



LA GRANADA



August 2026

Granaderos y Damas
de Gálvez



San Antonio
Founding Chapter

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editor: joe pérez

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250th BROUGHT TO LIFE



The 2026 Fourth of July Patriotic Ceremony sponsored and presented by the San Antonio Chapter was a resounding success. This year, we celebrated the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In addition to the wreath laying, musket firing, and three volleys followed by Taps, we had new additions such as a message from Bernardo de Gálvez, the USPS unveiling stamps, and a vignette titled Voices From A Revolution.

This year's ceremony was a big hit with the attendees who are still talking about the informative history presented in the vignettes by Joe Weathersby, Ron Finch, Valerie Finch, and Martin Vasquez as well as the stamp unveiling.



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Next Meeting

Wednesday, August 5

La Fonda Restaurant
8633 Crownhill Blvd
Dinner: 6:00 Meeting 7:00

Presenter:

Nathan Jones

Presentation:

Hermanos en Armas:
New Spanish Material Culture
and American Independence

Our Guest Speaker, Nathan Jones, is the Director of Curation at the Alamo. He helps share the full 300-year history of the Alamo collections through exhibitions and interpretation.

Zoom Link to August Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81298739696?pwd=qDXcqeDr0P4J0GfkExk466n2cldibk.1>



August Babies

August 10

Julie Soto

August 26

Sharon Simonick

August 28

Deborah Guerra
Ron Finch

August 31

Jo Ann Garcia
Joe Cavazos

Governor

José (Joe) González

Deputy Governor

Joe Weathersby

Treasurer

Manny Rodriguez

Secretary

Janie Rodriguez

Chaplain

Charles Carvajal

Sergeant Major

Adam Dominguez

Reading the Declaration of Independence



On Wednesday, July 8th, Governor Joe González represented the Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez at the Bullock Texas State History Museum located in Austin, TX. He joined four other participants as they read the Declaration of Independence to a receptive audience. He was joined by four other readers who are members of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the American Revolution. The readers were accompanied by a fifer and a drummer.

Thank you for representing us, Governor!

Gregorio Esparza Family Reunion



Gregorio Esparza is a hero defender of the Alamo in the famous battle during the Texas Revolution in 1836. His many descendants had a family reunion in Floresville on Saturday, July 11th and we were asked to open the event by presenting the colors.



Joe Perez, Joe Weathersby, Jesse Guerra, and Alex Zamora served as the Color Guard. Our display table was staffed by Governor Joe González, Stella González, and Melissa Zamora.

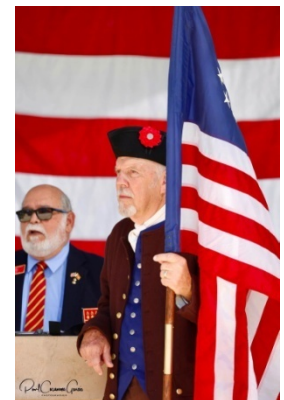
Museum Tour July 23

On Thursday, July 23rd, we celebrated the 280th birthday of Don Bernardo de Gálvez with a group tour of the San Antonio Municipal Archives Museum located at 719 S. Santa Rosa. It is a very good museum with many displays and archived city documents. The main current exhibit is titled "*Rancheras: Spanish Texas Women and Their Contributions to American Independence*." That exhibit will run through December 31, 2026, so you may want to schedule a trip there soon. The group tour was interesting and the camaraderie with fellow Granaderos and Damas was fun. After the tour, we went to a group lunch at Pico de Gallo Restaurant, which was very enjoyable. Governor Joe González led us in a birthday toast to Bernardo de Gálvez.



More Pictures of America 250 Events

San Antonio Chapter



Laredo Chapter



Macharaviaya, Chapter



Carrying the Gálvez Legacy to a Hemispheric Audience

By Andrew Stevenson

For readers of this newsletter, the question is not whether Bernardo de Gálvez mattered to American independence. It is how his legacy can be carried beyond those who already know the history and placed before institutions and audiences shaping the public memory of the nation's 250th anniversary.

Two recent programs at the Organization of American States in Washington, DC did exactly that. Supported by the U.S. Mission to the OAS and presented with the Permanent Observer Mission of Spain, the Embassy of Spain, and partner historical organizations, they brought Spain's contribution to the American Revolution before a diplomatic and hemispheric audience.

The first program, held May 26 at the OAS Art Museum of the Americas, featured Teresa Valcarce Graciani. Presented jointly by the Spanish and U.S. Missions to the OAS, the event focused on Teresa's determined campaign to fulfill the Continental Congress's 1783 resolution calling for a portrait of Gálvez to hang where Congress met. Her years of research and advocacy helped bring the portrait to the U.S. Capitol in 2014—the same year Gálvez received honorary U.S. citizenship. Her achievement offered a timely reminder that historical recognition requires not only evidence, but persistence, partnerships, and sustained public engagement.

That conversation continued on June 5 with the "Recognition of Spanish Heroes of the American Revolution" reception in the historic OAS Main Building. Convened by the District of Columbia Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America as part of its America250 program, the evening was supported by the U.S. Mission and Spain's Permanent Observer Mission.

OAS Assistant Secretary General Laura Gil welcomed participants on behalf of the Organization. JoAnn DeBartolo, Acting Chief of Staff at the U.S. Mission to the OAS, represented the Mission, while Ambassador Carmen Montón, Spain's Permanent Observer to the OAS, introduced the accompanying exhibition, "Spain and Hispanics in the Independence of the USA."

The exhibition was particularly effective because it did not present Gálvez in isolation. Its twelve portraits used documentary research, period recreations, and authentic clothing to give faces to figures representing the broader Spanish and Hispanic contribution. The display situated the Gulf Coast campaigns within the larger military, financial, naval, and logistical networks connecting Spain, Spanish America, the Caribbean, and the thirteen states.

The exhibition forms part of Unveiling Memories, an initiative sponsored since 2017 by the Spanish energy company Iberdrola. Through exhibitions, publications, educational resources, museum partnerships, and commemorative projects, the initiative seeks to establish a more permanent place for Gálvez and his contemporaries in the history of the American founding.

The evening's featured speaker, Wesley Odom, author of *Pensacola*, examined the legacies of Gálvez and Francisco de Miranda. Miranda's service at Pensacola offered a compelling bridge between the American Revolution and the later independence movements of Spanish America. The U.S. Army Blues added a living cultural dimension, while participation by representatives of the Daughters of the American Revolution and other heritage organizations broadened the community engaged in the program.

For the Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez, the significance of these events was not another retelling of familiar victories. It was the presentation of Gálvez as part of a shared history linking the United States, Spain, and the wider Americas—and the placement of that history within the diplomatic center of the Inter-American system.

That is an important task for America at 250: ensuring that Gálvez's contribution is not just acknowledged, but fully integrated into how the founding era is remembered. Yo Solo.

Andrew Stevenson is a member of the Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez, the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Maryland, and the District of Columbia Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America.



At Left: Andrew Stevenson with Teresa Valcarce Graciani.

Below Left (L-R): JoAnn DeBartolo, Ron Phillips, Laura Gil, Carmen Montón, and Wesley Odom.

Below Middle: Poster for the exhibition "Spain and Hispanics in the Independence of the USA."

Below Right: JoAnn De Bartolo with the U.S. Army Blues

