



Welcome!

New Member Handbook

**William Hightower Chapter
Texas Society
Sons of the American Revolution
April 2025**



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THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
INSTITUTED JULY 4, 1876

January 1, 2024

To our Newest Compatriot,

Welcome to the William Hightower Chapter, your chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution! We are excited that you are joining us, sharing our patriotic dedication to educating the history of the American Revolution and the Patriots who won our independence. Your membership comes after an intense process of researching your family's history, identifying a patriot ancestor, gathering documents to verify it, preparing your application, and undergoing the review of it all. It is not an easy process. Making it through this process already shows your dedication to our Chapter motto: *Patriotic, Historical, Educational*.

Our New Member Handbook introduces you to the Sons of the American Revolution and the William Hightower Chapter. It includes information about our organization and how it is managed, opportunities for you to help us complete our mission, and the ways we communicate with each other. We know you will find it helpful as you begin your journey with us.

We look forward to working with you on some of our many community activities. The William Hightower Chapter remains involved with our community. The New Member Handbook provides details of the many activities we are involved in throughout the year. Whether its serving on a Color Guard for a parade, working with youth scholarship programs, presenting educational programs, recognizing our heroes in the community, or supporting our communications, we know you will find something that meets your interests or piques your curiosity. It increases the value of your membership and supports our community.

So, once again, welcome to the William Hightower Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. We are delighted you have chosen to join us!

Sincerely,

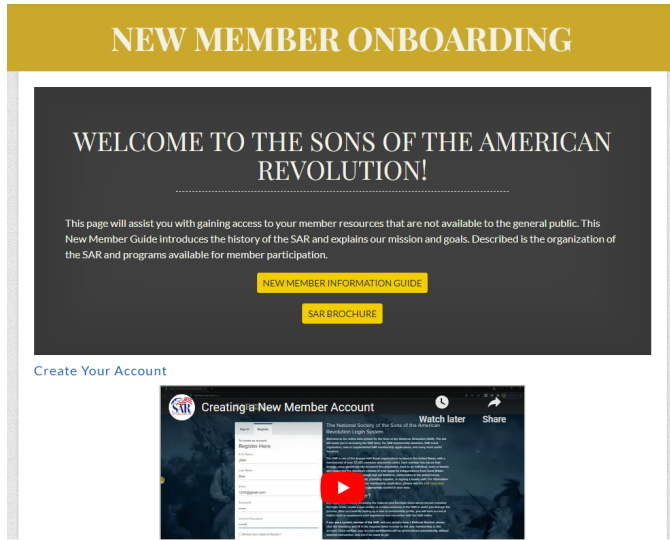
Your Compatriots in the William Hightower Chapter

"PATRIOTIC, HISTORICAL, EDUCATIONAL"

WILLIAM HIGHTOWER CHAPTER

POST OFFICE BOX 310336, NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS 78131-0336

I've Been Inducted! What's Next?



The induction ceremony is the highlight of the application process. Now you're in! But, what's next? Is that all? Of course not. You've only completed the beginning. Now it is time to be a part of our historical, patriotic, and educational mission.

Here is what you can do to get involved:

1. Register on the National Society and Texas Society websites. The members' areas contain massive amounts of information that keep you in the loop.
 - a. Register with the National Society at this [link](#). You will find training videos for setting up your account and how to use the members-only site.
 - b. Access with the Texas Society members-only site by coordinating with the Chapter. The Chapter will provide you with the username and password to access the site.
2. Come to Chapter meetings! At meetings, we bring in great speakers, spread the word on upcoming events, and enjoy fellowship with Compatriots. At our meetings, you can find what interests you.
3. Follow SAR Facebook pages. Learn more on page 24.
4. Get the *Hightower Recorder*. The Hightower Recorder is the Chapter's newsletter. It is full of information about what the Chapter is doing, including a calendar. Learn more on page 22.
5. Join at least one committee. Chapter committees are where things really happen. The best way to get involved is by finding at least one committee you think you would enjoy and speak to the committee chair. You can find our committees in Appendix B and the *Hightower Recorder* has a list of all Chapter officers.
6. Read the New Member Handbook. This handbook is designed to quickly familiarize you with the Sons of the American Revolution and the William Hightower Chapter.

A Short History of the Sons of the American Revolution

The history of the SAR begins with the 100th anniversary of our independence. By 1876, there were several patriotic organizations formed around the descendants of American Revolution patriots.

On October 22, 1875, the Sons of Revolutionary Sires (SRS) was formed by Dr. James L. Cogwell and several members of his Masonic Lodge in San Francisco to prepare for the upcoming centennial of Independence in July 1876. On June 29, 1876, James P. Dameron, of San Francisco, called for a meeting of Patriot descendants to organize. About 25 descendants attended that meeting and organized themselves to be part of San Francisco's Fourth of July parade. The city provided the invitation, and the SRS marched in the parade. The invitation may have been made easier due to the SRS president, General Adolphus Winn, just happened to also be the first mayor of San Francisco.

After the success of the parade, the SRS continued to organize through the summer of 1876 and began reaching out to other states to form state societies. In New York, Major Asa Bird Gardiner, a member of the Society of the Cincinnati, received the SRS bulletin. Instead of creating an SRS society, Gardiner helped organize the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution (SR). Before long, the New York society had become the prominent society and it began organizing other states, including California. Before long, several disagreements between the states erupted.

The formation of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution began on April 30, 1889, during a convention of several SR state organizations. The convention was called by the New Jersey Society of the Sons of the Revolution. A disagreement formed between the New Jersey and New York societies. Out of this unresolved disagreement, New Jersey invited other states to organize a new national society. All attended, except New York. By May 1, 1889, the convention had written and adopted a constitution and bylaws; and adopted a name for the new organization: The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR).

The first NSSAR National Congress was held April 30, 1890, in Louisville, Kentucky. The first local chapter was formed in New Jersey on July 4, 1893, the Elizabethtown Chapter, and it is still operating today. The first international society, the French Society, was formed in September 1897. The NSSAR has a Congressional Charter. It was signed into law on June 9, 1906, by President Theodore Roosevelt, himself a Compatriot.

The Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (TXSSAR) was organized on December 8, 1896, in Galveston. Ira H. Evans was elected the first TXSSAR president.

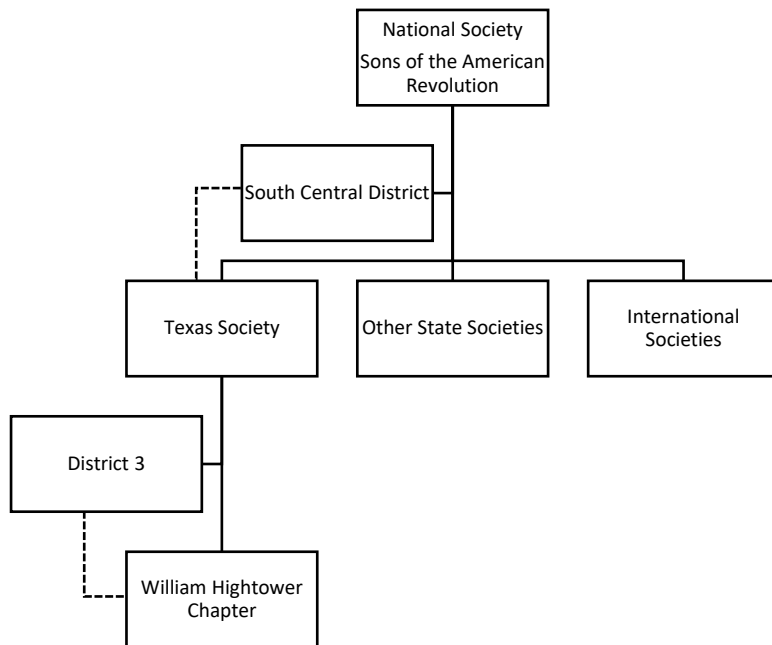
The William Hightower Chapter was chartered on March 9, 1984. William E. "Billy" Hightower was a founder and the first Chapter President. While New Braunfels is the center of the Chapter's activities, the William Hightower Chapter supports SAR activities across the region between Austin and San Antonio.

