



LA GRANADA



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF

The Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez – Founding Chapter

DECEMBER 2012

www.granaderos.org

SAN ANTONIO, TX

Granaderos at the Alamo



As we've done for the past dozen or so years, Granaderos conducted a ceremony at the Alamo on Veterans Day. On Sunday, November 11, we lowered the colors in front of the Shrine of Texas Liberty. In a single file line from the Alamo's long barracks, Governor Joe Perez, Governor General Joel Escamilla, Granaderos Bill Bowlin and J.J. Zavala, fifer Priscilla Marrah and drummer Joseph Mannix marched out to the tune of Yankee Doodle in front of a receptive crowd of local residents and a multitude of tourists. Joe presented a short speech honoring all veterans by announcing that *"Today, we are here to honor those who had the compulsion to join, the dedication to serve and the willingness to sacrifice for a greater cause. We honor those soldiers who are with us today and, as well, those who are no longer with us. As Jose Narosky once said, "In war, there are no unwounded soldiers."* After the short speech, Joel Escamilla, Bill Bowlin and J.J. Zavala marched to the flagpole. As spectators placed their hands

over their hearts, these Granaderos lowered the Stars And Stripes, folded it ceremoniously into a triangle and marched it around the grassy area in front of the Alamo. Joe Perez followed with Priscilla Marrah and Joseph Mannix keeping us in step with the playing of Yankee Doodle. The crowd was very receptive and registered their appreciation with collective applause. Helping us with photography and handing out flyers about our organization were Secretary Briana Perez, Granadero Angel Pagan and Dama Zena-Antoinette Orozco. We are very thankful to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas for allowing us to conduct this ceremony every year in appreciation of all veterans.



Helping A Homeless Child This Christmas

Our December meeting is also our Christmas Party. This year, we ask that you bring a new unwrapped toy to be given on behalf of our group to The Children's Shelter, which provides emergency shelter services and so much more to those in extremely difficult situations. Find out more about the tremendous work the shelter does by visiting www.childrensshelter.org.

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Royal Inn Oriental Cuisine

5440 Babcock Rd

Ph: 691-0602

Dinner: 6:30 Meeting: 7:00

**Bring a new, unwrapped toy to
be donated to the Children's
Shelter from our group.**

Recognition given to Gálvez
at Fort Matanzas Nat'l Park
(15 miles south of
St. Augustine, FL)

The place of Don Bernardo de Gálvez in American history rests not only on his military conquests but on the man himself—what we might call his style. There was something quintessentially American about him. The emergence of such a man from Spain's rigid empire stirs thoughts about such personal elements as chance, destiny, and luck. Unquestionably, Bernardo de Gálvez was the right man in the right place at the right time—for the United States of America.

www.nps.gov/foma/historyculture/galvez.htm

Doings

In

December

December 5, 1835 - Benjamin Milam led Texans in the Siege of Béxar, attacking Mexican General Cos in San Antonio de Béxar when he asked "Who will go with old Ben Milam into San Antonio?"

December 15, 1791 - Virginia becomes the last state to ratify the first ten amendments to the Constitution known as the Bill of Rights.

December 16, 1773 - A group of colonists dressed as Mohawks boarded three British tea ships in Boston Harbor, dumping 342 chests of tea into the water in what became known as the Boston Tea Party.

December 17, 1777 - France formally recognizes the United States of America as an independent nation.

December 21, 1785 - George Washington wrote a letter thanking Spain's King Carlos III for the gift of two jack asses. To a farmer, this was equivalent to two modern day tractors.

December 22, 1775 - The Continental Congress establishes the Continental Navy.

December 26, 1776 - After leading his troops across the half-frozen Delaware River the night before, General Washington and his men overtook surprised Hessian soldiers in the town of Trenton.

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

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Above is an artist's rendering for a bronze statue of General Bernardo de Gálvez. The Bernardo de Gálvez Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution in Galveston, Texas, is currently raising funds to erect the statue. The chapter has received verbal approval from the Galveston City Council and the Director of Parks & Recreation to have the statue erected in Menard Park on the corner of 27th Street and Seawall Boulevard. This location on public property will assure the statue becomes a landmark in a high traffic area near the historic Pleasure Pier, which has an estimated three million visitors annually. The statue will be complimented with plaques explaining Gálvez' role in the American Revolution and will serve to educate the public about this part of American history. The area around the statue will be paved in brick.

The SAR Chapter has created a website at www.galvezstatue.org to inform the public about this endeavor and as an easy way for contributors to donate online to the cause. They have established different levels of donors such as Galvez (\$5,000 and up), Sons of Liberty (\$500 - \$4,999), Patriots (\$100 - \$499) and Militia (\$1 - \$499) with all donations being tax deductible. Each donation level brings its own type of recognition. For example, with the Patriots level, you will get your name engraved in a brick that paves the area around the statue. They expect their main source of donations will be via individual (\$100) donors who will "engrave their names In history" with an engraved brick in the plaza.

It is interesting that the city is named after Gálvez, as is a hotel and a street, however, there has never been a statue of Gálvez in his namesake city. We now have an opportunity to contribute to this cause and make this a reality. The Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez have already been invited to participate in the dedication ceremony when it is erected but it all starts with a donation.



Congratulations to Jesse O. Villarreal, Jr.

