



Cradle of Texas Crier
 Cradle of Texas Chapter # 33
 Sons of the American Revolution



Volume 20, Number 3 October 2017 Michael J. Bailey, Editor

October

Next Meeting
 21 October, 2017
 11:30 am
 On The River Restaurant
 Freeport, 919 West 2nd Street
 Freeport Texas
Program: The Small Things, WW1
By Michael Bailey



World War 1 was the first truly modern war. All the previous concepts of fortifications, troop movements and civilians changed forever. Chapter member Michael Bailey will examine the small things that changed in the soldier's live and how they had to adjust to a new style of warfare.

MEETING MINUTES
 Sons of the American Revolution
 Cradle of Texas Chapter #33
 May 13, 2017

The Sons of the American Revolution met May 13, 2017 at Fat Grass Bar and Grill in Bay City, Texas. SAR President Winston

Avera called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. SAR Vice President Ray Beall led the Chapter in the U.S., Texas and SAR pledges. Michael Bailey gave the invocation and blessing for the meal.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Chapter President Winston Avera introduced Yvette Benavidez Garcia, TXSSAR District 7 VP Ron Brown, Inductee Nelson Leopold, newly approved compatriots Brian Wubbena and Jack Newman and guests Matthew deWaal, Sands Weems.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

President Avera called for approval of the April 2017 minutes. Ray Beall moved to approve the minutes as presented and Michael Bailey seconded the motion. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR

April 2017:

General Fund	
Beginning Balance	
3/31/2017	\$5109.24
Deposits	
Dues	
Interest Earned	\$1.01
Expenditures	
Guest Meals -	\$72.63
McAlexander Fund	\$900.00
Ending Balance	
4/30/2017	\$4,977.63

¹ Available for purchase of uniforms for SAR Color Guards

INDUCTION CEREMONY:



Registrar Bill Sanders presided over the induction of Nelson Eldridge Leopold, III, through the service of his Patriot Ancestor **Jesse Ray** of North Carolina. After the Oath of Reaffirmation was administered by Registrar Sanders. Guest speaker Yvette Garcia assisted with the pinning of the "Rosette" and Chapter Vice President Ray Beall presented the NSSAR/TXSSAR "Challenge Coin".

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES:

Registrar Bill Sanders – Applications for Brian Wubbena and Jack Randolph Newman have been approved and their induction will occur September 2017. Carl Wiggins' application is being reviewed under newly approved DNA guidelines. Application for Sands Weems, III will be signed today. Applications actively pending additional documentation are: Jimmy Sanders, Max Royalty, David Mowery, Daniel Mowery, Donny Congen, Jimmy Barnhill, Jason Hugh Jensen, Jacob Gary Jensen, Thomas Anthony Taroni, and Bud Northington. Also, there are an

additional 25 applications without recent activity.

Webmaster Carl Wiggins – Briefed on notable improvements.

- Added light beige background to the Home Page.
- Expanded the History Tab to include additional Newsletters
- Updated Map and Current Events on sidebar
- Refined previously added items such as **American History, What We Do, Austin's Colony, Members, Patriots and Speakers**
- Changes to **Community** subpage
- Additions to **Gallery**
- Working on **Members Only** section

Send questions and suggestions to Carl at cmwiggins1@comcast.net or call 281-996-7976.

Education: Compatriot Dart advised on this year's recipients of the JROTC Medal for the five Units covered by our Chapter.

- Alvin High School, Christian Fernandez
- Brazoswood High School, Ferdinand Beltran
- Dawson High School, Natalya Plourde
- Pearland High School, Meagan Torres
- Wharton High School, Jordan Ramirez – Cadet Ramirez' nomination has been forwarded to TXSSAR for consideration

NEW BUSINESS:

Ray Beall noted that Mother's Day will be tomorrow and attendees applauded all mothers.

PROGRAM: Yvette Benavidez Garcia, of El Campo, Texas, told of the life of her father, “Medal of Honor” recipient, Raul P. “Roy” Benavidez, MSgt USA, (Retired).



