



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The year kicked off with a lot of activity: Katy ISD Rodeo Parade (we won First Place), installation of new officers, Anson Jones Day, Lamar Flag Ceremony, Texas Independence Day, Dawn at The Alamo, SRT Annual Meeting, San Jacinto Day, and Katy ISD NJROTC Scholarship Award. As our schedule settles down, please plan to attend our chapter meetings where we will host a wide variety of notable speakers. See you soon!

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The Honor Ring

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Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show & Rodeo Parade

2025 marked the eight consecutive year our Chapter sponsored a parade trailer float in the annual Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show & Rodeo Parade, which is the largest parade held in Katy.

Our Chapter is always placed within the Civic Organization category by the parade officials wherein we won First Place in 2019, Second Place in both 2022 and 2023, and again won First Place in 2025.

This event is one of the most fun, rewarding, and offers our members and Chapter unmatched publicity in front of the Katy community where 10,000+ people usually attend this parade.

Over the years and due to the time of year the parade is planned, we have seen all types

of weather from freezing cold, to damp/rain, to warm/hot temperatures. This year, the weather was great as it started out cool but



Sam Houston Chapter members waving to the crowd and parade judges from our trailer float at this year's Katy ISD FFA Livestock Show & Rodeo Parade.

warmed quickly. One trademark of this parade is that all parade participants are encouraged to throw candy to the crowd. It can

be quite competitive amongst us on the trailer to see how far we can throw candy or how many we can get to land in someone's upside down umbrella.

Other Chapters have joined us in the past for this parade and all other Chapters are always welcome to join/participate with us. We represent our Chapter, but at the same time we represent the larger organization of The Sons of the Republic of Texas. Our parade flags always fly proudly from our trailer, which so many people comment on and express appreciation of our efforts to remember our past. We encourage all members to bring their kids and grandchildren to ride on the trailer float and throw candy with us. We hope you can join us next year!

Welcome our New President

On February 15, 2025, the Sam Houston Chapter installed its 20th President, Mr. Rick Giuffré. Rick's Texas ancestry goes back to his sixth great-grandfather, Nicholas Ory, who arrived at the Presidio La Bahia in 1769. Rick, and his brother Dennis Giuffré, KSJ, have one of the oldest line-

ages in the organization. Rick has two children, Camille and Nicholas. Rick joined the SRT and Sam Houston Chapter >20 years ago, and is an SRT life member. Rick retired from a career in public accounting and real estate in the Houston area. Also, Rick has served as a reader for the SRT's

annual *Presidio La Bahia Award* honoring an author's literary work on Texas History during the Spanish colonial period. Rick has served our Chapter with distinction for many years and will continue to do so as our President. We wish him the best!



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

"Special thank you to Chapter President Rick Giuffré and First VP Patrick Burell for helping put together the scrapbook this year, it was possibly our best one ever!"

*Bart Dawson
Past President,
Sam Houston Chapter
March 29, 2025*

Join Us for these Upcoming Events

Many events lie ahead of us, so join us when you can.

May 17, 2025: Chapter Meeting, Katy, Texas

June 21, 2025: Chapter Meeting, Katy, Texas

June 28, 2025: Quarterly SRT Meeting, Nacogdoches, Texas

July 19, 2025: Chapter Meeting, Katy, Texas

September xx, 2025: Quarterly SRT Meeting, TBD

September 20, 2025: Texian Navy Day, LaPorte, Texas

October 18, 2025: Chapter Meeting, Katy, Texas

November 8, 2025: Father of Texas Celebration, San Felipe de Austin, San Felipe, Texas

November 15, 2025: Chapter Meeting, Katy, Texas

December 6, 2025: Quarterly SRT Meeting, Victoria, Texas

December 13, 2025: Chapter Holiday Gathering, Katy, Texas

January 17, 2026: Chapter Meeting, Katy, Texas

We are attempting to coordinate a few local community projects here in Katy for late Spring, early Summer, so stay tuned for these opportunities to be announced.

We will update this calendar as time goes on and new events are announced.

103rd Annual Meeting of the SRT

The 103rd annual meeting of The Sons of the Republic of Texas was held in College Station, Texas this past March with the Wiliam Joel Bryan #14 Chapter serving as the host Chapter.

The Sam Houston Chapter was well represented with many of our Chapter Officers in attendance. At the Summerfield G. Roberts Award lunch-



Chapter members and spouses gathered together during a break at the annual meeting in College Station, Texas.

eon, a name familiar to us was called wherein Author Jim Brasher received this award for his book *"Eleven Days on the Colorado: The Standoff Between the Texas and Mexican Armies and the Pivotal Battle Unfought"*. Jim Brasher was the guest speaker at our November 2024 meeting in Katy.

Another update from the meeting was that the organiza-

Guest Speakers for 2025

This year, 2025, will be one of the best years we have had when it comes to guest speakers at our Chapter meetings. We have already had an incredible line up so far this year and it will only continue! We began the year with our honorary Chapter member Gary Pinkerton speaking about his

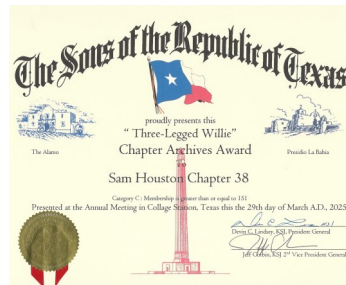
new book, while February saw us have the winner of the La Bahia Award, James Bernsen speak about his book. In May, we will have the Director of the Presidio La Bahia, Scott McMahon, as our speaker. In June, author Sam Haynes will speak about his book *"Unsettled Land..."*. As the

year continues, we have a host of other speakers already lined up including one of our members who will talk about some historical research he recently completed. We work hard to deliver interesting guest speakers to you, so we encourage you to show your support by attending meetings.