Organization of the Sons of the American Revolution

The SAR is organized as a National Society. The National Society includes a National Headquarters and staff, located in Louisville, Kentucky. The headquarters houses administrative offices, the SAR online store, a premier genealogical library and gallery, and an education center and museum. Learn more at this [link](#). The National Society is led by the President General and other General Officers. It also includes committees to oversee various SAR initiatives and the SAR Foundation. The National Society publishes *The SAR Magazine*.

The National Society organizes membership into state societies and chapters. All states and the District of Columbia have societies. Several international societies have formed over the years to serve international members of the SAR. International societies include:

1. France
2. International (overseeing membership in countries without their own society)
3. Switzerland
4. United Kingdom
5. Canada
6. Germany
7. Spain



Organization chart of the Sons of the American Revolution. State societies include the 50 states, District of Columbia, and international societies.

services to its members.

The National Society has districts which help it coordinate business with the state societies. The Texas Society is part of the South Central District, which also includes Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

The Texas Society is made up of Society leadership and chapters. The Texas Society has districts to help support the chapters. District 3 works with the William Hightower Chapter.

The chapter is the primary unit of the SAR. This is where the SAR serves communities, recruits new members, and provides SAR

The Texas Society

The Texas Society is made up of the State Society Officers and several committees to oversee Texas Society initiatives. The Texas Society is led by the Society President, a Board of Managers, and other officers who manage its business.

The Texas Society does not have a physical Headquarters. All business is conducted remotely, with the Texas Society leadership coming together at least two times a year for a Fall Board of Managers meeting and an Annual Convention in the Spring. The meetings are held in different locations across Texas and hosted by local Chapters. The Fall Board of Managers meetings and Annual Conventions are open to all Compatriots. In addition to business meetings, they usually include opportunities to learn about the different Texas Society Committees' work, participate in committee meetings and activities, and socialize with fellow Compatriots from across the state.

The Texas Society has divided Texas into 11 districts to assist the local chapters. Each district is led by a Texas Society Vice President. Each district works with the chapters in its designated area to support their success.

The Texas Society at different times in its history has had almost 70 chapters. Currently, the Texas Society has 47 active chapters. As of January 2025, there are 2,731 members in Texas.

The William Hightower Chapter

While Chapters do not have designated areas, the William Hightower Chapter calls New Braunfels home and serves the surrounding communities between Austin and San Antonio. The Chapter is led by a Chapter President, other elected officers, and chairmen of several committees. The committees oversee the Chapter's many initiatives. The Chapter is focused on meeting the goals of the SAR in our area. The Chapter and its Compatriots are recognized routinely for the level of service provided to the community.

The William Hightower Chapter is named for William Calvin Hightower, SAR Patriot # P-181176. His Patriotic Service was as a signer of Legislative Petition No. 392, Mecklenburg County, Virginia, on May 14, 1777.

Constitutions and By-Laws

The SAR is governed by constitutions and by-laws at all levels. Additionally, the Congressional Charter received in 1906 drives how we do business. The Constitutions and by-laws are available online for easy access.

NSSAR Constitution and By-Laws, Congressional Charter

The NSSAR Constitution and By-Laws and the Congressional Charter are found in the NSSAR Member Handbook, Volume I: Governing Documents, available online at this [link](#).

TXSSAR Constitution and By-Laws

The TXSSAR Constitution is available on the TXSSAR website at this [link](#). The TXSSAR By-Laws are available at this [link](#).

William Hightower Chapter Constitution and By-Laws

The Chapter Constitution and By-Laws are available online at this [link](#).

Chapter Meetings

The William Hightower Chapter meets monthly from September to May on the second Thursday of the month. Meetings are currently held at Granzin Bar-B-Q on West San Antonio Street in New Braunfels. Meetings start with a social hour from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. where we enjoy fellowship and a meal together. The business meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. Chapter meetings have topics on the American Revolution, the SAR, the Texas Society, or the local area. Meetings are open to everyone in the community. At any given meeting, you will find fellow Compatriots, family members, and members of the community.

Chapter meetings follow a consistent schedule:

1. Presentation of the Flags and Pledges
2. Invocation
3. Welcome from the President
4. Introductions
5. Chapter Business
6. Program or Guest Speaker
7. Benediction
8. Recessional and Closing

Chapter Annual Events

The William Hightower Chapter participates in events year-round. The events are a great way to engage with your Compatriots and the community in meeting our goals and mission. Every Compatriot is strongly encouraged to participate.

September – Constitution Week; General Chapter meeting

October – General Chapter meeting; Officer nominations

November – Veterans Day Parade; Public Safety Awards; Officer elections

December - Christmas party in lieu of a business meeting; Officer Installations; Chapter Awards
January - George Washington Birthday Proclamations; Youth Awards
February - George Washington Birthday Proclamations; Youth Awards
March - General Chapter meeting
April - Folk Fest; General Chapter meeting
May - General Chapter meeting
June - No Chapter meeting
July - Fourth of July parade; No Chapter meeting
August - No Chapter meeting

Getting Involved in the William Hightower Chapter

Recognizing your connection to an American Revolution patriot is an honor, but only the beginning of your journey. Our Chapter has much to offer the communities we serve throughout the year. The Chapter's activities span a variety of interests, but always with the goal of passing on the historical, patriotic, and educational lessons of the American Revolution.

You will get the most out of your SAR experience by getting involved. There is an activity for almost every interest. The easiest way to start is to find an activity or a committee that works with something you are already passionate about. You name the interest and there is probably something the chapter is doing along those lines. You can also introduce the chapter to something new. Through your interests, the chapter could expand its audience. All you must do is ask about it. You may be introduced to a Committee Chairman to begin working with other Compatriots. Take advantage of your membership in the SAR. Get involved. See Appendices A and B to learn more about how you can get involved!

Symbols of the Sons of the American Revolution

SAR Member Badge

The Member Badge was adopted in December 1889. Designed by Major Goldsmith Bernard West, Vice President of the Alabama SAR, and inspired by the badges of the Military Order of Saint Louis (founded by King Louis XIV in 1693 to honor faithful military service) and the Legion of Honor (founded by Napoleon in 1803 to reward civil and military service).



The SAR Member Badge is a Maltese cross of 4 white enameled arms with 8 points, each point with a golden ball. On the obverse (front) is a profiled bust of George Washington, encircled by a blue enameled ribbon containing the SAR Motto "Libertas et Patria." A laurel wreath, symbolizing victory, encircles the medallion midway between it and the points of the cross. The reverse (back) of the medallion bears the figure of a minuteman encircled by a blue enameled ribbon, inscribed "Sons of the American Revolution" in golden letters. The cross is surmounted by a golden eagle, symbolizing patriotism, and suspended from a ribbon of blue, buff, and white (the Society's colors). Compatriots wear the badge as a full size or dress miniature medal. Current and past Chapter Presidents may wear the Member Badge suspended from a ribbon around the neck. See Appendix E for a complete history of the SAR Member Badge.

The SAR Member Badge is available for purchase by every member of the SAR. You can find the SAR Member Badge at the National Society's online store at this [link](#).

Rosette



The rosette is a lapel pin made of a length of Member Badge ribbon wound tightly into the shape of a stylized "rose" flower. The rosette is presented to each Chapter Compatriot during the induction ceremony. The rosette is worn on a suit coat or blazer lapel, showing your membership in the SAR during or outside of SAR meetings and events. It is not worn when the Member Badge is worn.