She began by describing her very first teaching job interview with then Principal Ray Beall, our Vice President. Upon learning that she was from El Campo, Ray wanted to share with her the story of Sergeant Benavidez. After finishing his recollection of his heroics and the award of the MOH, he asked if she knew him. After saying yes, and that she was his daughter, a job offer was quickly extended.

MSgt Roy P. Benavidez was born August 5, 1935 near Cuero, Texas and had lost both parents by the age of 7. After their passing he and his brother Roger went to live with his Uncle Nicholas, Aunt Alexandria, Grandfather Salvador, and eight cousins in El Campo, Texas. Life was hard, but made easier by the family bonds and values instilled by his uncle, aunt and grandfather. They taught him that “Benavidez” was a proud name, with strong Texas and American ties, and that he should strive to honor his family heritage. Their family earned money in the migrant fields of Texas, New Mexico and Colorado, picking cotton, beets and other crops as they came into season. But, at the end of the season they returned to El Campo to resume school and other family activities. At times, Roy could lose his temper and cause problems for himself - he said this was his “Yaqui” Native American blood coming to the fore.

After the eighth grade, he dropped out of school, which he later said was his greatest regret. He made a lifelong friend of

Art Haddock, at the local “Firestone” store, who provided a job and guidance. At a point, he decided it was time to join the National Guard. Later he decided he wanted to join the regular Army and become the paratrooper; something that he had dreamed of as a young boy. During the enlistment process, his “Yaqui” blood may have come into play as he offended the recruiting NCO, and was sent in another direction, also losing an annotation in his enlistment record indicating his prior National Guard service which would have provided a higher rank at time of enlistment.

In 1956, he was posted to Berlin, Germany, where in 1957 he encountered a drunken officer and tried to assist another officer to get the officer into a taxi. To accomplish this, he planted a solid punch to the officer’s nose. When given the opportunity to explain his action to the Company Commander, he saw the West Point motto, “Duty, Honor, Country” on the office wall and it made an impression on him. After counseling from friends, teachers, and family and Bible verses, this motto made sense to him. He took that motto as his own, and always tried to live up to those ideals. He lost a stripe that day, but gained a real sense of purpose.

Leaving Germany for his next assignment he had another mission in mind which was to properly court and marry Hilaria “Lala” Coy. They were married, June 7, 1959 and he soon learned that when Lala said “Benavidez” in a certain way, that he should pay attention. Never losing sight of his goals, he ultimately became a paratrooper and later a “Green Beret”.

As a paratrooper, he served a tour in Viet Nam, which was cut short, after stepping on a land mine. The resulting injury left him paralyzed from the waist down and many months in the Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) facility. He was

offered a medical discharge because the doctors told him he would never walk again and they stopped his physical therapy. He refused the offer and promised the doctors he would walk again. At night, he struggled mightily to exercise and teach himself to walk which he did 9 months later. Not content to be desk bound, he figured out how to get on an airplane, not once, but three times in a day to regain his jump certification and a shot at becoming a "Green Beret". That too he accomplished.

When assignment orders came, they were for South America, but in his "Benavidez" way got them changed to Viet Nam, ultimately leading to May 2, 1968. He was on routine duty, not scheduled for patrol, but when word came of his team mates being under heavy fire, he did not hesitate, hopping on the first available "helo", with only medical gear. He picked up weaponry after insertion into the hot zone. Six hours later after numerous wounds, retrieval of classified information, and the saving of at least eight individuals, he was the last to reboard the chopper.

On arrival back at base, he was mistaken for enemy personnel and for dead. As he was being zipped into a body bag, a team mate, MSgt Jerry Cottingham recognized who he was, and demanded a closer look. That's when Roy made "the luckiest and best shot of" his life. As the zipper was coming up he was able to summon the strength of "Yaqui blood" to make one spit into the doctor's face which let them know that he was indeed alive.

