



LA GRANADA



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF

The Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez – Founding Chapter

JUNE 2012 - *To educate the public on Spain's contributions to the American Revolution* - San Antonio, TX

Fiesta Flambeau Parade 2012



Thanks go out to the Granaderos shown at the left (L-R) Jack Cowan, J.J. Zavala, Joe Perez, Tito Fernandez and Roland Salazar for representing our group in the Fiesta Flambeau Parade this year. Special thanks go to Jack for providing the float and the truck to pull it. The Parade Commission estimated the crowd on hand to have been between five to six hundred thousand. Another million or so watched the parade on TV or via internet streaming. Next year, we will also have a marching unit but this year's entry was an enjoyable ride.

Getting Ready for the 4th

The last page of this newsletter shows a flyer for this year's 4th of July Patriotic Ceremony. We will promote this event with news releases sent to the local TV, radio and print media and through our group Facebook page. Copies of this flyer will be handed out to members at the meeting on June 6. We will need members to help promote this event by distributing flyers at their nearest libraries.

See the calendar on page two for the dates, times and locations of the practice sessions for our Fife & Drum Corps. We will have a walk-through for everyone on June 30.

Just A Click Away

Thanks go out to Roland Salazar for creating a Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez – San Antonio group page on Facebook where we can share information and pictures with people worldwide who use Facebook.

Secretary Briana Perez will manage this interactive page on a daily basis. This, combined with the excellent work Roland Cantu is doing on our website is helping promote our group to a worldwide audience. Thank you Roland Cantu, Briana Perez and Roland Salazar.



www.granaderos.org



NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

Picante Grill

3810 Broadway

(Across from the Witte Museum)

Ph: 822-3797

Dinner: 6:30 Meeting: 7:00

TREASURER'S REPORT

For April 2012

Prev Bal	2,315.51
Deposits:	
Stan Bradford Dues	30.00
Dividend	.27
<u>Total Deposits</u>	<u>30.27</u>
Expenses:	
Newsletter Postage	16.20
Parade Fire Inspection	30.90
Parade Insurance Fee	125.00
Thonhoff Booklet Print	57.28
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>229.38</u>
New Balance:	2,116.40

Calendar

June 9 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.

San Pedro Park – 1415 San Pedro Ave
Fife & Drum Corps practice for the 4th of July ceremony. We will practice Yankee Doodle, The Girl I Left Behind and Chester. The park's address is on San Pedro, however, we should park either on W. Myrtle St or N. Flores St. We'll take the shadiest park benches available.

June 23 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.

San Pedro Park – 1415 San Pedro Ave
Same as above.

June 30 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.

At Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.
Walkthrough in preparation for the 4th of July ceremony. We will walk through the program at the site of the event. Fife & Drum Corps practice will be after the walkthrough.

July 4 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.

28th Annual Fourth of July Patriotic Ceremony at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. We need to be on site at 9:00 a.m. to set up tables and go over any contingencies

October 4 (Saturday) Time TDB

San Antonio Founders Day Celebration Alamo Plaza - We will have an informational booth and conduct presentations in uniform. More detailed information will follow as it comes in.

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

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Galvez' Stamp of Approval

By Joe Perez

It is said you can learn much about a country by what it chooses to commemorate on its postage stamps. That's because postage stamps generally honor important people, places and events in a country's history. Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez know the important role of General Gálvez and Spain's contributions to the American Revolution. It only stands to reason that there would be stamps honoring General Bernardo de Gálvez in both Spain and the United States.



In 1976, the United States was celebrating its Bicentennial. In May of that year, Spain issued a set of four commemorative postage stamps in honor of the Bicentennial of our Constitution. Two stamps in that set commemorate the heroic deeds of General Gálvez.

