



# LA GRANADA



The Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez – Founding Chapter

NOVEMBER 2013

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

SAN ANTONIO, TX

## San Antonio Founders Day



Thanks go out to Richard Whynot, Roland Salazar, Henry Alvarado, J.J. Zavala and Joe Perez for staffing the booth at the San Antonio Founders Day event on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

## Genealogical and Historical Seminar

Thanks go out to Henry Alvarado, Roland Salazar, J.J. Zavala and Joe Perez for serving as Color Guard at the Genealogical & Historical Seminar held at the Menger Hotel. They were presented with a certificate of appreciation by Grand Viscount General Ed Butler.



## Tobin Library



Jesse Benavides, Miaoyin Rojas, Michael Rojas and Joe Perez gave a living history presentation at the Tobin Library to a receptive group on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

## DAR

### Atascosa Chapter



Governor Joe Perez gave a presentation to the Daughters of the American Revolution Atascosa Chapter at the Longhorn Museum in Pleasanton on October 1<sup>st</sup>. His presentation was well-received



## **Our Next Meeting:**

**Wednesday, November 6**

**Royal Inn Oriental Cuisine**

**5440 Babcock Rd**

**(Corner of Babcock & Hamilton Wolfe)**

**Dinner at 6:30**

**Meeting at 7:15**

### **Guest Speaker:**

**Jesse Villarreal, Sr.**

**Author of "Tejano Patriots of the  
American Revolution 1776-1783"**

Author Jesse O. Villarreal, Sr. has given a presentation to our group on his book "*Tejano Patriots of the American Revolution 1776-1783*", however, two things will be different this time around. Not only will he have a PowerPoint presentation for us but the book will have a seal announcing it has won the prestigious *Presidio La Bahia Award* by the Sons of the Republic of Texas.

**TEJANO PATRIOTS OF THE  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
1776 - 1783**



**BY JESSE O. VILLARREAL, SR.  
EDITED AND ANNOTATED BY JUDGE ROBERT H. THONHOFF**

In addition to the pre-sentation, you can buy the book for only \$20 at our November meeting.

Camaraderie, a great presentation and an award-winning book signed by the author; you won't want to miss this meeting.

## **Upcoming Events**

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### **November 9, Saturday: Noon**

#### U.S. Military Veterans Parade

We will march proudly in the parade with our Granadero Color Guard and Fife & Drum Corps. A parade packet with detailed information will be sent via email to all uniformed members.

### **November 11, Monday: 4:30 pm**

#### Salute to Veterans at the Alamo

We will sponsor a presentation honoring all veterans from the American Revolution to today. After a brief speech by our Governor, we will retire the U.S. flag with proper ceremonial protocol in front of the Alamo shrine.

## **Honorary Granadero**

At our October meeting, Governor Joe Perez presented Granadero Rueben Perez with a framed Honorary Granadero membership certificate. In addition to presentations to our group, Rueben donated the proceeds to his book "Laredito" to our chapter which added over \$400 to help us in

our continuing efforts to educate the public about Spain's contributions to the American Revolution. Congratulations and thank you, Rueben!



## **Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez – Founding Chapter – San Antonio TX**

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## Dues Are Due

Membership Dues for 2014 are currently due. Membership is \$30 per year and go to help our chapter fulfill its mission of educating the public about Spain's contributions to the American Revolution. This past year, we have been able to pay for much-needed items such as a projector, screen, fifes, public address system, parade entry fees, items to display and materials for our living history booth. Part of the chapter dues also goes toward membership in the State and National Orders.

## Election of Officers

At our November Meeting, we will vote for the offices of Governor and Deputy Governor. These two positions are for a period of two years. Per our Bylaws, a Nominating Committee consisting of Past Governors shall present its nominations at our meeting and will accept nominations from the floor. The current Governor and Deputy Governor are running for re-election. These are the only two elected positions. All other officer positions are appointed by the Governor.

# National Meeting

The National Meeting of the Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez was held from Friday, October 11 through Sunday, October 13 in Houston, Texas. The Houston Chapter did a fantastic job of coordinating the weekend event. On Friday night, there was a lovely reception at La Quinta Inn & Suites. On Saturday, we were treated to a docent-led tour of the Bayou Bend Museum, which houses artifacts from the American Revolution. After an enjoyable lunch, we listened to a presentation about the Gálvez statue project from a representative of the SAR Bernardo de Gálvez Chapter of Galveston and heard from the artist who was present. The National and State meetings were then conducted where chapter reports were presented by Governors present and read from statements of Governors who could not make the event. San Antonio Chapter Governor Joe Perez was voted in as Governor General and Houston Chapter Governor Richard Espinosa was voted in as State Governor. Later in the afternoon, we visited the Clayton Library where docents showed us the "Cuban Papers" and other documents relating to General Gálvez. Saturday evening, we enjoyed a delicious paella dinner on a large patio. Kudos to the Houston Chapter for a wonderful event.

## Battle of Baton Rouge

On Saturday, September 21, 2013, a special ceremony was conducted commemorating the 234<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Baton Rouge, where General Bernardo de Gálvez defeated the British in 1779. The ceremony was next to the site of the original fort. About forty to fifty visitors were in attendance including members of the SAR, DAR, Canary Island Historical Society of Louisiana (CIHSL), journalism students from Louisiana State University and a Cub Scout group. The audience was dazzled by the many Revolutionary War uniforms and ladies' colonial dresses. Granadero Clifford Normand gave a talk and was in uniform representing his ancestor Pierre Trepagnier, Second Lieutenant of the German Coast Militia, who was involved in the battle. His talk covered the tactics used by Gálvez in outsmarting British Colonel Dickson. The picture above shows (L-R) Granadero Clifford Normand, Dama Lynda Normand, CIHSL President Joan Alleman and Treasurer Stephen Estopiñal. Thanks go out to Clifford Normand for providing the information and photo.



