



LA GRANADA



The Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez – Founding Chapter
FEBRUARY 2013 www.granaderos.org SAN ANTONIO, TX

Bernardo de Gálvez Exhibit

The Bernardo de Gálvez Exhibit consists of five beautiful panels that graphically tell the story of General Gálvez and Spain's contributions to the American Revolution. A committee consisting of Jack Cowan, Sylvia Carvajal Sutton, Peter Baron, Robert and Priscilla Hancock and Joel Escamilla convened over several weeks to pore over scores of historical facts and decide what each panel would represent with narratives, data and beautiful graphics. Panel One is the story of Gálvez himself, Panel Two covers the Texas cattle drives to feed his troops, Panel Three represents the Gulf Coast Campaign, Panel Four covers more about Gálvez and the connection to the Battle of Yorktown and Panel Five covers the woman behind the man, Gálvez' wife, Felicite. The panels made their debut mounted on the wall of the main hall at Texas A&M-San Antonio and augmented the Pablo Picasso exhibit. This is appropriate since Gálvez and Picasso were both born in Málaga and some of the cattle herded to feed Gálvez' troops came from the land currently occupied by Texas A&M-San Antonio. The panels are roughly 8' tall by 3' wide and have now been mounted onto frames, which took some doing, but Jack Cowan made it happen and built the perfect frames for them. The panels are the property of *University Guides* which makes them available as a traveling exhibit to non-profit groups at no cost and to others for a donation which is used for scholarships. Interested parties should visit www.universityguides.org for more detailed information and availability.



Joseph Mannix - Rest In Peace

We mourn the loss of a Granadero who was a dedicated member of our Fife & Drum Corps for several years. Joseph possessed an energy that defied his age and a friendliness that endeared him to many. He was always ready to keep us in step with his drum at schools, libraries, ceremonies and parades. We keep fond memories of him in our hearts. May he rest in peace.





Our Next Meeting:

Wednesday, February 6

Earl Abel's Restaurant

1201 Austin Highway

Ph: 822-3358

Dinner at 6:30

Meeting at 7:00

Guest Speaker:

Courtney Smith, M.A.

Defense Language Institute

Lackland Air Force Base

Defense Language Institute
English Language Center
Lackland Air Force Base



The guest speaker at our February meeting will be Courtney Smith, M.A., who serves as an English Language Instructor at the Defense Language Institute

on Lackland Air Force Base. What exactly do they do at the Defense Language Institute? Let's just say that international students must first be selected by their respective defense ministries to receive a formal invitation to attend. This is a little-known part of the U.S. Department of Defense but you have to come to the meeting to find out more information on this very interesting topic.

Upcoming Events

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### Saturday, February 2, 2:00 p.m.

Presentation at Presidio La Bahia in Goliad.

The Donativo List will be presented showing soldiers at Presidio La Bahia who donated funds to help the American cause in the Revolutionary War.

### Saturday, February 9, Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Living History Presentation at Westfall Library

We will conduct a 1-hour living history presentation on Gálvez and Spain's contributions to the winning of the American Revolution. We will have displays of our muskets, colonial currency and colonial toys. A large crowd is expected since letters went out to the History Departments and Music Departments of San Antonio area high schools and colleges/universities as promotion.

### Saturday, March 2, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

History Fair at Losoya Intermediate School.

We will staff a living history booth. This is being promoted as the first annual history fair on the Southside of San Antonio.

### Saturday, March 9, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

SAPD Memorial Festival to benefit families of fallen officers. We will staff a living history booth. ([www.facebook.com/MemorialFestival](http://www.facebook.com/MemorialFestival))

### Saturday, April 6, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

12<sup>th</sup> Annual History Fair at Tejeda Middle School.

We will staff a living history booth.

### Saturday, April 27, 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

King William Fair. We will march in the parade and staff a living history booth.

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

**Governor:** Joe Perez / (210) 386-5050 / [jperez329@satx.rr.com](mailto:jperez329@satx.rr.com)

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**Webmaster of La Revista (official website):** Roland Cantu / [gne@yahoo.com](mailto:gne@yahoo.com)

# Health & Welfare



Our condolences go out to fifer Julie Villa, whose mother, Susana Villa, passed away on December 24<sup>th</sup>. We send our prayers during this time of loss.

