



## Texas Sons of the American Revolution

### Cradle of Texas Crier

Cradle of Texas Chapter # 33

[www.cradletxsar.org](http://www.cradletxsar.org)



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May 2023

Michael J. Bailey, Editor

#### May

**Next Meeting**  
**13 May, 2023, 11:30 a. m.**  
**Mikeska's BBQ and Bakery**  
**(at Blue Creek Road)**  
**El Campo, Texas 22730**  
**US Hwy 59**  
**PROGRAM**



Gerry Griffin, a previous NASA employee, will tell the Chapter about NASA.

#### MEETING MINUTES

Sons of the American Revolution  
Cradle of Texas Chapter #33  
April 8, 2023

The Sons of the American Revolution met April 8, 2023, at Swamp Shack Restaurant in Lake Jackson.

**Call to Order** -President Bill Griffith called the meeting to order at 11:40 A.M.

**Invocation** - Vice President Carl Wiggins read the Apache Prayer

**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 Griffith introduced Compatriots' spouses, speaker David Ramirez after which Compatriots, spouses and guests introduced themselves.

#### Program:

David Ramirez, Commander of the 9th Brigade of The Sons of Confederate



Veterans, President of Chapter 23 Sons of the Republic of Texas, Senior Vice-President of American Legion Post 87, Director of American Legion Riders, and Master Mason of Wharton County. David was raised in Boling, lives in Wharton, and is a machinist for Gurecky Manufacturing Service in Rosenberg. David's oldest sister traced their family's genealogy to Canary Islanders whom Spain settled in southern Texas in 1731.

David shared his knowledge about the participation of Tejanos in the Confederate States Army of the Trans-Mississippi (all the Confederacy west of the Mississippi River) as well as in the Texas Revolution. Below are two items that he quoted.

According to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, "Colonel Santos Benavides became the highest-ranking Tejano to serve the Confederacy. Born in Laredo in 1823, he was a descendant of Tomás Sánchez de la Barrera y Garza, the founder of the small community. Assigned to the Rio Grande Military District at the beginning of the war, he crushed local revolts against Confederate authority on the Rio Grande. In November 1863 Benavides was authorized to raise his own force that became known simply as Benavides' Regiment. Perhaps his greatest triumph came on March 19, 1864, when he drove back more than two hundred soldiers from the Texas Union Cavalry. Benavides helped make possible the safe passage of cotton across the Rio Grande to Mexico during the Union occupation of the Lower Rio Grande Valley in 1863-64. During Reconstruction, Benavides remained active in his mercantile and ranching activities along with his brother Cristobal. He served three times in the Texas House of Representatives from 1879 to 1884, the only Tejano in the legislature at that time, and twice served as alderman in Laredo. He died at his home in Laredo in 1891."

"The Eighth Texas Infantry battalion of the Confederate States Army was organized by Alfred Marmaduke Hobby in Refugio County on May 14, 1862. It

consisted of five regiments, the fifth was under José M. Peñaloza. The battalion trained at Camp Charles Russell near Banquete until July 19, 1862, when it was ordered to defend Corpus Christi as a part of the Twenty-ninth Brigade. There it was joined by various other units of light artillery and mounted rifles and in February 1863 became the Eighth Texas Infantry regiment, with a staff including John Ireland, J. A. Throckmorton, Daniel D. Shea, and others. As a battalion, the force prevented a federal invasion at Corpus Christi in August 1862 and in September captured Acting Volunteer Lieutenant John W. Kittridge of the federal fleet. In 1863, after organization of the regiment, the Eight guarded Fort Esperanza on Matagorda Island, kept a battery on Mustang Island, and in May drove Union troops off St. Joseph's Island. In the fall of 1863 superior Union forces under Nathaniel P. Banks were able to force Hobby's troops back to the San Antonio River. After December 1863 they were ordered transferred to East Texas, but many entered Waul's Legion instead. Part of the Eight regiment was stationed on Galveston Island in the winter of 1863; other units in the area of Indianola and Lavaca engaged in skirmishes with the federals as late as February 1864. Most of the units fought under Thomas N. Waul in the battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill in April 1864 and from then to the end of the war were employed in coastal defense in Texas. The regiment was mustered out of service on May 22, 1865." Hobart Huson; [www.tshaonline.org](http://www.tshaonline.org)

The site of the Fannin Memorial Monument on US Highway 59 south of

Goliad is located on land that once belonged to David's family and the name of one of his grandfathers is inscribed on the monument.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes were approved on a motion by Rodney Weems and a second by Winston Avera.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Chris Wendel gave the following report:

#### GENERAL FUND

Beginning Balance	
3/01/2023	\$4,172.37
Deposits - Interest	\$0.07
TSSAR deposit (Membership)	129.00
TSSAR deposit (Membership)	<u>54.00</u>
Total Income:	\$183.07
Expenses:	
Ck #1063 Rodney Weems - Constitution booklet reimbursement	192.50
Total Expenses:	<u>\$192.50</u>
Ending Balance:	
3/31/2023	\$4,162.94 <sup>1</sup>

#### McAlexander Fund<sup>2</sup>

Beginning Balance	
3/01/2023	\$903.70
Deposits - Interest	\$0.08
Ending Balance:	
3/31/2023	<u>\$903.78</u>
<b>Total Bank Balance:</b>	
<b>3/31/2023</b>	<b>\$5,066.72</b>

The report was approved on a motion by Chris Wendel and a second by David Garza.