The Chapter provides you with a rosette pin during your induction ceremony. You can purchase additional rosettes from the National Society's online store at this [link](#).

SAR Seal



The SAR Seal consists of a figure of a Minuteman grasping a musket in his right hand in the act of deserting his plow for the service of his country, surrounded by a constellation of thirteen stars encircled by a band within which appears the legend, "The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, organized April 30, 1889." The Seal is used by the National Society for official business only.

SAR Logo



The SAR Logo was adopted in March 2021. The logo was selected from a design contest conducted in 2019. The winning design came from Stephen Harrington, a graphic designer from Connecticut. The logo combines the majestic beauty of an eagle in flight with a flag waving in the breeze, all in patriotic red, white, and blue.



Before the adoption of the logo above, the SAR Logo depicted the obverse of the SAR Member Badge above a ribbon with the words “Sons of the American Revolution” superimposed on a sunburst. The alternate version eliminates the sunburst. The obverse of the SAR Member Badge is also used by itself as a logo to represent the SAR. This logo is most often used on stationary and other forms of



correspondence to recognize the SAR.

Texas Society Logo



The Texas Society Logo is a Texas Flag in the shape of the state with a blue minuteman superimposed and encircled in red, then blue 5-point stars, which are then encircled in red.

The William Hightower Chapter Logo



The William Hightower Chapter Logo was designed by Chapter Compatriot Ed Blauvelt in 2019. The logo began as a design for the chapter coin but was quickly adopted by the chapter as our logo. The logo is made up of the Flag of Texas with a minuteman superimposed. The Chapter name, number, and Texas Society name encircle the image with a 5-point star on either side.

SAR Motto

The SAR Motto is *Libertas et Patria*, Latin for “Liberty and Country.”

SAR Colors

The colors of the SAR are blue, white, and buff (a shade of tan). These colors were chosen to honor Commander-in-Chief George Washington. They are the colors of his uniform worn during the American Revolution. The SAR colors are incorporated into many of the Societies emblems.

Pledges

Each meeting of the William Hightower Chapter begins with pledges to the United States, Texas, and the SAR. Each meeting ends with the SAR recessional. The Chapter provides cards with the pledges printed on them during meetings.

Pledge to the United States of America

“I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

The Pledge to the United States of America is given standing at attention, with the right hand over your heart, facing the U.S. Flag while you repeat the pledge.

Veterans and military personnel not in uniform may render the hand salute during the Pledge to the United States of America. Traditionally, when rendering the hand salute, the pledge is not recited.

Texas State Pledge

“Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.”

The Texas State Pledge is given standing at attention, with the right hand over your heart, facing the Texas Flag while you repeat the pledge.

Veterans and military personnel not in uniform may render the hand salute during the Texas State Pledge at their choosing. Traditionally, personnel on federal active duty in federal military uniform do not render the hand salute but stand at attention. When rendering the hand salute, the pledge is not recited.

SAR Pledge

“We, the descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution, who by their sacrifices established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and do solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.”

The hands should be at the side for the SAR Pledge or one hand at the side and the other hand holding a written copy of the Pledge. The hand over the heart should be reserved for the United States Flag and the Texas State Flag – advancing of the colors, the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem, and the retiring of the colors. The SAR Pledge is not a pledge to the organization, but to liberty and our constitutional republic.

SAR Recessional

“Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court, and a Nation of Free Men.”

The hands should be at the side for the SAR Recessional or one hand at the side and the other hand holding a written copy of the Recessional.

Flags Used by the Society and Their History

The United States Flag



The United States Flag was adopted by resolution of the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. The Continental Congress “resolved that the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation.” Until an act of April 4, 1818, a star and stripe were added for each new state. The law changed that to keep 13 stripes to honor the original 13 colonies and adding a star for each state. In 1912, the next significant change came to the flag when President Taft issued an executive order standardizing the dimensions of the flag and the arrangement of stars. The U.S. Flag has been the symbol of our country almost from its founding. It has also become a symbol across the world for the ideals of freedom and democracy our nation stands for.

When Texas became the 28th state in 1845, the U.S. Flag flew with 28 stars from July 4, 1846, to July 3, 1847, when the 29th star was added for Iowa.

The U.S. Flag takes precedence over all other flags (with one unique exception of naval tradition). The Flag is always displayed above other flags or on its own right. It may be placed centered in front of a row of other flags. The flag is displayed from sunrise to sunset, except that it may fly at night if illuminated. Display the flag at half-staff as a sign of mourning. Do not display the U.S. Flag upside down, except as a sign of immediate distress. The flag is not used as clothing, nor is it used as a drape or covering. When no longer usable, the U.S. Flag is retired respectfully, not thrown in the trash. The U.S. Flag Code is federal law that provides specific guidance for the U.S. Flag.

The U.S. Flag is not dipped to any person or thing. This is a uniquely American tradition. Historically, flags were dipped to kings and queens (and between naval ships) as a display of respect. The tradition continued as royalty was replaced by political heads of state. In the 1908 Summer Olympics, U.S. flagbearer Ralph Rose refused to dip the flag to the King of England. The story goes that after the ceremony a member of the U.S. Olympic Team stated, “this flag dips to no earthly king,” a quote attributed to several team members. In a show of international defiance that only Americans can appreciate, the tradition stuck and became part of the U.S. Flag Code in the 1940s. To this day, the U.S. Flag is the only flag of any nation that is not dipped at the opening of the Olympics, or to kings and queens. It is not dipped during any ceremonies (domestic or international), best seen when a color guard is present for the playing of the National Anthem and all flags except the U.S. Flag are dipped.

The SAR honors the flying of the U.S. Flag. The William Hightower Chapter presents the SAR Flag Certificate to individuals, companies and government agencies that fly the United States flag for patriotic purposes only. It is not to be given to any commercial enterprise that flies it for advertising purposes. The Chapter also provides a

Flag Retirement Certificate to organizations that respectfully retire the U.S. Flag. See the Chapter Flag Committee Chairman if you have a nominee for these awards.

Historic United States Flags

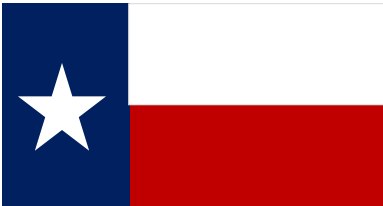


Historic U.S. Flags are symbolic of key times in our nation's history and are displayed to commemorate those past events. For example, the 13-star U.S. Flag (Betsy Ross Flag) and the 15-star, 15-stripe U.S. Flag (Star Spangled Banner) are flown on Independence Day. The display of historic U.S. Flags is not addressed by the Flag Code or

executive order.

By tradition, historic U.S. Flags are displayed immediately after the current U.S. Flag, because the Flag Code does not "retire" or "unauthorize" previous U.S. Flags. Historic U.S. Flags are followed by other flags in precedence. Historic flags that are not former U.S. Flags are not included in this tradition.

The Texas State Flag



The Texas State Flag was the flag of the Republic of Texas from January 25, 1839, until Texas became a state. Upon statehood, the flag transitioned from the Republic of Texas flag to the Texas State Flag. Texas maintains a flag code for the display and use of the state flag that generally mimics the guidance and honors provided in the U.S. Flag

Code with the exception that the Texas State Flag is subordinate to the U.S. Flag.

The SAR Flag



The SAR Flag is a tricolor, with a blue pale (vertical stripe) at the hoist (closest to the pole), white pale in the center, and buff pale at the fly (furthest from the pole). The obverse of the SAR Member Badge is centered on the flag above a scroll that reads "Sons of the American Revolution." The SAR Flag is displayed during Chapter

meetings and is maintained by the Chapter's Sergeant-at-Arms.

