



# LA GRANADA



## December 2021



Order of Granaderos  
y Damas de Gálvez  
San Antonio Chapter



[www.granaderos.org](http://www.granaderos.org)



# 2021 National Meeting



The Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez conducted its 2021 National Meeting at the Grand Gálvez Hotel in Galveston, TX, November 12 – 14, and it was a great success. It started Friday night with a welcoming reception, followed by a dinner. The meeting was held Saturday morning. We conducted a memorial service for members who passed in 2021, voted on changes to the bylaws, then heard reports from each chapter governor. We also enjoyed a nice lunch and heard remarks from Doña Julia Olmo, Consul General of Spain domiciled in Houston. In addition, we were treated to two presentations, one by the gentleman who is restoring the Gálvez statue to be returned to New Orleans and one by author/journalist Paco Reyero. We voted that the 2022 National Meeting will be held in Málaga, Spain, we presented Yo Solo awards, in which our own Robert Thonhoff was a recipient. The meeting was opened with an invocation and closed with a benediction, both given by Bishop James Tomayo of the Laredo Chapter. We enjoyed a delicious dinner at Landry’s and had fun in the hotel bar area.

It was a very enjoyable weekend in the city and hotel named for Bernardo de Gálvez but we also took care of business as well.



In lieu of a regular meeting,  
we will have our  
annual Christmas party on  
Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>  
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
at Paloma Blanca Restaurant  
5800 Broadway ~ Salon Vela.  
A revised menu is on Page 6.  
If you haven't already  
done so, please sign up  
by texting or emailing  
Elizabeth Perez:  
210-857-4742  
[eperez329@satx.rr.com](mailto:eperez329@satx.rr.com)

(We just need a head count, not menu choices.)

Governor, Joe Perez

Deputy Governor, Alex Zamora

Treasurer, Manny Rodriguez

Secretary, Janie Rodriguez

Drum Major, Ricardo Rodriguez

Chaplain, Joe González



Dec 1

Ann Reynolds Bergeron

Dec 7

Gustavo Rodriguez

Dec 8

Bill Bowlin

Dec 12

Judge Robert Thonhoff

Dec 13

Terrence Burke, Jr.

Dec 19

Frank Galindo

Dec 16

Lynda Normand

Dec 20

Robert O'Bryan

Dec 24

Vedia Weathersby

Dec 26

Adam Dominguez

Dec 29

Jesse Benavides

# DUES ARE DUE

Membership dues for 2022 are currently due by the end of this calendar year. Your support is needed to help us continue carrying out our mission of educating the public about Spain's participation in the American Revolution.

Dues may be paid by way of a check made out to Granaderos and can be mailed to Granaderos, P.O. Box 47785, San Antonio TX 78265.

Due to the excessive fees, we are not using PayPal this year. Dues are only \$30 for Full Membership, which comes with automatic National Membership, holding office, voting privileges and discounts on books sold by the chapter. Associate Membership is \$15 and comes with the same benefits except those of holding office and voting.

Please help support your group by paying the membership dues in a timely manner. With your help, we will continue the mission of this unique organization.



## Gálvez Stamp Project

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If you haven't already done so, please don't forget to mail your letter to the U.S. Postal Service Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee regarding a postage stamp commemorating Bernardo de Gálvez. You can always get more information on the project from our website at [www.granaderos.org](http://www.granaderos.org). Once you are on our website, just click on the Gálvez Stamp Project logo and it will take you to another page that has detailed information on the project and how you can use an existing letter or modify it to send to the Postal Service.

The more letters the Postal Service receives, the more impact it will have to those who make the decisions on who or what will appear on a postage stamp.

So, while you're thinking about, go to the website, download the letter, modify it if you wish, then sign it and put it in the mail.

In a few years, when the Postal Service issues a postage stamp of Bernardo de Gálvez, based on this project, you will know that you had a hand in getting it accepted and issued.

Our hope is to have it issued as part of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026; however, stamp suggestions must be submitted at least three years in advance of issuance.

# Continuing Education

We continue to educate students at local schools. Our Education Committee, with Joe González as its Chair, developed and mailed out Teacher Packets to 37 local schools (27 Catholic schools and 10 private schools). Of those schools, 11 of them also requested that we give living history presentations to their students and staff. Our current presentations will continue through January. In the spring, we will start up presentations at other schools. The Teacher Packets help educators augment their lesson plans with information about Gálvez and Spain during the American Revolution and the live presentations help students remember this part of our American history. Thanks go out to Joe González and the Education Committee, consisting of Janie Rodriguez, Manny Rodriguez, Jason Bourgeois and Rafael Cavazos, as well as to all who participate in the living history presentations and all members who support our programs through their membership dues.



