



President General's Message



L. Vaughn Oliver, KSJ
PRESIDENT GENERAL



The 86th Annual Meeting of The Sons of the Republic of Texas was a Great Success! More SRT Members attended than usual (5 first timers) and we accomplished a lot! Amended the SRT Constitution and the SRT By Laws, started a foundation that allows some protection of SRT assets, and enjoyed meeting with other SRT members. We have a lot of smaller projects that keep us busy, but this annual gathering helps keep us focused. This annual meeting brought change in the Executive Committee. We brought in a new face that has been around, Ed Heath. We lost another face, Leonard Cloud KSJ, PPG. He is not really lost, but can officially sit on the back row with the other sea-

soned members. I was elected President General, and several others now have new positions with new responsibilities. This is a serious change for me and for you. One day I am a SRT member and proud of it; then I wake up and I am the President General of The Sons of the Republic of Texas. Something has happened from a small restaurant on Berry Street on the way to the Fredonia Hotel in Nacogdoches. In the service, I constantly seemed to be defending Texas Independence or Southern Heritage and I never seemed to know why. As the years have gone by, I have slowly come to know why. Texians are the ones who

step out, Texians are the ones who defend ideas, and Only Texas has The Lone Ranger. You just can't buy that, you have to be born a part of it. Our forefathers had no knowledge of any of this. Our forefathers had no idea this would blossom to this level. Our forefathers were trying to raise a family and survive in this new frontier. Their strength, their determination, and their inner vision are what helped them through the difficult times. We are products of this, we are proud of their lives, and we continue to step forward. Our challenges are different as life and times continue to change, but we are Texians. And Proud of it, just ask!
God Bless Texas!



IN AND AROUND TEXAS

This issue of the Texian will be mostly photos of the 86th Annual Meeting. I hope those of you who were unable to attend will enjoy the pictures and see why you should make it to next year's meeting. For those of you who were there, you can see that "What Happens In Nacogdoches" does not "Stay in Nacogdoches" JDB





IN AND AROUND TEXAS



The Banquet





IN AND AROUND TEXAS



The Hospitality Suite

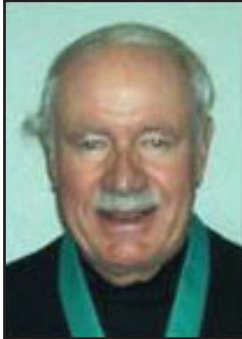
Hospitality Suite setup and managed by Tom Houston, Sam Clark, Bob Steakley and J. Richard Reese
Enjoyed by all!





IN MEMORIAN

This April we had a great Annual meeting, but April was also a sad month as we lost two very good friends. They will live on in our fond memories.



LLOYD CHARLES BILLINGS
Passed away April 20th 2008

2008-2009 Knights of the Order of San Jacinto

Back Row (L-R): Joe Ericson, Joe Ginn, and Charles P. Biggs III
Front Row (L-R): Gerald Sitterale, Al Davis IV, Knight Commander, and Billy Johnson



Knighthood 1990, Charles Billings was born in Beeville on June 4, 1933, to Lloyd and Freda Borchers Billings. He attended public schools there and graduated from A. C. Jones High School in 1950, having lettered in football, basketball, baseball, and volleyball. In 1955 he earned a B.S. degree in chemistry from the University of Corpus Christi. After ten years with a major oil company in Corpus Christi, New Orleans, and Houston, he resigned to form his own oil and gas exploration company, Sendero Oil Company, which operates mainly in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and the Gulf of Mexico. His other investments include real estate, stocks, and motion pictures. In 1989, he conceived the idea of erecting a monument to mark the birthplace of Colonel William Barrett Travis near Saluda, South Carolina. United States Senator Strom Thurmond (S.C.) participated in the dedication of this monument. Senator Thurmond complemented Billings on his efforts at fundraising, designing, and placing this Travis monument by reading Billings' address on Colonel Travis into the United States Congressional Record. This event gained national recognition and was featured on the television series, "The Eyes of Texas." The SRT Distinguished Service Award was presented to him for this meritorious service to the state. His great-great-grandfather, John Billings, petitioned the legislature of the Republic of Texas to form the County of Lavaca. Billings and his wife, Peggy, lived in their Spanish-style home, "Casa Sierra," high atop a mountain overlooking Canyon Lake. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, sports, and photography. Their travels have taken them to Europe, Asia, and South America.