#### Awards/Recognitions:

- Rodney Weems - 2023 TX SAR Patriot Metal

- Robert Riley - 25 Year Membership Anniversary Certificate
- Abigail Humber - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner in TX SAR brochure contest, \$300 award & certificate
- Everett Umber - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner in TX SAR poster contest, \$300 award & certificate
- Cradle of Texas Chapter - TX SAR Flag Presentation certificate
- Carl Wiggins - TX SAR Silver Service Medal and Certificate for Yearbook Committee service

#### Reports of Officers and Committees:

- **Registrar - David Garcia - One (1) Supplemental sent to State Registrar**
- **Webmaster - Carl Wiggins**
- **Community Outreach/Education - Rodney Weems reported the TX SAR Eagle Scout Winner was Matthew Westfall from the Sam Houston Council of Scouting. He won 1st place at the SAR National Congress. Our Chapter did not have a submission.**
- **Color Guard - Michael Bailey - Russell Dart and Michael performed Color Guard service for ASA Underwood DAR Chapter George Washington Tea and the Brazoria Heritage Foundation.**

#### Old Business:

- Discussion about participation with a float in the Memorial Day

<sup>1</sup> SAR District 7 VP provided \$1,600 for JROTC Scholarship awards and is not available for regular Chapter #33 expenses.

<sup>2</sup> Available for purchase of uniforms for three (3) SAR Color Guard Members

parade was tabled until the May meeting when Compatriot J. D. Humber can provide leadership on this project.

- Previously tabled topic of providing a SAR plaque for the Brazoria Veterans Memorial Wall
- Michael Bailey reported that the plaque cost will be \$750.00.
- Carl Wiggins moved for \$200.00 of Chapter funds be donated if a vote by Chapter members subscribed to the additional \$550.00.
- Rodney Weems received a call from National SAR about the 250 Constitution booklets he ordered. National had never received an order this large and was checking its correctness. Michael Bailey now has the booklets.
- Carl Wiggins reported that a Revolutionary War veteran by the name of Smithers (or some variation thereof) is not believed to be buried in Texas. Therefore, no further efforts will be made to mark a grave for him.

**Carl Wiggins told of some of the Texas SAR Annual Convention:**

- Seven (7) chapters vied in the 2022 Yearbook contest. Six (6)
- submissions were expected. One unexpected submission was from

the newest chapter, Ark-La-Tex in Atlanta, Texas. Yearbook contest had five (5) non-partisan judges who each independently scored and ranked all seven (7) entries in the three competition categories:

- Small Chapter Category - 1st place winner was Edmond Terrell; 2nd place was Ark La-Tx
  - Medium Chapter Category - 1st place winner was Robert Rankin; 2nd place was McKinney.
  - Large Chapter Category - 1st place winner was Dallas; 2nd place was Plano; 3rd place was Piney Woods.
  - Tom Jackson presented a slide show establishing San Antonio's bid to host the 2028 SAR National Congress.
- New Business:**
- Michael Bailey made a motion for the Chapter to donate \$100 toward the proposed SAR monument at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin. Carl Wiggins seconded the motion which passed.
  - Members Present: Dr. William Griffiths, Carl Wiggins, Rodney Weems, Winston

- Avera, Michael Bailey, David Garza, Russell Dart, and Bill Adriance

**Guests Present:** David Ramirez, Connie Avera, Carrol Griffiths, and Janet Mallard

**Next Chapter Meeting:** May 13, 2023, Mikeska's BBQ, El Campo; Gerry Griffin, a previous NASA employee, will tell us about NASA.

**SAR RECESSIONAL:** Carl Wiggins

**MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned on a motion by Chris Wendel at 1:40 p.m. and seconded by Michael Bailey and approved by all.

**BENEDICTION:** Winston Avera

**Next Meeting**  
**13 May, 2023**  
**11:30 a. m.**

**Mikeska's BBQ and Bakery**  
**22730 US Hwy 59**  
**(Blue Creek Road)**  
**El Campo, Texas**  
**1 (800) 388-2552**

<https://www.mikeskabbbq.com>



**2023  
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 Cradle of Texas Chapter #33**

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