At St. Paul Catholic School

On Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, we gave a presentation at Saint Paul Catholic School to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The audience consisted of 25 students and 6 faculty members. Presenters were Jesse Guerra as a Granadero, Joe Viviano as a Drummer, Joe González as a Friar and Adam Dominguez as a Sapper, or Engineer, complete with ax, leather gloves and leather apron.

On Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, we gave a presentation at Holy Cross Catholic School. Fifer



We had seven presenters at Holy Cross Catholic School.

Louisette Zurita teaches there, so we were in her house. Louisette even suited up in her fifer uniform to give a presentation on the role of the musicians during the Revolutionary War. The audience consisted of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders as well as faculty. We had seven presenters that morning.

They were Friar Joe González, Fifer Louisette Zurita, Fifer Janie Rodriguez, Granadero Manny Rodriguez, Militia Man Joe Weathersby, Granadero Manny Rodriguez and Sapper Adam Dominguez.

On Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, it was the “Joe Show”, with all of our presenters that morning having the name Joe. The Joes were at Holy Name Catholic School where they gave a presentation to 32 students in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Also in attendance were five faculty members. The principal and the history teacher introduced the speakers. During the question and answer period, the students had some very good questions for us. Afterwards, we were treated to a pizza lunch at the school.



Joe Weathersby, Joe González, Joe Viviano & Joe Perez

Students in grades 6, 7, 8 & 11 at St. Gerard Catholic School were treated to a living history presentation on Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>.



At St. Gerard Catholic School

There were 19 students and 2 teachers in attendance that morning. As at all the schools where we gave presentations this year, these students were well-behaved and respectful. They listened intently and asked very good questions afterwards. Giving presentations that morning were Jesse Guerra representing a Granadero of the Navarra Regiment, Joe González as a Franciscan Friar to take care of the spiritual needs of soldiers in Galvez’s army, Crystal Benavides as a Fifer and Jesse Benavides as a Drummer in the Spanish army.

Our next stop was on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at Holy Spirit Catholic School where we gave presentations to a total of 82 students (grades 7 & 8) and 2 teachers. Living history presenters were Joe González as a Priest, Adam Dominguez as a Granadero and Joe Viviano as a Drummer. This was a very large audience for us.

We will give two more presentations in December and one in January to finish our current list of schools.

Our gratitude is extended to Joe González, Chair of the Education Committee and the committee members; to a monetary donation from Robert Garcia; to our members for their membership dues and to those who took time from their schedules to participate in the living history presentations. Collectively, we are educating the public about an important part of our American history.



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# **Christmas Party**

**Saturday, December 4 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Paloma Blanca - 5800 Broadway in Salon Vela**

## **~ MENU ~**

### **Appetizer**

Bean and cheese nachos

### **Choice of Entrees**

#### **Puntas de Puerco**

Spicy 7 oz. lean pork marinated with roasted garlic and covered in salsa de chile chipotle.  
Served with Spanish rice and frijoles borrachos.

#### **Pollo Half and Half**

Grilled chicken breast covered in crema cilantro and crema chipotle. Served with Spanish rice  
and frijoles borrachos.

#### **Chile Relleno**

Poblano pepper filled with beef and potatoes, white cheese and covered with salsa Española.  
Served with Spanish rice and frijoles borrachos.

### **Dessert**

Mango sorbet

*(Dietary restrictions may be accommodated directly with your server.)*

*Editor's note: This article appeared in the online news service Diario Palentino from Palencia, Spain on November 5, 2021. The English version was used for this newsletter. The translation converted the Spanish word dragón to the English word dragon, however, it should have been converted to dragoon, a horse-mounted infantry, often used as cavalry. Dragones de Cuera would therefore refer to leather vest dragoons. The article has been formatted to fit this newsletter. Thanks go to Evaristo Martinez-Radio Garrido, our friend in Spain, for letting me know about the article.*

# Diario Palentino

CHARACTERS WITH HISTORY - COLONEL ANZA

## *Colonel Anza, chief of the Spanish cavalry in the American West*

*Founder of the mythical Cuera Dragons and the city of San Francisco*

Antonio Pérez Henares - 11/01/2021

The first great battle of cavalry troops in the American West, between Indians and whites, has never been recreated in the cinema, nor have its horsemen appeared on any screen. The essential reason is that the whites were Spanish, they were not commanded by an arrogant and madman named Custer, and they also emerged victorious, establishing a peace that lasted a whole century. They were not soldiers of the 7th cavalry, who ended up massacred due to the stupidity of their chief, but Colonel Anza's Cuera Dragons who annihilated the troops of the bloodthirsty Comanche chief Greenhorn whom they killed in combat.



