



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We are in the home stretch of 2022 with a few events still to come. As previously noted, I hope we see some of our local members take a more active role in driving our Chapter forward. Volunteer organizations typically follow cycles of boom and bust; therefore, we must guard against the "bust" by incorporating new Chapter leaders and those with a passion to help drive us forward into the future.

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# The Honor Ring

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## Texian Navy Day 2022

It seemed in the recent past that the Texian Navy Day celebration was snake bit as it had been cancelled due to hurricanes and the pandemic, but not this year! Whenever The Sons of the Republic of Texas come together for an event, it is always wonderful to see friends and compatriots and celebrate the great history of our state. This year's celebration coincided with the recent movement of the Battleship Texas BB-35, so it seemed strange to look down the reflecting pool and not see Battleship Texas moored in her usual spot at San Jacinto. The ship's successful transit from San Jacinto to dry dock in Galveston was of course a point to celebrate where it will now receive some tender loving care. This year's celebration was

spearheaded by our Historian General, Jeff Corbin, who produced a great Program. The Deer Park High School orchestra



**Chapter attendees at Texian Navy Day 2022 from L to R: Dennis Giuffré, KSJ, Bart Dawson, Bobby R. Smith, Phil Whitley, and Rick Giuffré.**

once again provided the musical ensemble for the event, while other key organizations such as the DRT and San Jacinto De-

scendants were also present. President General Randy Pollard, KSJ was the emcee for the overall event and introduced all of the key speakers. Executive Director of the Battleship Texas Foundation, Bruce Bramlett, gave an update on Battleship Texas as well as the long-term goal for the ship. As in the past, the Sam Houston Chapter announced the winner and runner-up for our Bobby R. Smith USS San Jacinto Enlisted Sailor of the Year Award, which we have given since the ship's commissioning.

The keynote speaker was our friend and past guest speaker Judge Ken Wise who always delivers a great presentation on most any Texas History topic. This is a fun event to attend, so I hope we see you next year!

## The Old Stone Fort in Nacogdoches

The present building is a reconstruction, erected as part of the Texas Centennial program, using stones that were in the original fort. Though not precisely documented, it is generally believed that the [fort](#) was built around 1779 or 1780. It has been held and garrisoned at various times

by Spain, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, the Confederacy, and the United States. Located in Nacogdoches, one of the four oldest civilized settlements in Texas, named for the Nacogdoches Indians. Here in 1716, the Spaniards established Mission Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, around

whose deserted buildings Nacogdoches was permanently established by Antonio Gil Ybarbo in 1779. The fort stands on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State University and houses a historical museum. The El Camino Real de los Tejas also runs through this area of Texas.



Participate to the extent of your capability and availability, but participate.

*"Thank you for the continued support of our Gunslingers, this is pretty awesome."*

*LaFrederick O. Herring,  
Command Master Chief,  
USS San Jacinto CG-56,  
August 18, 2022*

## Join Us for these Upcoming Events

The remainder of 2022 as well as early 2023 has a mix of both national, state, and local events planned, so there are plenty of opportunities for you to participate in as your availability allows.

**October 15, 2022:** Chapter Meeting, Katy, TX

**November 12, 2022:** Father of Texas Celebration, San Felipe de Austin, TX

**November 19, 2022:** Chapter Meeting, Katy, TX

**December 3, 2022:** Quarterly SRT Meeting, Victoria, TX

**December 3, 2022:** La Bahia Awards Ceremony, Goliad, TX

**December 10, 2022:** Holiday Gathering Dinner, Katy, TX

**January 21, 2023:** Chapter Meeting, Katy, TX

**February 18, 2023:** Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show & Rodeo Parade + Chapter Meeting + Officer Installation, Katy, TX

**March 2, 2023:** Mirabeau B.

Lamar Flag Ceremony

**March 2, 2023:** Washington-on-the-Brazos

**March 6, 2023:** Dawn at The Alamo, San Antonio, TX

**March 11, 2023:** SRT Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX

**April 15, 2023:** Chapter Meeting, Katy, TX

**April 21, 2023:** San Jacinto Day, San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site

**May 20, 2023:** Chapter Meeting, Katy, TX

## USS San Jacinto Enlisted Sailor of the Year

As your Chapter President, I have said many times that the most privileged honor I have is to give this award each year. My time here is simply one step in a lengthy staircase wherein our Chapter has maintained its obligation to the USS San Jacinto since its commissioning. For approximately 30 years, this Chapter in landlocked Katy, Texas has issued



**Our 2022 Bobby R. Smith USS San Jacinto Enlisted Sailor of the Year, GSM3 Eric Montejo.**

an award to two sailors onboard the Ticonderoga-Class Missile Cruiser USS San Jacinto CG-56. Our Chapter is further privileged to be able to announce this award during The Sons of the Republic of Texas' Texian Navy Day Event each September. In 2022, our winner of the Bobby R. Smith USS San Jacinto Enlisted Sailor of the Year Award went to GSM3

## Sam Houston RoT Presidential Library

Did you know that Texas was home to FOUR Presidential libraries? Lyndon B. Johnson, George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush, and Sam Houston! In October 2021, the State of Texas House of Representatives issued [House Concurrent Resolution No. 129](#) expressing support for the creation of the

Sam Houston Republic of Texas Presidential Library at Sam Houston State University. The existing Sam Houston Memorial Museum will now also include a [Presidential Library](#). This project is ongoing at the University and will build upon the immense information and interpretive history available at

the site. A library insinuates a presence of books, writings, and other documents available to the public; therefore, the [Writings of Sam Houston 1813-1863](#), comprising 2,500 entries and more than 10,000 footnotes, and covering Houston's varied career, are now available online for your reading.