The first stamp issued was a bi-colored 3-peseta stamp with a head and shoulders image of Gálvez. In the far background is a ship at sea, presumably the Gálveztown. In the near background, we see a saber handle, cannon and flag peeking out from behind what appears to be a seal. Closer inspection of the seal reveals a ship. The words above the ship are "Yo Solo" referring to Gálvez' lone entry into Pensacola Bay preceding his ground assault on British-held Fort George.

The second stamp issued was a bi-colored 12-peseta stamp showing the Battle of Pensacola. Gálvez has his saber drawn while atop a rearing horse. In the background, we can see what represents the deciding point in the battle as a lucky cannon shot hits the powder magazine within Fort George, forcing General Campbell to initiate surrender. Both of the Spanish stamps were issued May 29, 1976.



Five years after Spain issued its stamps, the United States issued one commemorating the bicentennial of the Battle of Mobile. The stamp was issued on July 23, 1980 in New Orleans, Louisiana.



Stamp issuances are not random. For example, the day of issue (July 23) represents Gálvez' birthday, the year (1980) represents the bicentennial of the Battle of Mobile and the city of issue (New Orleans) represents where he was headquartered as Governor of Louisiana.

The 15-cent stamp is valued at thirty cents today, however, there are some iterations of the stamp that are quite valuable due to color printing errors, which rarely occurs on stamps. Depending on the color omissions, these error stamps are valued from \$600 to over a thousand dollars!

Stamp catalogs for Mexico do not show any stamps honoring Gálvez, which is surprising since Gálvez' body is interred in San Fernando Church and his heart at the National Cathedral.

Welcome New Member

Briana Perez

Briana is the daughter of Governor Joe Perez and Dama Elizabeth Perez as well as the granddaughter of founding members Granadero Ventura Perez and Dama Lottie Perez. She is currently going to college and majoring in Political Science. Briana is jumping right in and serving as Secretary where she will record and submit the minutes of each meeting as well as manage the recently-created Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez-San Antonio Chapter group account on Facebook.

Thank You

Thanks to all who donated money for the floral wreath which was sent to pay our respects for Margaret Lou Thonhoff Hensley, the daughter of Judge Robert and Vicie Thonhoff. Thanks also to those who were able to attend the funeral and let our dear friends know our hearts go out to them in their time of grief.

Schoolhouse Rock

Schoolhouse Rock educational cartoons aired on the ABC network from the early-70s to the mid-80s. In 1976, the three-minute episode titled *The Shot Heard "Round The World* aired and at the two-minute mark, it shows that Spain and France provided aid to the American colonists. To see the video, type www.schooltube.com/video/66c69ce5b14549058b63/ into your internet browser.

Camp Gálvez

The Spanish army currently maintains an observation post in Afghanistan called Bernardo de Gálvez which provides patrols to control transportation routes. Read about it at <http://webmail.satx.rr.com/do/redirect?url=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.isaf.nato.int%252Farticle%252Fisaf-releases%252Fanother-step-towards-transition-new-kandak-deploys-in-badghis.html>

San Antonio Founders Day

We will have an informational booth at this year's San Antonio Founders Day celebration to be held October 4, 2012 on Alamo Plaza. This is a great opportunity for us to get our message out to the public in a fun atmosphere. The various organizations participating in this event can be found on their website: Sanantoniofoundersday.org 2012 Exhibitors. Our group is listed as The Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez with a link to our website.

Playing Gálvez

New York-based actor Chaz Mena wrote and performed his one-man play "Yo Solo: A Visit with Bernardo de Gálvez" in May of last year. This past January, it was recorded and will be released July 2 on PBS affiliates in Florida. It will be made available to Florida teachers along with supporting educational materials to incorporate Gálvez into their history curriculum. It will also be considered for national distribution by PBS. This month, DVDs of the program will be presented to the King of Spain and the Mayor of Gálvez' hometown; Macharaviaya. You can read the full article about this very interesting one-man play at <http://www.pensacoladigest.com/2012/05/chaz-menas-yo-solo-takes-galvez-to-a-wider-audience/>

Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez

Minutes of the meeting May 2, 2012

Secretary Briana Perez

At the May 2 meeting, members met to discuss the relevant topics and tasks currently undertaken by the organization. The meeting was opened by Governor Joe Perez at 7:01 pm followed by an invocation from Governor General Joel Escamilla and a Treasurer's Report from Robert Flores. Below are the highlights of the meeting.

