



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Fellow Chapter Members, we accomplished much over the last few months, primarily due to your support and participation. We have been very active since April with our Chapter hosting the Quarterly SRT Meeting in June at San Felipe de Austin and welcoming new Chapter members. I want to personally thank all who joined us at our meetings and events, your help was greatly appreciated. I look forward to the remainder of the year, see you soon!

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The Honor Ring

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SRT Quarterly Meeting Host

When the SRT's President General calls you and asks you to host a quarterly business meeting for the organization, you better say yes! The Sam Houston Chapter was given the honor to host the quarterly business meeting this past June at our Chapter's favorite location, San Felipe de Austin. This was the first time in recent memory that our Chapter was requested to do so; therefore, we took the opportunity to highlight to the wider SRT membership the great things going on at San Felipe de Austin and Villa de Austin.

Approximately 40 SRT members attended the quarterly meeting with a strong showing of members from our Chapter present. A question was floated "Why are we meeting here...?", so President

General Pollard asked Bart Dawson to give a brief overview of San Felipe de Austin and its importance to our cherished Texas



Attendees from L-R: 2nd VP General Mike Wilson, Dennis Giuffré, Site Coord. Jordan Anderson, Rick Giuffré, Bill Yates, Bart Dawson, and John Meehan.

History. Several members in attendance were descendants of members of the Old 300 whose names were listed on the wall of

the Old 300 Hall inside the museum.

After the conclusion of our business meeting, our Chapter coordinated lunch for everyone. Once lunch was concluded, those attendees who remained were given a guided tour of both the museum and Villa de Austin. Site Coordinator Jordan Anderson provided a riveting guided tour of both and provided a wealth of information about the site, its history, and the trades that were on display at Villa de Austin. Overall, the meeting was a great success and we received compliments from several attendees for our efforts. The next quarterly meeting will be held at the SFA Statue and Museum in Angleton in September, and hosted by the local SFA Chapter of the SRT.

USS San Jacinto...The End of an Era

Our Chapter received some sad news a few weeks ago wherein our longstanding, almost 30-yr relationship with the USS San Jacinto CG-56 was coming to an end. The US Navy will formally decommission the ship at Norfolk Naval Yard, Virginia on September 15, 2023. The Ticonderoga

Class Cruiser proudly served the US Navy since her commissioning in 1988. Our Chapter's annual bestowment of a monetary scholarship to an enlisted sailor began shortly thereafter. Begun by past Chapter Presidents Walter Nass and Bobby R. Smith, the award process soon

expanded to two sailors. For our support, the US Navy invited us to the decommissioning ceremony and our current Chapter President and Historian will attend to represent us. We will have more on this event as well as some special gifts the ship is returning to our Chapter.



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

“While I was working on a different lecture, I pulled together a new one with you guys in mind.”
 Ms. Allison Harrell,
 Texian Time Machine and Outreach Coordinator,
 Fort Bend Museum,
 March 30, 2023

Join Us for these Upcoming Events

We were a busy group in the first three months of 2023 and April is not slowing down. Many events lie ahead of us, so join us when you can.

September 9, 2023: Quarterly SRT Meeting, Angleton, TX

September 15, 2023: USS San Jacinto Decommissioning Ceremony, Norfolk, VA

September 16, 2023: Texian Navy Day, San Jacinto Monument

September 16, 2023: Texas Heroes Day, LaGrange, TX

October 2, 2023: Come and Take It Festival, Gonzales, TX

October 14-15, 2023: City of Katy Rice Festival, Katy, TX

November 11, 2023: Father of Texas Celebration, San Felipe de Austin, TX

November 18, 2023: Chapter Meeting, Katy, TX

December 2, 2023: Quarterly SRT Meeting, Victoria, TX

December 2, 2023: Presidio La Bahia Award Ceremony, Goliad, TX

December 9, 2023: Chapter Holiday Gathering, Katy, TX

The 2024 National SRT Meeting will be held in Granbury, Texas with the David Crockett #47 Chapter serving as the host.

Local Guest Speakers were Great

The most difficult job of running an SRT Chapter is finding quality guest speakers to come entertain and educate our members. Anyone who tells you it is easy, obviously has not done it before. High quality speakers helps draw attendance to our meetings and drive involvement and inclusion in our activities. Ms. Allison Harrell, the Texian Time Machine



Ms. Allison Harrell with the Fort Bend Museum was our guest speaker in April.

and Outreach Coordinator with the Fort Bend Museum in Richmond, Texas joined us as our guest speaker in April where she discussed *Useful and Contemptibles: Characters in Richmond during the Republic of Texas* implying that Richmond was a hotbed for some interesting people at that time. Allison gave us a new perspective on Richmond!

