



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



Volume 24 Number 6

September 2023

Michael J. Bailey, Editor

September

Next Meeting
09 September, 2023
11:30 a. m.
Fat Grass
1717 7th Street
Bay City, TX 77414
PROGRAM
J.D. Humber, II



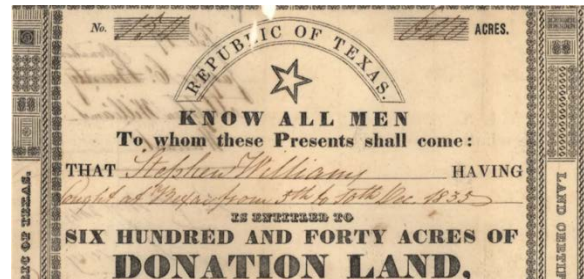
J.D. Humber, II is an eighth generation Texan. His hometown is Liberty, Texas. The lead Pastor at Victory Church in Brazoria, Texas. His wife is Allison and their children Abigail and Everett. A member of the SAR for 3 years. He is also a member of Sons of Confederate Veterans, Sons of the Republic of Texas, Brazoria Heritage Foundation, and the General Society of the War of 1812, and National Society of Sons and Daughters of Pilgrims.

An alumni of Houston Baptist University, Class of 2004, with a Degree in Christianity & Sociology

His program will be *Stephen Williams - the ONLY MAN to fight in the American Revolution, War of 1812, and the Texas Revolution*. We will be taking a deep dive into the military service and the actual battles that Mr. Williams participated in. Mr. Williams is also one of the American Revolutionary War Veterans that is buried in Texas. (State Cemetery in Austin)



1936 Texas Centennial Marker located in Jasper, Texas, in Jasper County.



Donation Certificate #154 for Stephen Williams, 21 May 1838, Texas Land Grant

Records, Archives and Records Program, Texas
General Land Office, Austin, Texas.



Next Meeting
09 September, 2023
Fat Grass
1717 7th Street
Bay City, TX 77414
Phone: (979) 244-7277

<https://www.thefatgrass.com>



2023
Officers of the
Cradle of Texas Chapter #33

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281-996-7976

cmwiggins1@comcast.net

Secretary:

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832-221-0423

azrag45@msn.com

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Christopher F. Wendel
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Chaplain:

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leachinsurance@att.net

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Educational Programs and Community
Outreach Committee Chairperson:

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Meeting Minutes
Cradle of Texas Chapter
May 13, 2023
Mikeskas BBQ
El Campo, TX

Chris Wendel 4/09/2023	100.00
Rancho Grande Farms 4/09/2023	200.00
Caroline Wiggins 4/13/2023	50.00
David Garza 4/13/2023	100.00
David S. Hall 4/16/2023	100.00
Carl Wiggins (R. Wiggins) 4/18/2023	25.00

The meeting was called to order by President Griffiths at 11:38 AM.

Total Income: \$575.07

Invocation: Given by Chaplain Jim Leach.

Expense:

Ck. #1043	100.00
Ck. #1064	14.51
Ck. #1065	100.00

Pledges: Vice-President Carl Wiggins led the pledges to the American, Texas and SAR flags.

Total Expenses: \$214.51

Members Present: J. D. Humber; W. J. Griffiths; John Griffiths; Carl Wiggins; Bill Adriance (Galvez Chapter); Winston Avera; Sandy Weems; Chris Wendel; Jim Leach; David Garza; Chris Barbee.

Ending Account Balance: -- 4/30/2023 (statement) \$4523.50

Guests Present: Carroll Griffiths; Caroline Wiggins; Connie Avera; Gerry Griffin; Mary June Garza.

Outstanding Checks

Ck. #1059	100.00
Ck. #1060	100.00
Ck. #1061	87.55
Ck. #1066	350.00
Ck. #1067	350.00

Total of outstanding checks 987.55

Minutes: The April meeting minutes as published in the May 2023 Newsletter were approved by a motion from Winston Avera and seconded by Chris Wendel.

Register balance 4/30/2023 (with outstanding checks deducted) 3535.95

Treasurers Report: Presented by Chris Wendel:

Mc Alexander Fund (Main Share) ⁽¹⁾	
Beginning Balance	
4/01/2023	\$903.78
Income: Deposits:	
Interest 4/30/2023	.07
Expense: None.	

General Fund (Classic checking)	
Beginning Balance	
4/01/2023	<u>\$4162.94</u>
Income: Deposits:	
Interest 4/30/2023	.07

Ending Account Balance: 4/30/2023 \$903.85

Total Bank Balance
4/30/2023 (statements) \$5427.35

¹ Available for purchase of uniforms for SAR Color Guard Members

Register Bank Balance
4/30/2023 (with outstanding
checks deducted) \$4439.78

The Treasurer's Report was approved by Winston Avera and seconded by Sandy Weems.