The South Central District Flag

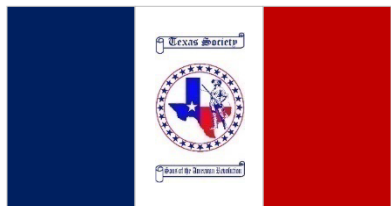


The South Central District has adopted the historic Gadsden Flag as its District Flag. The Gadsden flag is a historical flag with a yellow field depicting a timber rattlesnake coiled and ready to strike. Beneath the rattlesnake are the words: "Dont Tread on Me." Some modern versions of the flag include an apostrophe. The flag

is named after Christopher Gadsden (1724-1805), who designed it in 1775 during the

American Revolution. It was used by the Continental Navy and Continental Marines; and, as an early motto flag. The South Central District Flag is not flown as a historical flag when representing the district.

The Texas Society Flag



The Texas Society Flag is a tricolor, with a blue pale (vertical stripe) at the hoist (closest to the pole), white pale in the center, and red pale at the fly (furthest from the pole). The seal of the Texas Society is centered on the flag with a scroll above it that reads “Texas Society” and a scroll below it that reads “Sons of the American Revolution.” The Texas

Society Flag is often displayed during Chapter meetings and is maintained by the Chapter’s Sergeant-at-Arms.

Other Flags

Many flags were used during the American Revolution. Texas’ unique history also includes several flags used during its revolution and period as an independent republic. These flags have taken on historical importance and are displayed today to commemorate those histories. There is no code governing the use of historic flags. None should ever take precedence over the U.S. Flag, Texas State Flag, or other official flags. By tradition, historic flags that are not former U.S. Flags are displayed after the Texas Society Flag.

Flags of the armed forces are displayed in precedence after the Texas State Flag. They are displayed in precedence of the armed forces:

1. United States Army
2. United States Marine Corps
3. United States Navy
4. United States Air Force
5. United States Space Force
6. United States Coast Guard (except during war if the Coast Guard has been attached to the Navy, then it is flown after the Navy flag)

There are also official flags of the National Guard and the armed forces reserves that fit into the order of precedence. Military units have their own flags. When participating in events with them, they will provide guidance on the order of these flags.

Certain government officials have personal flags. These include elected officials such as the President, appointed officials such as the Secretary of Defense, and generals and admirals. Texas has personal flags for some of its leaders, such as the Governor, which are displayed after the Texas State Flag. When these flags are displayed, the official’s staff will assist with precedence.

The SAR flag may be flown with the flags of other organizations. In this case, the precedence of the flags would be determined by the founding dates of the organizations.

It is a tradition in the SAR to fly the President General's home state flag when he is present if it is available. The SAR Handbook provides details on how this tradition is practiced.

Displaying Flags

We display flags to show our patriotism, loyalty, and love for our nation, our state, and the institutions they represent. We show the flag at home both inside and outside. We show the flag at work and at SAR meetings. In displaying them correctly, we are reinforcing our patriotism and dedication to the principles they represent. See Appendix D for information on correctly displaying the flag.

Color Guard



Color Guard supporting Constitution Day in 2016

The Color Guard is a group of Compatriots that display our national, state, and society flags with dignity and respect in the community. It is our most visible and one of our most requested services: from opening meetings, to marching in parades, to honoring our fallen at funeral services.

The Color Guard not only guards the dignity and respect of our flags, but also honors our patriot ancestors. For this reason, the Color Guard wears the uniforms of the Continental Army, Marines, Navy, or state militia.

The Color Guard is usually made up of four Compatriots, two carrying flags and two carrying arms. The number can be adjusted to fit the situation or Compatriots available but is never fewer than three members.

The William Hightower Chapter Color Guard is managed by a Color Guard Commander selected by the Chapter President. The Color Guard Commander also serves as the Color Guard Committee Chairman. The Texas Society and National Society also have Color Guards with commanders, staff, and committees. Compatriots participating in the Chapter Color Guard also assist the Texas Society or National Society with local requests.



Color Guard in the 2023 New Braunfels Veterans Day Parade

Today's Color Guard serves a ceremonial purpose to display and honor the symbols of our country, state, and society. Historically, colors (military term for flags) were a critical tool on the battlefield. The colors told soldiers where to be, how fast to move, and told commanders where the unit was.



Color Guard members supporting a Chapter meeting on January 10, 2019.

This was the most important system of battlefield communications for centuries. In the days of line tactics, where armies lined up and fired black powder musket volleys at one another making it hard to see due to the smoke created, the colors were often the only way soldiers and commanders could identify where the lines were.

This made the colors unbelievably valuable, both tactically and psychologically.

Tactically, the colors were placed at the center of the line and represented the key point of battle for the unit and the central mode of communication. Soldiers formed to the colors and followed them as the battle progressed. Commanders directing the battle watched where the colors were, what direction they moved, and quickly understood how the battle was progressing.

The colors became the symbol of the unit (and later, of nations), and the symbol of the unit's morale. As the colors stood, so did the unit. If the colors were held high and visible, victory was attainable. If they fell in battle, so did the unit. It became an honor to be selected to carry and guard the colors. As the tactical importance of the colors faded, the importance to morale never has.

The Color Guard has evolved into an honor bestowed on a few to carry and guard the symbols of our nation, our state, and our society.

The National Society and Texas Society each have a Color Guard manual. The NSSAR Color Guard Handbook is available at this [link](#). The TXSSAR Color Guard Handbook is available on the Texas Society Members Area website at this [link](#).

Continental Uniform and Period Clothing

Compatriots often wear period clothing to meetings and events to fulfill the goals of being historical, patriotic, and educational. Period clothing creates a living history environment to capture the public's curiosity and imagination. No Compatriot is required to have a uniform or period clothing as a condition of membership. Some SAR activities may be limited for Compatriots that do not.

The SAR does not sell uniforms or period clothing, nor does it contract with any

Compatriots in Continental Uniform during a ceremony in September 2020.



manufacturer. There are many vendors across the United States that sell period clothing and accessories. While neither the Chapter nor the Society endorse any vendor, Compatriots can offer their experiences to help you find what you need.

Compatriots will tell you that the work we do in the community is more fun for us and the public when wearing period clothing. Classrooms get a little more engaged, public meetings become a little more inviting, and parades have a little more splendor. We encourage every Compatriot to consider period clothing to increase their engagement with the community.

Awards and Recognition



Bronze
Roger
Sherman
Medal

Recognizing achievement predates the American Revolution by centuries. The SAR recognizes achievements amongst Compatriots and the community with awards. The National Society has more than 65 individual awards for Compatriots and non-members. These awards are presented by the National Society, state societies, and chapters. The National Society issues medals for participation in National Congresses and specialty medals to commemorate special events.

The Texas Society recognizes Compatriots' achievements with seven individual awards. Other state societies also issue awards.

Volume V of the NSSAR Handbook provides details on all National Society awards. The Texas Society Website's Members Area provides information on Texas Society awards.

Awards to the Chapter

The National Society and Texas Society have awards that can be earned by states and chapters as teams or groups. These awards are earned through point systems. Chapters and state societies accrue points through the year based on their activities and accomplishments reported in several annual reports. The William Hightower Chapter has always been well-represented in these contests thanks to the dedication of our Compatriots, but to receive the recognition we must report it. If you are involved in qualifying activities, please be sure the Chapter Secretary knows about it to recognize your hard work.

Awards for Military Service

The SAR offers awards recognizing military service. The War Service Medal was created in 1899. It recognizes Compatriot military service against an enemy in a war or action recognized by the armed forces for which a campaign medal, ribbon, or badge is awarded (the National Defense Service Medal is excluded from the list of qualifying awards).