He was a director of Guadalupe Valley Telephone Cooperative; the Alamo Foundation; Republican Presidential Task Force; Rotary Club; Fiesta San Antonio Commission; Argyle Club; San Antonio Petroleum Club; Longhorn Foundation; Texas Historical Association; Texas Peace Officers Memorial Committee; and Houston, San Antonio, and American Associations of Petroleum Landmen. He was also a delegate to the Republican Party Convention; past president of the Republican Men's Club of Comal County; president of Mental Health/ Mental Retardation for Comal County; Community director of Victoria Bank & Trust; admiral in the Texas Navy; and a recipient of the Republican Presidential Legion of Merit. A fifth-generation Texan, Billings served as president of the William B. Travis Chapter (#7), and as historian general and first and second Vice President General. He served as President General from 1994-1996

The Burial of the Dead and Celebration of the Holy Eucharist James Franklin ("Jimmy") Steinbach May 15, 1931 - March 31, 2008

On Saturday April 12th, the Fredericksburg Chapter held a ceremony for one of our own, James Steinbach. Jim was a long time member of the S.R.T. and long and dear friend of Sam Houston IV. Sam made the trip from Houston to Fredericksburg to pay his respects to his dear friend. Jim and Sam worked together for many years together in Houston. Also representing the Fredericksburg Chapter was Robert Baker, James Muncey, & Chapter President Donald Clark. Jim will be missed by many people. Rest in peace, Jim.

Friends of Jim

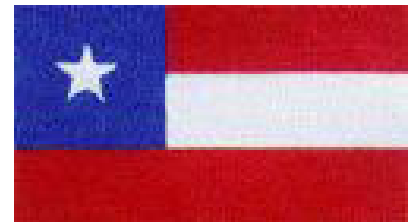


Sam Houston IV KSJ and
Donald Clark, President
John O. Meusebach Chapter #48



IN AND AROUND TEXAS

And around the world on land and sea!



USS SAN JACINTO CELEBRATES SAN JACINTO DAY IN THE MED

Greetings from the USS SAN JACINTO in the Mediterranean Sea!

I'm writing to share with you our ceremony that we held onboard the ship on Monday in remembrance of San Jacinto Day.

We held a very nice ceremony that started at 7 PM (Eastern Med. Time) which, coincidentally, was commenced at exactly the same moment as your ceremony (11:00 AM Central Time). The Chaplain led off with prayer and I was the MC for the ceremony. I began with a detailed account of the Battle of San Jacinto. We have a lot of young crewmen that needed to hear in detail what this battle was all about.

Then Captain Sharpe gave his remarks and correlated how bravery and team spirit onboard the ship matches with what occurred at the San Jacinto Battle 172 years ago.

I then brought up 3 different crewmen who were all proud Texas state residents and they talked about pride in service and pride in being from Texas. These three senior crewman were from Taylor, TX; Lampasas, TX; and Pittsburg, TX.

The ceremony concluded by hearing from the Sons of the Republic of Texas "2007 Enlisted Man of the Year" - Petty Officer Michael Cole. We are very proud of the Sailor and he was an easy nomination. Petty Officer Cole has been stationed onboard the USS San Jacinto (CG 56) two different times during his career (a very rare thing in the Navy) and he was also "Command Advanced" by the Captain last year to the pay grade of E-6 because of his outstanding superior performance onboard the ship.

I also proudly displayed my Texas state flag that I was given last year when I came down to visit and I also had a scrolling slide show going on one of our large screen TV's. We held the ceremony in the crews mess and we really packed the crew in! The crew was riveted to the speakers throughout the entire ceremony. We concluded the ceremony with a nice cake cutting.

The crew greatly appreciated that we explained this historic event to them in detail and they now have a new-found appreciation for how important this battle was to our nation's future.

So, how was your ceremony that day? We explained that Petty Officer Michael Cole would have been there too but the mission of the ship required him to be onboard.

Here's some photos that were taken that evening. Also included are a few of the slides that showed on the large screen TV.