Program: Gerry Griffin, former Director of the NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston, recounted the story of NASA from his personal experiences from before the first moon landing to the present. In prior positions at NASA, he served as the Deputy Director of the John F. Kennedy Space Center in Florida and the Hugh F. Dryden (now Neil A. Armstrong) Flight Research Center in California. At NASA Headquarters in Washington DC Gerry also held the posts of Assistant Administrator for Legislative Affairs, Associate Administrator for External Relations, and Deputy Associate Administrator for Space Flight (Operations).

Gerry joined NASA in 1964 as a flight controller in Mission Control, specializing in guidance, navigation and control systems for Project Gemini and the early unmanned missions of the Apollo Program. Before the first manned Apollo mission, Apollo 7, he was selected to be a flight director and served in that role for all of the Apollo Program manned missions, including all nine manned missions to the moon, six of which included lunar landings. Gerry was the Lead Flight Director for Apollo 12, Apollo 15 and Apollo 17. His Gold Team conducted half of the six lunar landings made during Apollo. Gerry's team was scheduled to conduct the landing of Apollo 13, but when the landing was canceled as a result of an oxygen tank explosion his Gold Team was one of four teams who played key roles in the safe return of the astronauts.

Gerry earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering from Texas A&M University (TAMU) and was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force. He served four years on active duty, first in flight training, then flying as a weapon systems officer in jet fighter-interceptors. Gerry left active duty and joined the space program as a systems engineer/flight controller at the USAF Satellite Test Center in Sunnyvale, California. He also was a senior aerospace engineer with General Dynamics/Fort Worth before joining NASA.

Gerry left NASA in 1986 for the private sector to become President and CEO of the Greater Houston Chamber of Commerce, a post he held until he joined Korn/Ferry International, a worldwide executive search firm, as the Managing Director of the firm's Houston office. Today Gerry is a technical and management consultant for a broad range of clients. He also is a member of the Advisory Board of Alpha Space LLC, and a trustee of Schreiner University. He is a former member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and a former trustee of the Universities Space Research Association.

Gerry received numerous awards during his years with NASA including the Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded to the Apollo 13 Mission Operations Team, the NASA Distinguished Service Medal, the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal, two NASA Exceptional Service Medals, the Meritorious Executive Rank Award, and the Distinguished Executive Rank Award. The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation and the Share Space Foundation awarded Gerry the 2018 Pioneer Award in recognition of his contributions to the Apollo program, and the National Space Society awarded him their 2019 Pioneer Award for Service to the Space Community. He also is the recipient

of numerous honors from his alma mater, Texas A&M University, including the Distinguished Alumnus Award, the Corps of Cadets Hall of Honor Award, the College of Engineering Alumni Honor Award, and the Aerospace Engineering Department Distinguished Alumnus Award. Gerry received the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Houston Clear Lake and is a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the American Astronautical Society.

Because of his real-life role as a Flight Director during the flight of Apollo 13 Gerry was a technical advisor for the movie **Apollo 13**. Later he was a technical advisor for and an actor in the movies **Contact** and **Deep Impact**, then the technical advisor for the movie **Apollo 18**. Gerry is working now as a technical advisor and actor in his fifth feature film which is in post-production. Gerry is a member of the Screen Actors Guild. Gerry is an active general aviation pilot and aircraft owner, and holds a commercial license with an instrument rating for single engine aircraft, multi-engine aircraft and helicopters.

Gerry's presentation was one of the best this chapter has ever received. He kept us spellbound until the end when he was bombarded with many questions. It is most unfortunate that his presentation was not recorded so we could do it justice here.

Awards and Recognitions: President Griffiths presented a 15 yr. membership anniversary certificate to Scott Leopold, and 5 yr. certificates to Ronan and Ryker Garza and Stephen D. Winters. He also presented certificates and \$300 checks to Abigail and Everett Humber for their 1st place finishes at the TXSSAR Annual meeting in the Brochure and Poster Contests, respectively. Now they move on to the National SAR

Convention competition to be held in Orlando in July.

Officer and Committee Reports: These reports were presented by Registrar David Garza, Webmaster Carl Wiggins, Programs Chairman Rodney Weems and Color Guard Chairman Michael Bailey.

Old Business: Michael Bailey discussed the cost and other details for providing a memorial plaque at the Fallen Heroes Memorial Wall in front of the Brazoria Heritage Society building in Brazoria, TX. The cost is \$700 with the chapter committing \$200 if the members can contribute \$500. \$550 was donated by members.

New Business: J. D. Humber gave a presentation about how our chapter could design and build a float for the upcoming Veterans Day Parade in Angleton, TX in November. It may be possible to mount the design on an existing float platform sponsored by Sandy Weems.

Next Meeting: Fat Grass Restaurant in Bay City on 9 September 2023. J. D. Humber will speak on "Stephen Williams: The Only Man to Serve in the American Revolution, War of 1812 and Texas Revolution".

Adjournment: Motion by Carl Wiggins; seconded by David Garza at ~1:30 PM.

Benediction: by Chaplain Jim Leach