The Military Service Medal was created in 2006 to recognize Compatriot military service that does not qualify for the War Service Medal. If you served in the military, but did not qualify for the War Service Medal, you qualify for this award. You may qualify for both the War Service Medal and the Military Service Medal.

If you are interested in receiving either or both awards, please contact the Chapter Awards Committee for assistance.



War Service Medal

Awards for Service to the Community



Bronze Good Citizenship Medal

The SAR offers awards for service to the community outside membership in the society. In fact, SAR service cannot be used to determine eligibility. Created in 1895, the SAR Good Citizenship Medal is awarded in 3 categories: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. These awards recognize service to the community through church; school; scouting; government; fraternal, business, patriotic, military, veterans, conservation, hereditary, genealogical, and historical associations, or organized sports (Little League, etc.), or an outstanding single achievement in the community. The primary recipients of Good Citizenship Medals are members of the community, but Compatriots can qualify, too. The Bronze Medal is awarded by the Chapter, the Silver Medal is awarded by the Texas Society, and the Gold Medal is awarded by the National Society.

You may know someone in the community eligible to receive this award. You may qualify for this award based on your service to the community. Please contact the Chapter Awards Committee for assistance and to discuss eligibility.

Chapter Traditions

Induction Ceremony

The first ceremony you participate in is your induction into the Society. The Chapter performs induction ceremonies as Compatriots are admitted into the Society. The ceremony is conducted with you, the Chapter President, Registrar, and Historian. You will be presented with your SAR rosette during this ceremony.

Broken Arrow Ceremony



Dr. Patrick Hollis started the tradition for those who have fallen in our ranks with a Broken Arrow Ceremony. It originated with the Delaware Tribe. During the Chapter's February meeting, the William Hightower Chapter honors its Compatriots who have passed in the previous year. The arrows used in the ceremony are presented to the family as a token of the

Chapter's appreciation for their loved one's membership and brotherhood in our Society.

Annual Awards Ceremony and Officer Installation

The William Hightower Chapter holds its annual awards ceremony and officer installation during the December meeting. The Chapter presents awards to Compatriots and friends of the Chapter. The next year's officers are also installed during this meeting.

Election of Chapter Officers

William Hightower Chapter officers hold offices from January 1 to December 31. This conforms to the TXSSAR Constitution which requires chapters to have their officers selected at least 30 days before the Annual Meeting.

The Chapter's Nominations Committee provides the nominations for officers during the October meeting and the floor is open for any other nominations. The election is then held in November. Officers are elected for two-year terms but receive a vote the follow-on year. Installation of officers is then held during the December meeting.

Budgets, Dues, and Funding

The Chapter's budget is based on the funding it receives and the activities it does in the community. The Chapter receives most of its funding from dues paid by Chapter members. The Chapter can also receive donations from members and has had a few fundraising activities. Compatriots have also paid program costs as a donation to the Chapter.

Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs work to build a budget for each program year (September through May). The Chapter does not meet in the summer, except for participation in Fourth of July events, so does not have any expenditures.

The budget is dependent on available funding. Fewer funds mean fewer programs that can be completed, limiting our ability to meet our goals.

The William Hightower Chapter has one of the larger chapter dues in the Texas Society. Several years ago, the Chapter voted to raise annual dues to \$40.00 to support an annual scholarship, the Richard and Joanne Robinett Scholarship. It is a \$1,000 scholarship awarded by the Chapter to a graduating senior in the area.

The Texas Society has a website to pay annual dues and make donations to the society. The website will collect all dues for the Chapter, TXSSAR, and NSSAR. The website also collects donations for TXSSAR and NSSAR programs. Donations to the Chapter are made in person to the Chapter.

Per the TXSSAR By-Laws, the website becomes available before November 1 to pay the next year's dues. Compatriots provide their name, NSSAR number, and their Chapter. The website then calculates the payment and can collect it using a credit card. Dues should be paid by December 31, or they are delinquent. After all payments are

received, the TXSSAR Secretary will remit your dues to the Chapter by May 1. You can access the TXSSAR Online Dues and Donations Payments website at this [link](#).

The NSSAR and TXSSAR both offer lifetime membership programs. The NSSAR Life Membership covers dues to the National Society for life. The TXSSAR Perpetual Membership covers dues to the State Society and the Chapter for life. They are separate programs, and a Compatriot needs to enroll in both to not have any further dues requirements.

Compatriots can learn more about NSSAR's Life Member program at this [link](#). Compatriots can learn more about TXSSAR's Perpetual Member program at this [link](#). Keep in mind, TXSSAR's Perpetual Member program funds the Chapter at \$9.50, which limits support to our scholarship programs. The Chapter encourages Compatriots to continue to support our scholarship programs beyond Perpetual membership.

The SAR Magazine



The SAR Magazine is the quarterly publication of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. You will receive the magazine in the mail. It provides updates on SAR activities across the nation and around the world. It includes history of the American Revolution and our Society. It is a key to stay informed.

You can also find digital copies of The SAR Magazine going all the way back to the beginning of our Society. The magazine was originally titled, *The Spirit of '76*. You can access digital copies of every magazine going back to Volume VI, Number 1, published in September 1899 through the NSSAR website members only area. Copies can be viewed online or downloaded onto your computer for later reading.

The Texas Compatriot



The Texas Compatriot is the Texas Society's newsletter. It is published on a quarterly basis. Usually presented electronically to all members of the Texas Society, the newsletter was previously offered in print format. The Texas Compatriot is a great publication to keep up to date on what is happening across our state society.

The Texas Compatriot is available on the Texas Society website. Past issues can be found at this [link](#) in the About Texas SAR menu.

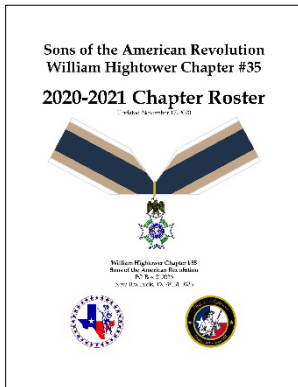
The Hightower Recorder



The William Hightower Chapter publishes a monthly newsletter from September to May, the *Hightower Recorder*. The newsletter is sent to Compatriots, friends, and other members of the community interested in keeping up with the Chapter.

The *Hightower Recorder* provides the latest information on Chapter activities, updates on fellow Compatriots, American Revolution history, and information of interest about the Texas and National Societies. It is sent by email and can be read electronically or printed for later.

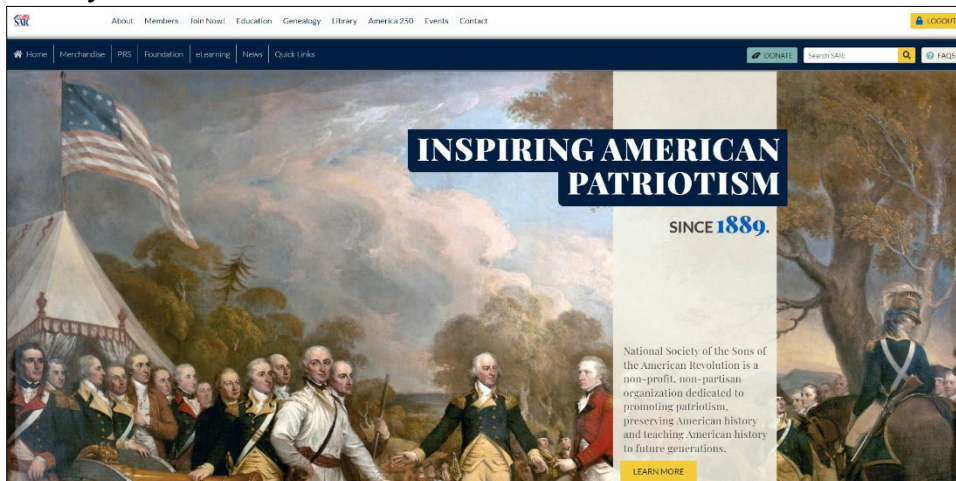
Chapter Directory



The Chapter Directory is the phone book for the William Hightower Chapter. It is provided when you first join the Chapter, then updated from time to time. It is sent by email and only to Compatriots within the Chapter. The directory provides contact information to help you stay in contact with your Chapter and fellow Compatriots.

