIDENT-

Rodney Weems

979- 548-8833

rodneyweems@yahoo.com

VICE-PRESIDENT -

Carl Wiggins

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281-996-7976

SECRETARY -

To Be Determined= Open

TREASURER-

Nelson Leopold, III

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