We remember Mr. Villarreal as the guest speaker at our October meeting where he spoke about his book *Tejano Patriots of the American Revolution 1776-1783*. The book was recently awarded the prestigious Presidio La Bahia Award by the Sons of the Republic of Texas. This recognition is an annual literary award that promotes appropriate dissemination of data and research into our Texas heritage with particular attention to the Spanish Colonial period. Congratulations, Jesse!

The Spanish Milled Dollar

In 1789, the United States Treasury Department was founded to issue currency for our country, still in its infancy. Prior to that time, the Continental Congress had rejected the British Sterling as our currency of choice and instead adopted Spanish currency as the basis of our monetary system. A typical United States one dollar bill, as shown to the right, would have the wording "This bill entitles the bearer to receive one Spanish Milled Dollar or the value thereof in gold or silver according to a resolution of Congress passed at Philadelphia November 29, 1775."



Also to the right is a Spanish Milled Dollar (obverse and reverse) minted in the year 1776. This was the coin on which the United States of America based its monetary system. It was also known as a Piece of Eight because it was worth eight reales and could be cut into eight pieces. A one-eighth piece was a "bit", two pieces were "two bits" and so forth with eight pieces equal to a dollar. The next time you hear the cheer "Two bits, four bits, six bits, a dollar", you will know that it is based on the eight bits that make up one Spanish Milled Dollar. Back then, a man could get groomed for a quarter, which is where the phrase



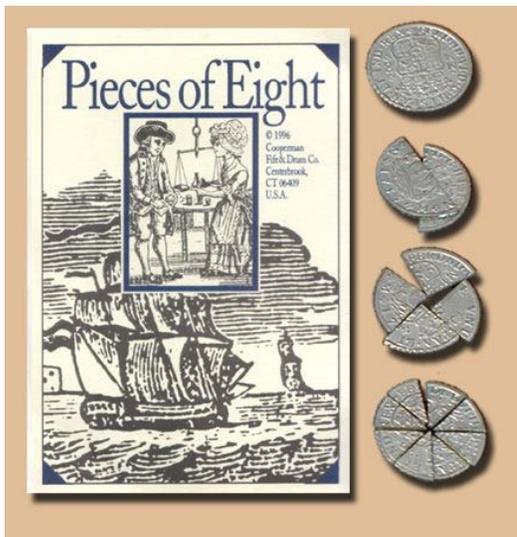
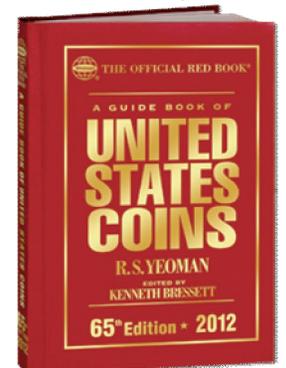
"shave and haircut, two bits" originated.

But why was it milled? If a silver coin had smooth edges, people could shave the edges just enough to be unnoticeable. After enough shavings, one could have enough silver to trade for goods and services. Milled (or grooved) edges made this dishonest act noticeable and rendered the shaved coin undesirable.

Every hobby has a guide book that serves as a reference for categorization, information and dollar values, a bible so to speak, for the hobby. For coin collectors (numismatists), that book is the *Guide Book of United States Coins* or as it is referred in the hobby, the "Red Book". So, what is the very first coin

listed in this guide to United States coins? It is none other than the Spanish Milled Dollar! It served as the very first coin in the monetary system of the United States of America

There are very interesting connections between U.S. Colonial currency and Spain. For example, do you know where the dollar sign came from? To find out, go to www.granaderos.org and click on *La Granada Newsletter Online Edition and Archives*, then click on *Articles*, then click on *The Dollar Sign By Robert H. Thonhoff* for an excellent article on this.





The Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez



Damas de Gálvez Membership Brooch

All Damas de Gálvez have an opportunity to purchase a beautiful brooch to wear showing their membership status in our organization. The brooch may be worn on the Damas cape or other article of clothing. This brooch will follow the design of the original brooch made years ago for the Damas de Galvez organization.

The brooch will be made of zinc, plated in silver and rhodium with a translucent dark red enamel. The center of the oval has a flaming grenade and the outer oval reads "Damas de Galvez". The brooch will hang from a loop attached to a colorful red and gold ribbon.

The San Antonio chapter is having the brooches made and will sell each brooch for only \$35.00 (if payment is received before December 15, 2012) and \$45.00 after that date. Any orders that must be mailed should add \$5.00 for postage, packaging and insurance. Each brooch will be mailed in a small box placed inside a padded envelope and sent via First Class Mail with insurance. On December 15th, the order will be placed with the manufacturer who has given a turnaround time of five weeks. We will purchase enough units to satisfy all orders received before December 15th and some extras to satisfy future demand.

Please use the order form shown below. The item(s) will be mailed to the address shown.

Damas de Gálvez Membership Brooch

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

<u>QTY</u>	<u>AMT</u>
_____ at \$35 each if order received before December 15, 2012 =	\$ _____
_____ at \$45 each if order received after December 15, 2012 =	\$ _____
_____ at \$5 for each item to be mailed (postage, pkg & ins) =	\$ _____
Total = \$ _____	



Please mail this order form with your check to:

Roberto Flores, Treasurer
Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez
5138 Wildflower Dr
San Antonio TX 78228