Accessing SAR on the Internet

National Society Sons of the American Revolution Website



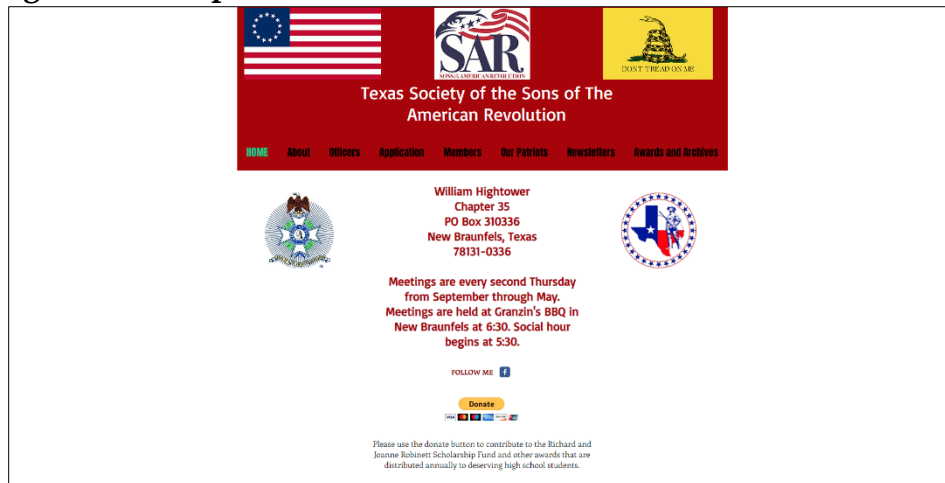
The National Society's website provides key information to both members and the public. The National Society's website includes a members-only section. You can access the public site at this [link](#). To access the members-only section, click on the yellow login button in the upper right of the page.

Texas Society's Website



The Texas State Society's website is available at this [link](#). The site provides information and updates to the public and members. The Texas Society site has a members-only section accessible from the Home menu.

William Hightower Chapter's Website



The William Hightower Chapter has a website at this [link](#). The public can access information on the Chapter and what we do for the community. The Chapter does not have a members-only site.

Social Media Pages

The Sons of the American Revolution is on social media. The National Society, Texas Society, and William Hightower Chapter all maintain a presence on several platforms. Here some links to social media pages:

Facebook

National Society Sons of the American Revolution is at this [link](#).

William Hightower Chapter is at this [link](#).

X (formerly Twitter)

National Society Sons of the American Revolution is at this [link](#).

Texas Society is at this [link](#).

YouTube

National Society Sons of the American Revolution is at this [link](#).

National Society's Revolutionary War Rarities is at this [link](#).

The NSSAR Handbook

The NSSAR Handbook contains detailed information for members of the SAR. It is published in eight volumes by subject. Compatriots can access the handbook at this [link](#). The volumes of the handbook are updated about once a year, usually after an Annual Congress.

TXSSAR Handbooks and Guides

The TXSSAR does not maintain a member handbook. Instead, its website members section shares information. The TXSSAR maintains several guides for Chapter officers and committees to keep up to date with their requirements and activities. All information is accessible at the society's website member section.

Preparing and Submitting Biographies

One of the first actions the Chapter will ask of you is to prepare a biography of your Patriot ancestor and submit it to upload on our website. The biography should be no more than a page. It should include birth and death information about your Patriot, where they lived, who their parents were, and any information about marriage and children. The biography should also include their contribution to the American Revolution and any interesting information you would like to include. There are many examples on our website at this [link](#).

Supplemental Ancestors

Membership in the SAR is only the beginning. Compatriots are encouraged to continue researching their family history. To encourage continued genealogical research by all Compatriots, the SAR offers the opportunity to recognize supplemental ancestors. Supplemental ancestors are lineal descendants who are recognized as Patriots after you become a SAR member.

The requirements and process to complete a supplemental application are the same as the requirements used when you initially became a member. Supplemental ancestors are not just a great way to keep working on your genealogy, they are a great way to help us find all our American Revolution Patriots and tell the complete story of this time in American history.

See the Chapter Registrar for assistance with supplemental applications.

Junior Members

The SAR offers a membership option for young men under age 18. Junior member applications are completed the same as any other application, except at a reduced fee. Junior members may participate in any SAR activity and are eligible for most recognitions. Junior members are not eligible to vote, hold office, or receive their own copy of *The SAR Magazine*. See the Chapter Registrar for assistance with junior member applications.

Memorial Membership

The SAR offers memorial memberships for men who have passed away, but otherwise qualify for membership. Compatriots may submit a memorial application within two generations of themselves. See the Chapter Registrar for assistance with memorial applications.

Appendix A: Youth Contests and Teacher Awards

The William Hightower Chapter offers several youth contests with scholarship awards. The Chapter also has presents awards to members of the community for their service and achievements.

Youth Contests

Youth contests are open to all youth in the grades recognized. Many of these programs offer the winners the chance to compete at the state and national level. Several also offer scholarship money as part of the award.

Richard and Joanne Robinett Scholarship

School: Public, Private, and Home School

Grade: 12

Scholarship Award: William Hightower Chapter only, \$1,000

Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Award

Criteria: Approved curriculum teaches students about the Revolutionary War era from 1750 to 1800

Award:

Chapter: Winner - \$500

State: Elementary - \$1,500, Middle - \$1,500, High - \$1,500; or each may choose all expenses paid weeklong education experience

National: 1 winner each, Middle and High – scholarship worth up to \$5,000

George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest

School: Public, Private, and Home School

Grade: 9-12

Scholarship Awards:

Chapter: 1st - \$500, 2nd - \$250, 3rd - \$100

State: 1st - \$3,500, 2nd - \$750, 3rd - \$500

National: 1st - \$6,000, 2nd - \$3,000, 3rd - \$2,000, 4th - \$500, 5th - \$500

Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration Contest

School: Public, Private, and Home School

Grade: 9-12

Scholarship Awards:

Chapter: 1st - \$500, 2nd - \$250, 3rd - \$100

State: 1st - \$3,500, 2nd - \$750, 3rd - \$500, 4th - \$300, 5th - \$150, 6th - \$150

National: 1st - \$8,000, 2nd - \$5,000, 3rd - \$3,000, 4th - \$500, 5th - \$500, 6th - \$500

Outstanding JROTC Cadet Award

School: Public or Private School, must be enrolled in JROTC

Grade: 11

Scholarship Awards:

Chapter: Winner - \$250

State: 1st - \$3,500, 2nd - \$750, 3rd - \$500

National: 1st - \$5,000, 2nd - \$2,000, 3rd - \$1,000, 4th - \$500, 5th - \$500

Arthur M. and Berdena King Eagle Scout Contest

Criteria: Must be Eagle Scout aged 18 or younger on December 31 of contest year

Scholarship Awards:

Chapter: Winner - \$250

State: 1st - \$3,500, 2nd - \$750, 3rd - \$500

National: 1st - \$10,000, 2nd - \$6,000, 3rd - \$4,000, 4th - \$2,000, 5th - \$1,000, 6th-10th - \$500, 11th-15th - \$200

Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest

School: Public, Private, and Home School

Grade: 3, 4, 5

Scholarship Awards:

Chapter: 1st - \$100, 2nd - \$50, 3rd - \$25

State: 1st - \$300, 2nd - \$200, 3rd - \$150, 4th and 5th - \$100

National: Changes each year

Sgt. Moses Adams Memorial Middle School Brochure Contest

School: Public, Private, and Home School

Grade: 6-9

Scholarship Awards:

Chapter: 1st - \$100, 2nd - \$50, 3rd - \$25

State: 1st - \$300, 2nd - \$200, 3rd - \$150, 4th and 5th - \$100

National: Changes each year

Silver and Bronze ROTC Medal

School: Silver: College and University, Bronze: High School

Grade: Silver: N/A, Bronze: 11

Award: Medal and Certificate

Appendix B: William Hightower Chapter Committees

The William Hightower Chapter is active in the community. The amount of work to be planned, coordinated, and completed requires many moving parts. To ensure the Chapter can complete as many of its objectives as possible, committees are organized to focus on the work.