He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions on May 2, 1968. That day also saw his long journey to Tachikawa AB, Japan and later to BAMC, where he previously defied the odds of ever walking again, to another journey of many surgeries and recovery. But, his body did not allow him to perform at the level he

expected of himself and retired (Medically) from the Army, September 10, 1976.

Another 5 years would pass before an eye witness to his heroics, Brian O'Connor, would provide the needed details to upgrade the "DSC" to the 'Medal of Honor'. On February 24, 1981 MSgt Benavidez was presented the Medal of Honor by President Ronald Reagan. For the next 17 years, he spent his life speaking to civic and school groups, emphasizing the importance of staying in school. At the end, he again was at BAMC where on Nov 29, 1998, he succumbed to the ravages of diabetes, leaving behind wife Lala, and children, Denise, Yvette and Noel. He was buried near comrades at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, Texas.



Ray Beall completed the presentation with a moment of silence for all veterans and by playing and leading the singing of "God Bless the U.S.A." by Lee Greenwood.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ron Brown (District 7, Vice President), Winston Avera, Ray Beall, Rodney Weems, Bill Sanders, Michael Bailey, Russell Dart, Arthur Evans, Nelson Leopold, Ted Bates, Dr. Tillman Daniel, Charles Bernard, Albert Herreth, Brian Wubbena and Jack Newman.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Yvette Benavidez Garcia, Connie Avera, Glenda Beall, Pat Sanders, Carl Wiggins, Candace Wubbena, Julie Bailey, Matthew

deWaal, Sr., Freda Daniel, Judy Bernard, Joan Bates, and Sands Weems III.

NEXT SAR MEETING:

The next SAR will be on September 9, 2017, Los Cucos Mexican Restaurant, Wharton, Texas.

SAR Recessional was led by Ray Beall.

A motion for adjournment was made by Michael Bailey and second by Albert Herreth. Motion approved.

The Benediction was given by Michael Bailey.

Next Meeting
21 October, 2017
11:30 am

On The River Restaurant
Freeport, 919 West 2nd Street
FREEPORT, TEXAS
(979) 233-1352

www.ontheriverrestaurant.com



**2017
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Cradle of Texas Chapter #33**

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Let Us Remember
Those We Lost Recently
Compatriots

Thomas Paul Mayerle
Jim Heath - Past Texas SAR President

Sister Compatriots
Mrs. Janice Emily Chapin Seidule
Mrs. Glenda Lopez Beall

This Month in the
American Revolution
OCTOBER 7, 1780
BATTLE OF KINGS MOUNTAIN



"Colonel Cleveland's War Prize"
By Don Troiani

Colonel Cleveland rides the horse of British officer Patrick Ferguson who was killed during the Battle.

THE TURN OF THE TIDE OF SUCCESS

Thomas Jefferson called it "The turn of the tide of success." The battle of Kings Mountain, fought October 7th, 1780, was an important American victory during the Revolutionary War. The battle was the first major patriot victory to occur after the British invasion of Charleston, SC in May 1780. The park preserves the site of this important battle.

Kings Mountain is a unique battle for several reasons. It was one of the few major battles of the war fought entirely

between Americans: no British troops served here. In the South, many people were divided. When the war started, some fought for independence, others for loyalty to England.

Kings Mountain is also unique in that large numbers of riflemen fought here. Rifles were not used much by the armies. A rifle was a hunting weapon, used by families on the frontier. The American militia that fought here mainly used rifles; the Loyalist troops had mostly muskets.

The difference between a rifle and a musket is speed versus accuracy. A rifle is slow to load, but very accurate. Riflemen can hit a target at 200 or 300 yards. Yet the rifle can only be fired once a minute. A musket, with a smooth bore, is easy to load but inaccurate. Muskets have an accurate range of about 100 yards, but can be fired up to three times a minute.

National Parks Service
US Department of the Interior
<https://www.nps.gov/kimo/index.htm>