The Dragons of the King or Cuera were a mythical cavalry corps on the northern border of New Mexico that guarded an immense territory, protected the peaceful Indians who lived in it, the Apache tribes among them, from the attacks of looters and formidable Comanches, establishing a line of forts, origin of the thousand films, which they called Presidios. His colorful uniform, his hat, his rifle on the saddle, his beautiful saddles and his ease on

horseback proclaimed his origin: Spanish. And therefore neither epics, nor cameras, nor heroes, nor Ford, nor Wayne, nor Cooper. I forget. And thank you, lest a fellow filmmaker come out spilling mud on his memory.

His boss was Colonel Juan Bautista Anza, Spanish, but also a pure Mexican, born in Fronteras (Sonora-New Spain) in 1736, as were his parents who were also born there after the arrival of his grandparents from Spain, specifically of Hernani (Guipúzcoa). His father, captain of the viceregal Army, left him an orphan shortly after he was three years old when he fell in combat against the Apaches and Juan Bautista was already enlisted as a cadet at 15 to be promoted to captain after years of hardening in that harsh and rugged territory, present-day Sonora. and Arizona, against the most fierce Indian tribes of Apaches and other Indian ethnic groups that

finally ended up signing peace with the Spanish.



Colonel Anza, chief of the Spanish cavalry in the American West

It was then that the viceroy entrusted him with the mission of leaving for the north and looking for routes and establishing roads and settlements towards Alta California. He was 38 years old when he set out for the first time in command of an expedition with 20 soldiers, 11 servants, 3 priests, 65 cows and bulls, 35 mules and 140 horses. He crossed the Colorado River, managing to do so through one of the few steps of its impressive canyons, that of

Yuma, because of his friendship with the Indians of that tribe. It was a successful expedition where he mapped and marked places to settle, including Los Angeles, where just over five years later 11 Hispanic families would stay, of which only two were made up exclusively of white Spaniards, the others being from the more varied crosses and crossbreeds, which founded the great Californian city today.

Already with the rank of lieutenant colonel he undertook successive expeditions in which he demonstrated how to read and survive in such harsh terrain. He used to divide his journey into three groups separated from each other for a day's march to give time for the water sources from which they were supplied to fill up. In the course of them he arrived at the estuary of the port of San Francisco and there he set the place for a prison and a mission, thus becoming the



founder of the now so-called city of San Francisco, as he did shortly after with San José, which also owes its existence as such.

In these journeys, he already took 240 people with him, including soldiers, settlers and friars, as well as 385 cows and bulls and 695 horses and mules that are the origin of the impressive cattle and horse herd in California.

Recognizing his good work by the viceroy, he called him to the capital, where he arrived with the chief of the Yumas, and returned with the appointment of Governor of New Mexico that extended through the current States of Chihuahua (Mexico) and New Mexico (USA).

Great difficulties awaited him there. The mighty Comanche nation, great horsemen who had tamed the native Mesteños sons of feral horses since Vázquez Coronado's expeditions, had stormed down from the Rocky Mountains and were spreading terror throughout the land. They had caused severe defeats to the Spanish troops, attacking even some Presidios and taking by assault the city of Taos (New Mexico) itself, a commercial center of great importance on the Santa Fe highway. Their boss, Cuerno Verde, who had managed to be one of all the tribes, imposing himself by force on the rest of the chiefs, he attacked with fury the rest of the ethnic groups in the area, especially the Apache tribes.

Anza prepared with seriousness and prudence his expedition against the knowing of the danger that it entailed. Finally, he set out in search of him with 800 Spanish soldiers, among them his famous Cuera Dragons and his Indian allies, especially Apaches and Utes. With them he went in search of the great plains until he reached Maniyou Springs (Colorado) in search of the elusive Comanche chief.

He could not find it, but after skirting the impressive El Capitan, now Pikes Peak, he managed to surprise one of his parties in its vicinity, defeating it in Colorado Springs.