Congratulations to Angel and Zena Pagan who exchanged vows on January 12<sup>th</sup> in a beautiful wedding ceremony at the Randolph Air Force Base Church followed by a festive reception at Los Patios. We're wishing you many years of happiness!

Congratulations to Joel and Sylvia Escamilla on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, which they celebrated with a service at La Trinidad Methodist Church on December 30<sup>th</sup> in a beautiful ceremony and reception.

Congratulations to Frank Galindo for his installation as Eminent Commander of the San Antonio Commandery #7 Knights Templar. Way to go, Frank!

Happy Birthday to Granadero and Drum Major Rick Rodriguez who celebrates his birthday on February 28. Make it a good one, Rick!

## TREASURER'S REPORT

PREVIOUS BALANCE: 4,110.66

### DEPOSITS:

|                                 |        |               |
|---------------------------------|--------|---------------|
| Sale of books at National Mtg   | 140.00 |               |
| Dues – Joel Escamilla           | 30.00  |               |
| Dues – Sylvia Escamilla         | 30.00  |               |
| Dues – Cuitlahuac Garcia        | 30.00  |               |
| Dues – Elizabeth Garcia         | 30.00  |               |
| Dues – Larry Kirkpatrick        | 30.00  |               |
| Dues – Lucila Flores            | 30.00  |               |
| Dues – Roberto Flores           | 30.00  |               |
| Dues – Sylvia Marcus            | 30.00  |               |
| Dues – Mimi Lozano              | 30.00  |               |
| Dues – Henry DeLeon             | 30.00  |               |
| Dues – Dolores Beardsley        | 30.00  |               |
| Dues – Clifford Normand         | 30.00  |               |
| Sale of Books at Founder's Day  | 51.00  |               |
| Sale of 2 Brooches – F. Galindo | 70.00  |               |
| Dividend                        | 0.29   |               |
| <b>Total Deposits</b>           |        | <u>621.29</u> |

### EXPENSES:

|                                                  |          |                 |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Refund to R.Whynot for expenses on Galvez Marker | 1,162.56 |                 |
| Award Frames & Quills                            | 39.51    |                 |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                            |          | <u>1,202.07</u> |

NEW BALANCE: 3,529.88

## He's Been Blogged

The online publication Our Salon has a blog titled *Bernardo de Gálvez y Madrid, Hero of the Revolution* written by Kenneth Houck. The photo accompanying the article shows the statue of Gálvez in New Orleans but it was taken in 2010 and shows the old plaque, not the new one we helped to build. You can read the blog by going to the following website location: <http://oursalon.ning.com/profiles/blogs/bernardo-de-galves-y-madrid>. (Make sure there's no period after madrid.)



## Blog

Noun ~ A website on which an individual or group of users record opinions, information, etc on a regular basis.