Very Respectfully,

Matt Simpson
CMDRCM (SW/SS)
USS SAN JACINTO (CG 56)



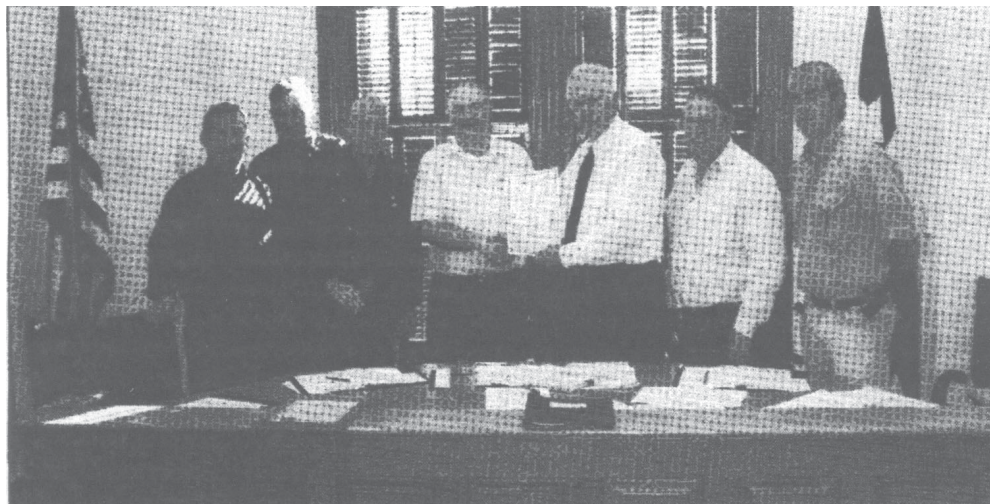


IN AND AROUND TEXAS



San Jacinto Day was proclaimed in Fayette County at the Fayette County Commissioners Meeting.

A12 The Fayette County Record, Friday, April 18, 2008



San Jacinto Day was proclaimed in Fayette County at the Fayette County Commissioners meeting held on Monday morning, April 14. Shown are from left, Commissioners Tom Muras and James Kubecka, Bob Schuhmann and Mark Adams with the Sons of the Republic of Texas, Fayette County Judge Ed Janecka, and Commissioners Gary Weishuhn and John Saunders.

San Jacinto Day Proclaimed

By H.H. HOWZE
The Fayette County Record

April 21 was proclaimed "San Jacinto Day" by Fayette County commissioners Monday.

On that date in 1836, "the decisive battle of the Texas War of Independence was fought," according to the proclamation. "It is necessary and proper to remind the citizens of Fayette County of the sacrifices made by our ancestors ... to gain an independent Texas."

Sons of the Republic of Texas, a legacy heritage organization, sponsored the proclamation.

As for the Texas revolutionary war, "all's well that ends well."

Prior to the battle of San Jacinto, mere chaos had been unleashed upon the breakaway republic by Santa Anna's invading forces. Butchery of prisoners at the Alamo and Goliad signaled his intention to teach a bloody lesson.

But invasions, as Napoleon

and other generals learned, have a way of breaking bad.

A reversal of fortune was at hand.

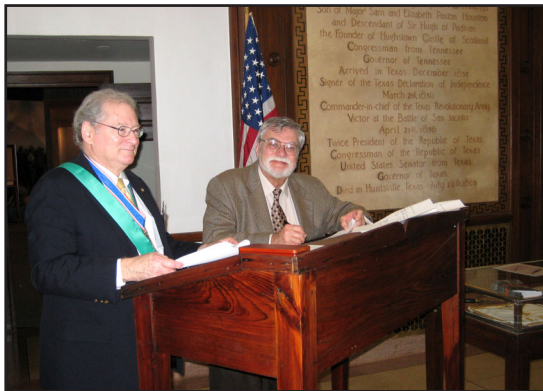
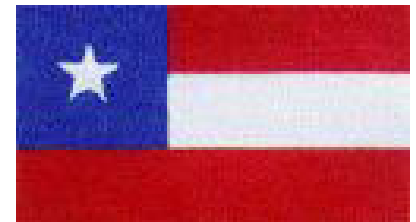
It came at San Jacinto because the insurgents had a leader, Sam Houston, who strategically preserved the army for such an opportunity.

And it came because his army, Texians as they called themselves, were tough individuals fighting for their lives and fortunes on home ground.

On April 21, 1836, fortune smiled on them and Texas.



IN AND AROUND TEXAS



A great day for the SRT - The Museum signs Depository Agreement which will allow the Sam Houston Museum at Sam Houston State College in Huntsville, Texas to keep the Sam Houston Templar Sword (in the case to the far right - you can see the brass hilt) owned by the SRT for the foreseeable future.