## USS San Jacinto Enlisted Sailor of the Year, *Cont'd*

Eric Montejo. He is a Petty Officer third-class and is a native of Aurora, Illinois and serves as the Oil lab work center supervisor and Assistant Fuel & Lube Oil King. He is also working towards a Medical Degree (Marine Community College) and USMAPS (Power Plant Operator) Journeyman's Credits.

This year's runner-up award winner was MM2 Damon Tolbert. He is a native of Uniontown, Pennsylvania and serves as the Auxiliary Division Assistant Lead Petty Officer. His expertise is in air conditioning and



**Our 2022 runner-up award goes to MM2 Damon Tolbert.**

refrigeration and he was selected as the 3Q 2022 Junior Sailor of the Quarter. As the ONLY E5 onboard qualified Engineering Officer of the Watch, a position normally stood by an E-6 or above, he sets the standard for all to emulate.

We give a special thank you to these two sailors for their dedication to their ship, their country, and our Texas! We also give thanks to their commanding officer, Captain Marvin as well as CMC Herring, both of whom instill the best traditions of the Navy in their crew.

## The Final Expedition to Find La Salle

The Spanish were frantic to find and destroy the French colony established in Texas by La Salle in 1685. By 1689, there had been four unsuccessful overland expeditions and five by sea. The French also tried unsuccessfully to rediscover the colony in four sea expeditions. But, the Texas Indians knew where it was and what had happened to it. In 1689, Alonzo de Leon mounted

another land expedition, his third try. This time, he had the assistance of a fifty-year old Frenchman, Jean Gery. Gery had been captured in the Uvalde area and pressed into service as a guide and interrupter. As the expedition crossed the Rio Grande, a group of five hundred Indians met them to welcome their old friend Jean Gery. Afterwards, as they moved on through today's

Crystal City, Jourdanton, and Cuero, they encountered a single Indian who said the French colony had been annihilated "two moons" earlier (by smallpox and typhoid fever). Reaching the colony on April 22, 1689, De Leon found five small buildings. The colony's cannons would be rediscovered in 1996 by archeologists confirming the location of Fort St. Louis.

*"Amazingly, the Indians in the vicinity of Fort St. Louis recognized Jean Gery. The charisma of this Frenchman among such widely dispersed Indian bands astounded the Spaniards."*

**True Tales of the Texas Frontier: Eight Centuries of Adventure and Surprise, C. Herdon Williams, 2013**

## Local Partners? Katy Heritage Society

As a result of having the Katy Heritage Society be our July meeting guest speaker, several side bar discussions were had. First, the local Katy Heritage Society has primarily focused on the timeframe of Katy's formation around 1900, so not very much is documented about the area prior to that. As a result, we may engage with the Katy Heritage Society to support their efforts to ex-

plore the timeframe prior to 1900, and especially what the area constituted during the Republic of Texas timeframe.

In the context of reciprocity, our Chapter was invited to be a guest speaker at the Katy Heritage Society's upcoming meeting in November. This opportunity will afford our organization to gain much

needed local exposure to like-minded individuals focused on historical preservation. Through these connections, we may expand our network, gain new members, and receive local backing on our projects especially where they intersect with the Katy Heritage Society's goals.



**Katy Heritage Society President Adrienne Davitz.**



## The Sam Houston Chapter #38

Katy, Texas

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**“Honoring your Ancestors,  
remembering your past”**

The **PURPOSE** of the SRT shall be to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved the independence of Texas, set the young Republic upon its high course among the nations of the world, and finally secured its admission as a state of the United States of America.

The Sons of the Republic of Texas, Inc. (“SRT”) consists of members who are direct lineal descendants of those that settled the Republic of Texas prior to February 19, 1846, when Texas merged with the United States as the 28th state.

The Sam Houston Chapter was formed in 1987 in Katy, TX and holds regular meetings at Texas Tradition restaurant in Katy.

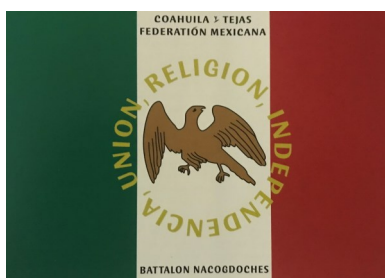
# The Tricolors in Texas

The majority of colonial Texians found themselves unwilling participants in Mexico’s interminable political conflicts. Texas flags had always been the people’s flags. Settlers had arrived in Texas steeped in the traditions of the American revolution and Jacksonian democracy. They understood that flags were symbols of their political aspirations and never hesitated to employ them for this purpose. The tricolor must have flown over official buildings where government agents collected duties and over presidios. Some militias of the American settlements displayed variants of the Mexican flag. An 1828 law called for Tejas to provide two battalions of infantry and two cavalry units for the common defense. Each unit was to have a color of the following specifications: “The flag shall be of silk, five-

quarters square, in three vertical stripes, green at the staff, white in the centre, and red in the extremity. In the white square shall be stamped an eagle in the attitude of flying, and around it, in letters of gold, the words *Religion, Independencia, Union*. In the upper part of the white stripe shall be placed the name of the State; under

the eagle, Federation Mexicana, and below this name of the town and number of the battalion, should there be more than one”. Even after fighting broke out in Gonzales, some local military units continued to exhibit their Mexican colors. A recruit from the United States on his way to join the Texian army recalled that the San Augustine militia paraded through the town “led by a drummer and by the tricolor of Mexico”.

You may find this as well as many, many more flags that were in use leading up to and during the Texas revolution by viewing the book **TEXAS FLAGS** by Robert Mayberry, Jr. originally written in 1949 with subsequent new releases in 2001 from The Museum of Fine Arts Houston and The Friends of the Texas Historical Commission.



**Texas Colonial Militia Tricolor flag, 1828 by Anne McLaughlin.**