- The current balance for the organization is \$2,116.40.
- The organization will be printing 100 Thonhoff booklets.
- Richard Whynot made a motion citing corrections to the April newsletter, seconded by Joel Escamilla.
 - State historian Charles Chamblain has signed off for the plaque that the organization is in the process of commissioning the Gálvez historical marker at Spanish Plaza downtown. It will take an estimated 5 weeks for production. The plaque will be mounted on a tall concrete block & placed so tourists and visitors can easily read it.
 - Refurbishing the Gálvez statue will cost around \$30,000. The city is willing to pay half the cost. Members at the meeting each donated money to the cause, started by Mr. Whynot. Joel Escamilla has information regarding possible fundraising events for this historical marker, however we are also accepting personal donations.
 - All expenses for trips to and from Louisiana, where Mr. Whynot has been discussing and planning the plaque & refurbishing of the statue have come out of his pocket.
- The Fiesta Flambeau this year was a huge success with over 500,000 in the live audience and another million viewers from around the world. It's been decided that next year we will go back to the tradition of marching so we can include more members as well as our musicians. Being on the float, however, gave a new perspective of being in the parade.
- Governor Joe Perez swore in new member and Secretary Briana Perez. She is a third generation Dama following in the footsteps of her Mother and Grandmother.
- The funeral for Margaret Lou Thonhoff Hensley was very beautiful and had a great show of Granaderos and Damas de Gálvez. The organization sent a wreath to the funeral home. TCARA will be also be sponsoring a scholarship in her name. Mitzi Thonhoff Hensley was an outstanding woman who will be dearly missed and forever loved.
- This year's 4th of July ceremony will take place at 10:00 a.m. Members discussed various ways of making the experience more comfortable & enjoyable for our guests. There will be a walkthrough of the ceremony in June. More information is to come.
- The Gálvez Exhibit at Texas A&M – San Antonio, spearheaded by Dama Sylvia Sutton, was a rousing success & great promotion. Joel Escamilla coordinated the docents. The panels will possibly become available in Baton Rouge as requested by the Louisiana Granadero members. We discussed possibly renting the panels for or making our own panels in a smaller format for use by the organization here.
- Governor Perez raised mentioned his idea of infusing our Fife and Drum Corps program with high school students aimed at providing students an opportunity to become active in the community while learning history.
- The uniform, musket & sword of Antonio Renazco will be donated to the organization. Out of respect, the Governor would like as many members as possible to be present when we pick up the uniform of deceased Granadero Willie Rodriguez. Both Antonio and Willie were good men. Our organization was very fortunate to have them as members. They are dearly missed.
- Elizabeth (Betty) Salinas will be coming home from surgery this month. Our prayers are with her and her husband James. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Fourth of July Patriotic Ceremony

Fort Sam Houston

National Cemetery

1520 Harry Wurzbach Rd

July 4, 2012

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.



- Witness the Shot Heard 'Round The World
- Wreath Laying for All Who Defended Our Freedom
- Special Musical Presentation by a Fife & Drum Corps
- Unveiling of Patriotic Stamps by the U.S. Post Office
- Roll Call of the 13 Colonies with the Firing of Muskets
- 3-Volley Rifle Salute Honoring All Veterans
- Live Rendition of Taps for All Fallen U.S. Soldiers
- Demonstration of Colonial Children's Toys

All are welcome to witness this free, unique event celebrating our nation's birthday and honoring all who have given the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our county.

Sponsored by the Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez

www.granaderos.org