2008-2009 Executive Committee

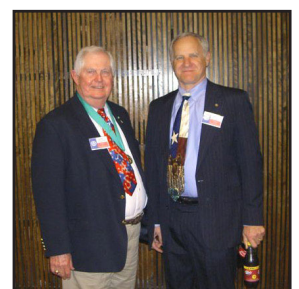
- President General: L. Vaughn Oliver, KSJ
- 1st Vice President General: Sam F. Clark, Jr.
- 2nd Vice President General: David Hanover
- Treasurer General: Bob Steakley
- Secretary General: Tom Houston
- Historian General: Robert Kendall, KSJ;
- Chaplain General: Wesley N. Schulze, KSJ
- Executive Committeeman: Edward A. Heath
- Executive Committeeman: J. Richard Reese, KSJ
- Administrative Assistant: Janet Hickl



2008-2009 District Representatives

- Back Row (L-R) North East: Stan Stokes; North Central: Duane Blair; San Jancinto: Randy Pollard; and Piney Woods: Joe W. Pyle
- Front Row (L-R) Hill Country: Ken Pfeiffer; 2nd V.P. David Hanover; Frontier: Bob Steakley
- Not pictured Brazos Valley: Robert Schuhmann and Post Oak: Bob Reese

More Pictures from 86th Annual Meeting

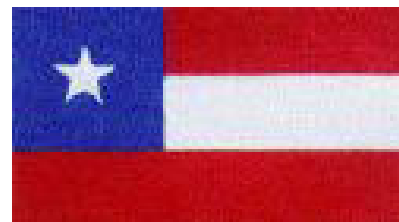


NEW SRT MEMBERS

Name	Chapter	Ancestor	Hometown
Erick Stewart Brown	1	Hugh Allen	Lake Charles, LA
Dr. Neal Maddox McBryde	1	Henry Young I	Beeville, TX
LCDR John Doak McBryde	1	Henry Young II	Chesapeake, VA
Oliver C. McBryde Jr.	1	Henry Young II	San Antonio, TX
Connor Doak McBryde	1	Henry Young II	Chesapeake, VA
Jeremy Ryan Parten	1	John Caperton Brooks	Houston, TX
John Austin Parten	1	John Caperton Brooks	Houston, TX
John Randolph Parten	1	John Caperton Brooks	Houston, TX
Stephen Clark Rogers	1	Daniel Hiram Glassco	Scottsdale, AZ
Jeffrey Cole Bailey Jr.	7	Robert Justus Kleberg	San Antonio, TX
Joe Edward Groff	7	Pierre George Christilles	San Antonio, TX
Richard Mifflin Kleberg IV	7	Robert Justus Kleberg	San Antonio, TX
Beau Carlton Kleberg	7	Robert Justus Kleberg	San Antonio, TX
Richard Mifflin Kleberg V	7	Robert Justus Kleberg	San Antonio, TX
Stephen Justus Kleberg	7	Robert Justus Kleberg	San Antonio, TX
Cebern Simpson Kleberg	7	Robert Justus Kleberg	San Antonio, TX
Maxwell Lancaster Oliver	7	Andrew Oliver, Jr.	San Antonio, TX
Joseph Dale Scott	7	Andrew Oliver, Jr.	Cherokee, TX
Bradley David Bender	8	Stephen Williams, Sr.	Irving, TX
Gary Lynn McKenzie	8	Carter Tarrant McKenzie	Plano, TX
James Austin McKenzie	8	Carter Tarrant McKenzie	Dallas, TX
Hermilo Trinidad	8	Juan Manual Anatacio Montalvo	Grand Prairie, TX
Albert Lindsley Watson III	8	Jacob Hart	Lookout, GA
Russell Lee Windle	8	John A. Windle	Dallas, TX
Ian Davis Blount	12	Stephen William Blount	Buda, TX
Thomas Barker Calvert	12	William Nicholas Barker	Elgin, TX
Lloyd Michael White	12	John Calvin McComas	Austin, TX
James Jefferson Ferrell	16	Leroy J. Ferrell	Victoria, TX
Thomas Aaron Dickens	17	James Washington Winters, Sr.	Hebbronville, TX
Thomas Oliver Morse	17	Robert Sterling Simpson	Aransas Pass, TX
Steven Dale Yoakum	17	Elizabeth Louisa Olivo	Corpus Christi, TX
Joshua George Langdon	25	Abishia Mercer Dickson	Holland, MI
Jason Coleman Fortenberry	28	Zacheriah L. Stringer	Newton, TX
William Edward Fortenberry	28	Zacheriah L. Stringer	Anahuac, TX