The objective of our committees is to promote the objectives of the SAR; that is, to gain recognition of, and educate the public on, the history and reason why our ancestors fought so dearly for their liberty and our freedom.

Please consider being a part of a committee to increase your participation in the SAR, the Chapter, and the community.

Awards Committee

The purpose of this committee is to review applications for a particular SAR citation or medal, seek the necessary documentation, order and prepare the award, arrange for the presentation at a regular meeting, and provide picture and story line for our newsletter and the local media. The committee supports other committees in preparing awards for presentations. The Secretary is part of this committee.

Color Guard

This Committee is the backbone of the Color Guard. Its responsibilities include:

1. Reviewing and recommending events in which the Color Guard should participate
2. Recruiting Color Guard members
3. Helping find cost effective vendors to order Continental Period uniforms
4. Keep the Chapter up to date on SAR Color Guard requirements
5. Track of the SAR point system for unit and member participation
6. Recommending awards to the Awards Committee
7. Providing pictures to the monthly Newsletter
8. Supporting the Public Events Committee with materials for the media
9. Participating in the Color Guard

Finance and Budget

Prepare a budget for operating each year to coincide the election of chapter officers. Support and advise each committee to fund and meet specific committee goals. Support the Treasurer to meet his audit and tax-exempt requirements.

Flag Awards

To promote the chapter through recognizing organizations (especially schools) who promote and display the flag and the etiquette that comes with it, even to participating in raising and lowering the flag ceremoniously. This includes, but is not

limited to, seeking out those organizations, in our area, writing up and ordering the awards or certificates, and coordinating the presentation thereof.

Fundraising

To develop ways to raise funding beyond dues to support the goals of the chapter, to find means to expand funding for scholarships and awards, to raise monies to support the TXSSAR Perpetual Fund, and to present projects to the membership for approval and implementation.

George Washington Proclamations

Each year, in February, we honor the birthday of our first president by coordinating with the local government entities to prepare proclamations honoring George Washington. This committee will coordinate with the local government representatives, provide them with the proclamation wording, arrange for SAR participation of the award, and provide pictures and story line to the Newsletter and Media.

Grave Marking

The main purpose of the committee is to seek out those SAR members who have passed away and do not currently have an SAR grave marker, then make the necessary arrangements with family members to acquire the necessary marking and arrange for a graveside ceremony. The committee coordinates with other Chapters to locate and mark the grave of a Compatriot's ancestor, coordinates with the Color Guard to participate in the ceremony and provide pictures for the Newsletter and media publication.

Nominations

To seek Compatriots interested in leadership positions within the Chapter, to prepare a proposed slate of high-quality leaders for elected positions, to present the proposed slate one month prior to the election, and to receive nominations from the floor to add to the ballot during presentation of the slate of officers.

Public Events

To promote the chapter and the SAR at local parades, fairs and fraternal organizations and other community events. The purpose is public affairs in nature and promotes the "Braid Name" of the SAR. It includes o maintaining a calendar of community events, coordinating participation in those events, and preparing promotional materials.

Public Service Awards

To promote recognition of members of local police, fire, and EMS organizations for going above and beyond the line of duty. The purpose includes coordinating with

local department leadership and coordinating the presentation at our annual November recognition meeting.

Publicity and Media

The purpose of this committee is to promote the objective of SAR and the Chapter in engaging and educating the public. This team promotes the chapter website, Facebook, and other social media platforms. They build relationships with local media sources and provide them with materials to promote the goals of SAR. They will coordinate with the Historian, Web Master, and Newsletter Editor to ensure our activities are publicized and recorded.

ROTC, JROTC, and Cadet Programs

To recognize outstanding cadets at the ROTC, JROTC, Civil Air Patrol, and other cadet programs in our area. The purpose includes coordination with organization leaders to prepare and order the awards and coordinate presenters at each unit. This committee will encourage these units to participate in our essay and orations contest as well as our Flag programs.

Scouting Programs

Establish goals in support of the Eagle Scout awards program of SAR, interface and promote SAR programs with Scout units in our local area.

Youth Awards and Contests

The Chapter will promote SAR contests and awards for students, encourage participation in contests, build relationships with public, private, and home schools, involve teachers, and encourage schools to promote these opportunities as they are intended to honor and preserve the principles and patriots that founded this great nation.

Appendix C: Compatriot and Chapter Achievements

Minuteman Awardees from the William Hightower Chapter

The Minuteman Award is the highest award bestowed by the Sons of the American Revolution. It may only be awarded to a Compatriot once by the National Society.

1994: Billy E. Hightower

Patriot Medal Recipients from the William Hightower Chapter

The Patriot Medal is the highest award bestowed by a state society. It may only be awarded to a Compatriot once by the state society.

1990: Billy E. Hightower

1996: Charles Motz, III

1998: Richard L. Robinett

1999: John C. Lee

2004: Thomas B. Green

2005: Wayne D. Justiss

2018: Stuart G. Hoyt

2020: Blair G. Rudy

2021: Louis P. Colantoni

National Society Officers from the William Hightower Chapter

1992: Billy E. Hightower, Vice President General, South Central District

2005: Richard L. Robinett, Vice President General, South Central District

State Society Presidents from the William Hightower Chapter

1989-1990: Billy E. Hightower

2003-2004: Richard L. Robinett

State Medal for Distinguished Service Recipients

2006: Richard L. Robinett

Past Chapter Presidents

1984: Billy E. Hightower

1985: Myles R. Kuykendall

1986: Michael J. Cantu-Withoff, Jr.

1987: Richard L. Robinett

1988: Andrew L. Kuykendall

1989: Charles Motz III

1990: Wilmer Carl "Jack" Frost

1991: Albert G. McNaul

1992: Charles Motz III

1993: Richard P. Edwards

1994: Richard H. Clark

1995-1996: John C. Lee

1997-1998: Wayne D. Justiss

1999: Joe E. Bostwick

2000-2001: Thomas B. Green III

2002: Joe B. Cox, Jr.

2003-2005: Louis P. Colantoni

2006: Clifford L. Caskey

Past Chapter Presidents Continued

2007-2009: Jerry M. Bullock

2009-2011: Christopher C. Baker

2011-2013: Milan F. Stonebreaker, Jr.

2013-2015: Patrick D. Hollis

2015-2018: Stuart G. Hoyt

2018-2020: Steven R. Polk

2020-2022: Thomas A. Jones

2022: Alan D. "Don" Chandler

2022-2024: Edward J. Blauvelt

Chapter Distinguished Service Medal Recipients

The Chapter Distinguished Service Medal is the highest award that may be bestowed by a Chapter President. Only one may be awarded annually and a Compatriot can receive it only once.