Verb ~ Add new material to or regularly update a blog

# **Granaderos y Damas de Galvez Meeting Minutes**

## **For the meeting held January 2, 2013 at Picante Grill**

- The meeting began at 7:03 p.m.
- The Invocation was presented by Robert Flores.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Olga Lizcano.
- The Secretary's Report was presented by Briana Perez.
- The Treasurer's Report was not available and will be in the next newsletter.
- Robert Flores has been serving as both Deputy Governor and Treasurer but Governor Perez has appointed Olga Lizcano as Treasurer and she has accepted. She will be sworn in at the next meeting as a new officer. Robert will continue to serve as Deputy Governor.
- Mr. Whynot gave a report on the following:
  - Baton Rouge – it was cold & windy so no one was really there to read the plaque but the colors are very vibrant and still in great shape
  - The plaque is holding up beautifully!
  - We'll be talking about refurbishing of the statue later (still in talks)
  - Governor saw an article online about the statue before the plaque was in place (dated 2010)
- The Governor announced a break for dinner.
- The meeting resumed at 7:38 p.m.
- Joe Perez announced that he and Olga Lizcano took the toys we had collected at our Christmas party and presented them to the Children's Shelter on the Friday before Christmas. These children have been removed from bad situations and are provided a healthy environment at the Children's Shelter. The shelter was very appreciative for the donation of toys.
- Joe mentioned a book that Yolanda and Larry Kirkpatrick had given to him about a presidio soldier. The book is "In Search of Pedro's Story". Joe will try to contact the author to see if she can be a speaker at a future meeting.
- Governor Perez made several announcements:
  - We will participate in the King William Fair instead of the Flambeau Parade this year. We will have a booth and possibly be in the King William parade if we can get enough members to march.
  - Fifer Julie Villa's mother passed away. Julie now lives in Laredo but has served as a fifer for several years.
  - Lynda Normand is our newest member. She lives in Baton Rouge and has given several presentations about Gálvez. Richard Whynot is the one who introduced Lynda and her husband, Clifford, to our organization.
  - Joe will get with Joel Escamilla and Rick Rodriguez to coordinate the return of Willie Rodriguez' uniform. Joe would like to present the uniform to the group at a future meeting held in honor of Granadero Willie (who passed away) and Dama Bea Rodriguez to emphasize their tremendous contributions to our organization over the years.
  - We should be getting a sample brooch soon to review and submit to the manufacturer before they start production. We currently have 14 orders for the brooches.
  - Joel & Sylvia Escamilla celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on December 30th,
  - Joe will get the birthdays of all members to wish them a Happy Birthday in our newsletter each month.
- Olga Lizcano moved that the Secretary send a sympathy card to Julie Villa for her mother's passing. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.
- Governor Perez adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

# The Tale of the Turtle

By Joe Perez

When we think of submarines, our thoughts may go back as far as World War I but the idea of submarines goes back long before that. Englishman William Bourne is widely credited with putting the first submarine design on paper in 1578, Magnus Pagelius is credited with building the first one in 1605 (but it failed) and Dutchman Cornelius Drebbel is credited with building the first submarine that actually worked in 1620.

However, it was during the American Revolution when a submarine designed and built by American David Bushnell was first used to attack an enemy warship.

David Bushnell was a graduate of Yale College who became an inventor in colonial America. His submarine design was egg-shaped, about seven feet tall and rode upright in the water. It resembled a sea turtle floating upright and thus was nick-named the Turtle.

Bushnell tested his device several times in the Connecticut River before proceeding with its first combat mission. His brother, Ezra Bushnell, piloted the device during these test trials, however, Ezra died the night before the mission was to be carried out. Several colonial soldiers had been trained to operate the Turtle and upon Ezra Bushnell's untimely death, a sergeant in the Continental Army, Ezra Lee, was chosen to operate the submarine on its historic mission.

On the night of September 7, 1776, Sergeant Lee crawled into the Turtle to attempt the first submarine attack in history. The target was believed to be the



HMS Eagle, a British warship in New York Harbor which was moored to an island, the one that the Statue of Liberty is now on.

He kept the Turtle at surface level and rode the tide until he got near the British ship. When he approached the ship, he submerged the Turtle by operating a valve with his foot to let water into a chamber at the bottom of the vessel. He maneuvered the Turtle directly under the ship using two hand-cranked propellers, one for horizontal movement and one for vertical.

Using another hand crank, he tried to screw a mine into the ship's hull. The mine used clock work for time delayed detonation.

Unfortunately, the drill did not penetrate the ship because it struck an

iron bracket.

Sergeant Lee had enough air for fifteen to thirty minutes but time was running out and he had to abort the mission. He resurfaced and cranked his paddles to flee but he was spotted and pursued by British sailors. In desperation, he released the mine and it detonated with a huge explosion, which surprised his pursuers and they abandoned the chase.

Above is a drawing of the Turtle and at left is a full-scale replica on display at the

Royal Navy Submarine Museum in Gosport, England.

## How Did He See In There?

The only light inside the Turtle did not come from a candle but rather from the fungus that covered a piece of rotting wood. Certain fungi emit a bioluminescent glow known as foxfire.