NEW SRT MEMBERS

Name	Chapter	Ancestor	Hometown
John Price Fortenberry	28	Zachariah L. Stringer	Newton, TX
Frank Henry Hammonds	33	James W. Cunningham	Vidor, TX
William Thomas Hammonds	33	James W. Cunningham	Vidor, TX
Thomas Lee Chambers	34	Isaac Killough	Brenham, TX
Roger Dean Chambers	34	John Byars, Jr.	Burton, TX
James Michael Moore	35	William M. Hewitt	Collegeport, TX
James Darwin Cashion	36	Solomon Barrow	Deltona, FL
Robert Franklin Pitts	36	Fielden Ruble	Grand Prairie, TX
Jackie Lee Pitts	36	Fielden Ruble	Mabank, TX
Keith Vandiver	36	John Morrow	Morgan, TX
Howard Arville Williams Jr.	36	Col. Leonard G. Houston Williams	Fort Worth, TX
William John Grissett	38	Alfred Grissett	Louisville, KY
Tommy Gaylon Craig	40	John W. Craig	Moore, TX
John Leslie Hinnant	40	Cornelius Clay Cox	San Antonio, TX
Edwin Jack Martin Jr.	40	Tandy Key Martin	San Antonio, TX
James Bruce Mazock	40	Robert Brough Longbotham	FPO, AE
George Joe Winn Jr.	40	Martha Lott Patton	San Antonio, TX
William Russell Woods, Jr.	40	James Hooker	San Antonio, TX
Johnny Lee Cearley	48	Peter Burg	Bulverde, TX
James Fletcher Mooring	48	James Gore Wilkinson	Kerrville, TX
Billy Don Taylor	48	Edmund Wooldridge	Harper, TX
Sylvester Lee Coons	50	John Halbert	Reno, NV
Charles Victor Manes Jr.	50	Elijah Valentine Dale	Richmond, TX
Robert Dale Manes	50	Elijah Valentine Dale	Jacksonville, OR
Jordan Heath Wade	50	Abram Minter Womack	San Marcos, TX
William Robert Brackeen	52	James Madison Brackeen	Tyler, TX
James Edward Hooper	52	Richard Hooper	Hudson, FL
Christian Raymond Karstendiek	52	Miranda Mathis Woodruff	Navarre, FL
Albert Joseph Rawls	52	Reece Rice, Jr.	Rusk, TX
J B Rawls	52	Reece Price, Jr.	Rusk, TX
Walter Milburn Fortenberry Jr.	58	Zachariah L. Stringer	Porter, TX
Christopher David Fortenberry	58	Zachariah L. Stringer	Porter, TX



SRT Annual Essay Winners Selected For 2008

Dr. Ericson selected the top three Essays written by the following students:

First Place - Julia C Giuffre - Our Lady of Victory School - Houston

Second Place - Jacob S. Vandermeer - St. Mark's School of Texas - Dallas

Third Place - Nicole E. Strickland - Harker Heights HS - Harker Heights, Texas

All the Winners and other participants in the Texas History Essay Contest have been notified.

June 6 & 7 Executive Board Meeting - Granbury

September 12 & 13 Executive Board Meeting - Boerne

Tapito Springs Resort, 800-999-3299 or 830-537-4611

September 20 Texian Navy Day, Houston

September 20 Monument Hill Remembrance Ceremony

October 2 The Battle of Gonzales

November 3 Stephen F. Austin's Birthday (Father of Texas)

November 15 Tomball Parade

December 5 & 6 Executive Board Meeting - Victoria

Hampton Inn, 7006 N. Navarro Street, Victoria, 77904 (361) 573-9911

The Quarterly Meeting will be held in Granbury on June 6 & 7, 2008. La Quinta Inn and Suites 880 Harbor Lakes Dr. 817-573-2007 Rate: \$109 Friday Dinner \$20; Meeting will be at City Council Chambers, 116 West Bridge St., Granbury.

The Sons of the Republic of Texas



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