Colonel Anza, chief of the Spanish cavalry in the American West

But Anza realized that this was not the bulk of the enemy force, composed of a vast number of warriors that remained intact.

He continued on their trail and after crossing the Arkansas River he finally managed to spot them. They were returning euphoric from a devastating looting operation in New Mexico when they ran into their dragons, which managed to close their escape routes. Anza forced them into battle along the Greenhorn Creek near present-day Pueblo.

### The great battle

The fighting was fierce, but Cuera's Dragons ultimately managed to inflict a terrible defeat on the Comanche horsemen. Greenhorn himself, like many other chiefs, perished in it. Only scattered groups were able to escape and get to safety, but no longer able to continue harassing Hispanic positions and populations. Colonel Anza picked up from the battlefield the famous buffalo forehead that the Comanche chief wears as a pompadour and took it as a sign of his triumph. The war trophy would be sent to Spain and delivered to King Carlos III, who would send it as a present and unique gift to Pope Pius VI, who received it in 1780 in Rome, being deposited in the Vatican Museum, where it is currently located.

After the defeat of Greenhorn and some other Dragon expeditions, the last Comanche chief, Ecuarecapa, who had always opposed the looting of Greenhorn, understanding that it would mean the worst for his nation in the long run, requested and signed peace with the Governor of New Mexico. The so-called La Paz de Anza lasted for about a century.

### Some experienced soldiers

The Cuera Dragons, protagonists of all that incident, were formed, under the orders of Anza himself and other officials, at the San Ignacio de Sonora Academy and from there they left for their destinations on the border. In their care was an untold territory from New Mexico, Arizona, Texas and the Comanchería to California, with its Presidios of San Antonio, El Álamo, Socorro, Albuquerque, Taos, Santa Fe, Tucson or Monterrey.

A recent novel, *Comanche*, by the renowned author Jesús Maeso, has glossed over their adventures and their stamp and has attracted the attention of the great painter Augusto Ferrer Dalmau, who has portrayed them with their Spanish horses and their colorful blue uniform with red trim, bowtie and bandana, blue cape and riding boots. The shield of Spain was printed on their rodela, they wore a wide-brimmed Cordovan hat and covered themselves with a hard leather vest without sleeves that served as a certain protection against Indian

arrows. Each Cuera Dragon was given six race horses for their care and use, which they had to attend personally, assisted by two servants. His weapons consisted of a regulatory saber of the Spanish cavalry, a pike, two flintlock pistols and especially his famous Brow Bess rifle. His discipline, endurance, knowledge of the terrain and companionship made them fearsome. And as it must be said, they joined their bravery and threw out the terror they caused, as they were the first to fool the dead enemies.

Colonel Juan Bautista Anza remained as governor of New Mexico until 1788 and when he was about to move to Tucson he died suddenly. He was married but left no children.

His memory is present in the city where he died, Arizpe (New Mexico, where his mausoleum is located in the colonial church of the time). Several places are named after him and he has some dedicated statue. In San Francisco, he has a street named after him Anza Street, although perhaps the most beautiful recognition of his figure is the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail in California and Arizona, administered by the United States National Park Service. The Desierto Anza-Borrego State Park also honors his memory.

## More Photos From the National Meeting





## **Report to the National Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez From the San Antonio Chapter, 2021**

On behalf of the membership of the San Antonio Chapter, I am pleased to report to the National Order that we had a good year despite the pandemic. We gained eight new members and mourn the loss of Dr. Roland Vela, Henry De Leon and Betty Salinas. We continued to have monthly meetings, some in person and some via Zoom, and had a guest speaker at every meeting.

We started the Gálvez Stamp Project, had a book launch for Paco Reyero's book, conducted our 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Fourth of July Patriotic Ceremony, led a 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade at a local Hyatt resort, sold books at a history symposium, sent Teacher Packets to local schools, and are in the midst of giving living history presentations at 11 schools in 9 weeks.

We updated our Facebook page on a regular basis and also updated our chapter's website. We published a chapter newsletter every month to keep members informed.

As of October 31, 2021, our chapter has 57 members and a treasury balance of \$5,414.60.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Perez  
Governor, San Antonio Chapter  
Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez  
[www.granaderos.org](http://www.granaderos.org)  
[www.facebook.com/granaderosdegálvez](https://www.facebook.com/granaderosdegálvez)