The National Road of the Republic of Texas

An Act of the Texas Congress, finally approved on 5 Feb 1844, created a commission of five men empowered to select a right-of-way for this road, and to have that right-of-way cleared of obstructing timber, and also to see that the necessary bridges were erected. The commissioners were directed

to begin the road on the bank of the Trinity river, not more than fifteen miles below the mouth of the Elm Fork, and to extend it to the south bank of the Red River, opposite the Kiamichi, or in our terms, from central Dallas County to a point approximately 130 miles distant in northwest Red River

County near Paris, Texas. Less than two months after the bill was approved, surveying began and was concluded 30 days later. Three of the five commissioners lived close to Paris, which was also home to the surveyor Maj. George W. Stell. Read more about this in *Old Texas Trails* by J.W. Williams.

Local Guest Speakers were Great, *Cont'd*

Ms. Carroll Ann Adams, a Texas History teacher at Katy ISD's West Memorial Junior High joined us to speak about *How the Cattle Industry Changed Texas Forever*.

So many things changed when cattle became king in Texas, things we accept as the "norm" now and don't give a second thought to. Free-ranging of herds, branding, cattle trails, barbed wire, competition for resources amongst ranchers, laws re: cattle rustling, and so many more that it was impossible to condense it all into a short



Ms. Carroll Ann Adams, Katy ISD Texas History teacher was our guest speaker in May.

presentation for our Chapter. The audience was so enamored with Ms. Adams that the questions kept coming well after she finished her presentation.

Our immediate area is so rich in Texas History that finding a guest speaker should be easy, but its not. We were lucky to have these two speakers share their precious time and wisdom with us. If you have or know someone who might be willing to be a guest speaker, we encourage you to contact them and gauge their interest in doing so.

Uniforms of the Republic of Texas

If you have ever been to a historical reenactment event you typically see an array of diverse uniforms and clothing. Not every one can achieve that truly historically accurate ensemble instead many try for a common or movie-based familiarity. However, an excellent resource for those that want to be as historically accurate as possible should reference Bruce Marshall's 1999 book

titled *Unforms of the Republic of Texas And the Men that Wore Them 1836-1846*. Inside, you will find detailed illustrations of a wide array of uniforms from Texian soldiers and Texas Navy sailors.

Mr. Marshall includes context behind his illustrations as well as the timeframe, circumstances, and regional differences across Texas that each uniform represents. In addition,

a historical accounting of events throughout the Republic of Texas are provided. As Mr. Marshall notates in several instances throughout his book, "*Only the state of Texas possesses a military heritage that includes the army and navy of an independent nation.*"

For those wanting to build reenactment uniform, this book should serve as a guiding light to that end.

"Its regulars were backed up by a militia described as the most formidable, for their numbers, in the world."

Uniforms of the Republic of Texas And the Men that Wore Them, 1836-1846, Bruce Marshall, 1999

San Jacinto Day 2023

April 21 is a special day to Texans as it marks the annual celebration of Texas achieving its independence from Mexico as a result of the decisive battle at San Jacinto near today's LaPorte, Texas. Driving southbound on Hwy 225, look to your east and towering over the refineries will be the tallest monument column in the world. Construction on the monument began

on April 21, 1936 and the cornerstone was set on April 21, 1937, while construction was completed on April 21, 1939. Pleasant weather accompanied this years event where the Son's and Daughter's commemorate the day, and the Son's formally announce their three Texas History High School Essay winners. 2023 represented the 84th time the SRT has presented schol-

arships to deserving students. Both Dennis and Rick represented our Chapter at the event, while Dennis has served as an essay reader/reviewer for many years. Mark it on your calendars now, you know the date, and come out next year to celebrate our Texas Independence.



From L to R: Sir Knight Dennis Giuffré, KSJ and Rick Giuffré.



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.

Katy ISD Folklife Festival

The first Saturday in April is typically a busy time for our Chapter when you will find us at *The Kenneth D. Welch Outdoor Learning Center* attending the annual *Katy ISD Folklife Festival*. This past April marked the 37th folklife festival wherein the Outdoor Learning Center was transformed into scenes from the 1800's, as many demonstrations and activities of pioneer life were recreated.

Our Chapter has participated in this annual event since 2017 and it has become one of our favorite and most important events. First, it is a local event to Katy and has a Katy ISD focus, so we get to interact with both Texas History students and teachers. Secondly, strong attendance by the public makes this event a great introductory event for us and helps identify potential new members. The Direc-

tor is a past Texas History teacher in Katy ISD, a past guest speaker at one of our Chapter meetings, and a major supporter of our efforts. Last year was the inaugural event for the renovated outdoor learning center, but this year's attendance was equally strong due to pleasant weather that day. When kids and students stop at



Attending Chapter members as well as the Katy ISD Folklife Festival Director Paul Dunk.

our venue, they are usually familiar with the basics of Texas history, but not the details. Also, every kid has to stop and play with our cannon as well as get a picture with it from mom and dad. Another area we value is the diversity of Katy, where we have people from many different countries attend this event and most had never heard of our Texas History. As a result, we get to tell a whole host of individuals from around the world what happened here in 1836, and earlier, and their reactions vary but most often they are amazed at what we have to tell them. This engagement can set an expectation that their kids will learn about Texas History in Katy ISD, and come home to tell them about it. This event has become a huge part of our Chapter, so we look forward to seeing you next year.