2017: Patrick D. Hollis

2018: Michael J. Pryor

2019: Stuart G. Hoyt

2020: Thomas A. Jones

2021: Kristopher K. Krueger

2022: Robert P. Duckworth

2024: William P.C. Moravits

Chapter Meritorious Service Medal Recipients

The Chapter Meritorious Service Medal is awarded for rendering long, faithful, and meritorious service to a Chapter. It may only be awarded for Chapter service once.

2016: Jerry M. Bullock, Clifford L. Caskey, Louis P. Colantoni, Joe B. Cox, Jr., Terry Hardeman, Patrick D. Hollis, Travis Tate

2017: Louis P. Segaloff

2018: Michael J. Pryor

2019: Allen D. Chandler, Jr.

2020: Edward J. Blauvelt, Robert P. Duckworth, William P.C. Moravits

2021: Stuart G. Hoyt, Steven R. Polk, Blair G. Rudy, Curtis S. Trull

2022: Kristopher K. Krueger, Eric D. Mowles

Chapter Recognitions

The Texas Society recognizes the work of chapters through a series of annual awards. The Americanism and Outstanding Chapter Awards are the highest honors bestowed on a chapter by the Texas Society.

2017: Texas SAR Americanism Award

2018: Texas SAR Americanism Award

2024: Texas SAR Americanism Award

2025: Texas SAR Outstanding Chapter Award

Appendix D: Displaying Flags

Displaying the U.S. Flag is the most patriotic action shown by Compatriots day-to-day. The Chapter wants to help you display flags appropriately, so they receive the proper recognition and honor what they represent.

The United States Flag Code is a federal law contained in United States Code Title 4, Chapter 1 available at this [link](#). This law codifies the appearance of the U.S. Flag and how to display it respectfully. This law is the will of the people to honor the U.S. Flag.

The Texas State Flag Code is a state law contained in the Texas Government Code Chapter 3100 available at this [link](#). This law follows similar principles for honoring the Texas State Flag while giving the position of honor to the U.S. Flag.

Guidelines for displaying flags of the military, SAR, and other organizations are maintained by those organizations. SAR guidelines for displaying flags is found in the SAR Handbook, Volume IV, *Insignia, Protocol, Ceremonies & Rituals*, available on the members only site at this [link](#).

General Guidelines to Display the U.S. Flag:







1. The U.S. Flag is always in the “position of honor.” Depending on how flags are displayed, the U.S. Flag will always hold the position afforded the highest honor.
2. The Texas State Flag holds the “position of honor” except when being flown with the U.S. Flag, and the Flags of the President and Vice President of the United States.
3. Protocols exist for displaying flags after the U.S. Flag and Texas State Flag. Feel free to consult with other organizations on properly displaying their flags. As mentioned earlier, the military and government agencies often have people educated in protocol who can assist in proper display.

Position of Honor

The position of honor is the spot reserved for the highest-ranking in a group. The idea stems from centuries of customs and courtesies. The U.S. Flag is always in the position of honor and displayed:

1. On its own right with a group of flags.
2. By itself and centered in front of a group of flags.
3. On stage right when on a stage.
4. On the audience’s right when at the audience level.
5. On the right side of a podium when next to a podium.
6. On its own right with a group of flags behind a podium. The group is centered behind the podium.
7. With the flag on its own right side and pole on its left side when displayed with another flag and the flag poles are crossed. The U.S. Flag’s pole should be in front of the other flag’s pole.

8. Highest when hoisted on a flagpole with other flags.
9. With the canton (blue field with stars) at the top and on its own right when hung horizontally or vertically.
10. Centered and highest with a large group of flags.
11. Over the right front fender mounted on a vehicle.
12. With the canton towards the north or the east over a street, depending on the direction of the street.

Image	Description
	<p>When carried in procession with other flags the U.S. flag should be either on the marching right (the flag's right) or to the front and center of the flag line. When displayed on a float in a parade, the flag should be hung from a staff or suspended so it falls free. It should not be draped over a vehicle.</p>
	<p>When displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, the U.S. flag should be on its own right (left to a person facing the wall) and its staff should be in front of the other flag's staff.</p>
	<p>In a group of flags displayed from staffs, the U.S. flag should be at the center and the highest point.</p>
	<p>When the U.S. flag is displayed other than from a staff, it should be displayed flat, or suspended so that its folds fall free. When displayed over a street, place the union so it faces north or east, depending upon the direction of the street.</p>
	<p>When the U.S. flag is displayed from as projecting from a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the unless the flag is at half-staff. When suspended from a rope extending from the building on a pole, the flag should be hoisted out, union first from the building.</p>
	<p>When flags of states, cities or organizations are flown on the same staff, the U.S. flag must be at the top (except during church services conducted at sea by Navy chaplains)</p>

Courtesy US Department of Veterans Affairs. *Guidelines for Display of the Flag* available at this [link](#).

Appendix E: The Sons of the American Revolution Member Badge

By Kris Krueger

Our Society was founded in April 1889. Only a few short months later, in December of that same year, our member badge was approved. "The insignia was designed in the very early days of the Society by Major Goldsmith Bernard West, Vice-President of the Alabama SAR. Its source is the cross of the ancient chivalric Order of St. Louis, founded by Luis XIV in 1693." (NSSAR website)



Order of St.
Louis Medal

The Order of St. Louis was unique in its time. Nobility was not a requirement to be inducted. The Order of St. Louis was limited to commissioned officers of the Army and Navy who were of Catholic faith. While selection to the order conferred nobility, the Order was seen as egalitarian for its time due to its focus on meritorious service over noble birth. As the Order of St. Louis was awarded only to Catholics, King Louis XV created an equal award for non-Catholic officers in 1759: the Order of Military Merit.

By the time of the American Revolution, both awards would be well known in the Continental Army as indicators of military merit and long service with several awarded to French officers fighting alongside our patriots.

Both the Order of St. Louis and the Order of Military merit would survive the French Revolution for about a year. The awards were eventually stripped of their association with royalty and combined into the "military decoration." The military decoration was dropped a little more than a year after its introduction. When Napoleon came to power, he sought a system to reward both military and civilian service. One of the awards he created was the Legion of Honour. The medal borrowed heavily from the Order of St. Louis, including in the red ribbon and similarity in the design of the cross. The Legion of Honour became known for merit across France regardless of class.



SAR
Member
Badge

When it was time for the Sons of the American Revolution to design an emblem to recognize their membership, they looked for something that embodied both the spirit and reality of what it took to win our freedom. Our member badge does just that.

France was our most fervent ally and top supporter. She provided money, supplies, troops, and ships to get us to victory. The design borrowed from the Order of St. Louis pays homage to that alliance. The replacement for the Order of St. Louis, the Legion of Honour, also provided inspiration. The laurel wreath and the overall size of the badge both come from the Legion of Honour.



Legion of
Honour

Other symbols in the badge recognize our patriots. The center medallion includes the bust of George Washington and the SAR motto. The laurel wreath symbolizes republican victory. The colors of the ribbon are taken from General Washington's uniform: blue, white, and buff. The cross is suspended from an American Eagle. The reverse, or back, of the badge includes the image of a minuteman surrounded by the name of our Society.

When put together, the symbols contained in our member badge tell the story of how our nation gained its independence. It recognizes heroes and allies, ideals and the realities of what our patriot ancestors went through to make that victory possible.

The Order in the American Revolution

During the American Revolution, several French officers arrived on the American continent wearing either the Order of St. Louis or the Order of Military Merit. By the end of the war, both were awarded by King Louis XVI to American and French officers.



John Paul Jones wearing the Order of Military Merit



Louis de Tousard wearing the Order of St. Louis and the Society of the Cincinnati

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