## Texas A&M University – San Antonio Establishes Archives

A special reception at the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Main Campus on October 10<sup>th</sup> launched a new Archives and Special Collections Unit, which will house an archival newspaper collection of La Prensa (San Antonio's first bilingual publication) dating back to 1923.

One of the Archive's features is the Robert H. Thonhoff Collection containing four decades of research on Texas. *Congratulations, Judge Thonhoff!*

The Archives & Special Collections Unit is housed at the Brooks City-Base campus and is by appointment. Read more about this special collection by copying the link below into your web browser.

[www.tamusa.tamus.edu/news/2013/10/university-archives.html](http://www.tamusa.tamus.edu/news/2013/10/university-archives.html)



## Author of "Got Proof!" Wins High Award

Michael N. Henderson was recently awarded the James Dent Walker Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Afro-American Historical and Genealogy Society for his book, *"Got Proof! My Genealogical Journey Through the Use of Documentation"*. Mr. Henderson's book tells the fascinating story of his fourth generation great grandmother, Agnes Mathieu, a slave who gained her freedom by bravely petitioning the Louisiana courts to honor her freedom papers. She was assisted by the father of her children, with whom she maintained a 31-year relationship but was not able to marry because they were not of the same race. The man, who, in today's social norms would be considered her common-law husband, was a Frenchman named Mathieu Devaux, who served as an Artilleryman under the Command of General Bernardo de Gálvez. That is why the 1779 manumission (freedom paper) was signed by General Gálvez, Governor of Louisiana. At right is Mr. Henderson holding his award with Barbara Walker, wife of the award's namesake. An article written by Anita Paul about Mr. Henderson's journey appeared in the August 2013 issue of La Granada. Congratulations, Mr. Michael Henderson!



## ~ ~ ~ ~ *Be It Resolved...* ~ ~ ~ ~

The Indiana Society Sons of the American Revolution has sent a resolution to the National Society SAR to give recognition to Spain's involvement in the American Revolution as follows:

***"Therefore now be it Resolved, That the Indiana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Petition the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution to provide the same honors and recognition to Spain that it gives to France at all its activities and functions, including the display of the flag of Spain."***

We don't have all the information yet on the status of the resolution but will keep the membership informed. The SAR and DAR have been instrumental for years in recognizing Spain's contributions to the American Revolution, especially the heroic efforts of General Bernardo de Gálvez.

# *For The Space of Twenty Days...*

## Continental Marines Under the Command of General Gálvez

By Joe Perez

November is a special month for the U.S. Marines. “*Resolved that two battalions of Marines be raised...*” begins the resolution passed by the Continental Congress that created the Marines on November 10, 1775. The Continental Marines disbanded in 1783 and were recreated in 1798 as the U.S. Marine Corps, however, the Corps celebrates its birthday on November 10<sup>th</sup>. The Continental Marines wore green coats with high leather collars which gave them the nickname “Leathernecks”. Granadero Bill Bowlin, who served in the Marine Corps, dons the uniform of the Continental Marines who served under the command of General Bernardo de Gálvez.



Granadero Bill Bowlin as a  
Continental Marine.

General Gálvez provided a ship to Continental Navy Captain William Pickles to replace one that was lost in a hurricane. The new schooner had the same name as the one it replaced, *Morris*. While Pickles was the Captain, Lieutenant Daniel Longstreet commanded the Marines on board. The crew of the *Morris* was ordered to harass the British at every opportunity on Lake Pontchartrain. For two years, the British sloop, *HMS West Florida*, had held command of Lake Pontchartrain. Then on September 10, 1779, the *Morris* encountered the *West Florida* and after a brief skirmish, Pickles captured the British war sloop and took possession of it. One Spanish report read, “*It is unbelievable that he should have captured it*” because the *West Florida* was much better equipped with more cannons than the *Morris*.

After the Battle of Lake Pontchartrain, Captain Pickles, on his new sloop *West Florida*, was given orders to join the Spanish fleet “*for the space of twenty days or longer if necessary, or requested by the Commander in Chief of the Spanish fleet.*” This may be the first instance

of American troops serving under a foreign command.

Continental Marines fought bravely at the Battle of Mobile and later at the Battle of Pensacola, assisting General Gálvez in his Gulf Coast Campaign against the British.



### Resolution passed by the Second Continental Congress on November 10, 1775:

“Resolved, That two battalions of Marines be raised consisting of one colonel, two lieutenant colonels, two majors, and other officers, as usual in other regiments; that they consist of an equal number of privates with other battalions; that particular care be taken that no persons be appointed to office, or enlisted into said battalions but such as are good seamen, or so acquainted with maritime affairs as to be able to served with advantage by sea when required; that they be enlisted and commissioned to serve for and during the present war with Great Britain and the colonies, unless dismissed by order of Congress; that they be distinguished by names of First and Second Battalions of American Marines, and that they be considered as part of the number which the Continental Army before Boston is ordered to consist of.”