103rd Annual Meeting of the SRT, *Cont'd*

tion voted to expand the number of recognized SRT events during the year to include **Statehood Day**, which will occur on February 19 of each year. This is important to our Chapter as we already host the annual Anson Jones Ceremony on February 19, so this change will cause us to slightly modify our existing program.

In addition, the Sam Houston Chapter again won the “Three-legged Willie” Award for the best Chapter Archives or scrapbook. 2025 marked the fourth consecutive year



This marks the fourth consecutive year our Chapter has won this award. We take great pride in our scrapbook!

we won this award. One noted feature of our scrapbook is we take many pictures and document the events we host and participate in. We attempt to name each individual in those photos and include the various program handouts from events. This is made possible by you! Always take pictures of any historical event you participate in as you are representing our Chapter. The annual meeting is a great chance for fellowship with other compatriots and to steer the course of this organization.

If it Ain't Broke, Don't Fix it

In the year 1994, we began what become one of our Chapter's signature traditions—the Mirabeau B. Lamar Flag Ceremony. This ceremony has occurred each year since 1994 and is led by Dennis Giuffré, KSJ. Another long-standing tradition is the reading of the Travis Letter at our February Chapter meeting to commemorate the events leading up to Dawn at The

Alamo. Lastly, this Chapter has given a monetary scholarship since the mid-1990s to *USS San Jacinto* sailors; however, due to the ship's decommissioning in 2023, this recently transitioned into our *Bobby R. Smith USS San Jacinto Scholarship* for a graduating cadet from the Katy ISD NJROTC. All these things were begun by previous leaders in our Chapter and we continue to

honor their memories through these events. In recent times, we began some new traditions including the Katy ISD Livestock Show & Rodeo Parade, hosting the Anson Jones Ceremony, participating in the Katy ISD Folklife Festival, and the Father of Texas Celebration at San Felipe de Austin. We are a lineal organization and traditions are at the center of what we do!

“President of the Chapter, B. Rice Aston, would play a recording of a reading of the Travis letter done by Senator John Tower. Senator Tower held annual Texas Independence Day celebrations at his home in Washington DC, and he would read the letter at those gatherings.”

*Two-time Past Chapter President
Dennis Giuffré, KSJ*

Dawn at The Alamo

As in years past, the Sam Houston Chapter mustered a contingent of members to attend the solemn ceremony, Dawn at The Alamo, on March 6, 2025.

A dinner the night before is typically coordinated by members resulting in great fellowship and engagement by SRT members from across the state. The weather can be fore-

boding, much like it was on that fateful night of March 5, 1836; however, this year, the weather decided to cooperate. During the early morning ceremony, our Chapter presented a beautiful flower wreath to commemorate the sacrifice of The Alamo defenders. SRT Chapters as well as DRT Chapters and individual descendants of Alamo defenders brought their wreaths

forward to be placed on the Campo Santo directly in front of The Alamo doors. President Rick Giuffré, First VP Patrick Burell, and Historian Mark Landt carried the wreath this year. If you have never attended this ceremony, consider adding it to your Texas History bucket list!



President Rick Giuffré with Mark Landt and Patrick Burell.



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 (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, Texas and holds regular meetings at the Texas Tradition restaurant in Katy.

Honoring President Anson Jones

Once again this year, the Sam Houston Chapter hosted the annual celebration of the fourth and final President of the Republic of Texas, Anson Jones. He is buried in Glenwood Cemetery in Houston, Texas and the gravesite includes a Texas Historical Marker.

As you can surmise, February 19 was not a warm day in Houston. In fact, it was one of the coldest days we had the entire winter as a strong cold front blew through ushering in cold temperatures and a blustery north wind resulting in a frigid wind chill.

Despite the cold temperatures, a good sized crowd attended the ceremony and heard several speakers discuss the life and times of President Anson Jones. Of special note, we were able to obtain several Proclamations to celebrate Anson Jones Day.

Of these Proclamations, our Chapter member Representative Stan Kitman of House District 85 announced House Resolution 298 proclaiming February 19 as *Anson Jones Day* at the State Capitol, The City of Houston Councilman Mario Castillo of District H announced a Proclamation signed by Mayor Whitmire naming February

19 as *Anson Jones Day* in the City of Houston, and lastly the City of Friendswood Councilman Robert Griffon announced the same for the City of Friendswood.

These Proclamations were the first ever obtained for this event and marked the culmination of much hard work and weeks of communication by Chapter President Rick Giuffré and Past President Bart Dawson to secure these Proclamations from our State and local governments.

Chandler Wahrmond, Site Manager at Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site, was the keynote speaker and discussed the life and times of Anson Jones.

Join us next year on February 19 as we expand the scope of the Anson Jones ceremony to include our newly recognized SRT Statehood Day event.



Members of The Sons of the Republic of Texas attending the Anson Jones Ceremony.