



LA GRANADA



December 2023



Order of Granaderos
y Damas de Gálvez
San Antonio Chapter

■■■■■■■■■■ www.granaderos.org ■■■■■■■■■■ editor: joe pérez ■■■■■■■■■■

National Meeting - Baton Rouge

The National Meeting of our Order was held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, from Thursday, November 2 through Sunday November 5. Members of La Luisiana Chapter were excellent hosts and offered several events related to Louisiana history, which included the history of Spanish Louisiana, General Gálvez and Spain's participation in the American Revolution.

There were tours on Thursday, and, on Friday, we met at the Capitol Park Museum for excellent presentations, such as *The March of Gálvez & the Battle of Fort Bute at Bayou Manchac* by



Bradford Waters M.D., and *The Battle of Baton Rouge* by Stephen Estopinal. We enjoyed a tour of the battlefield where wreaths were laid and comments by Maria Isabel Page, Honorary Consul of Spain in New Orleans, followed by tapas in the evening. The business meeting was on Saturday at the same museum with presentations titled *The Spanish Presence in Louisiana*

by William Hyland, and *Matías de Gálvez and Other Spanish Fronts During the American Revolution* by Bradford Waters, then *Macharaviaya in Andalucia*. This was followed by a delicious lunch and excellent chapter reports at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center followed by an enjoyable dinner with entertainment in the evening. On Sunday, Mass was celebrated by Bishop James Tamayo of the Laredo Chapter.

La Luisiana Chapter did a fantastic job of hosting the National Meeting this year. It was enjoyable, informative and entertaining



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In lieu of a December Meeting,
we will have our
Annual Christmas Party.

Our next Regular Meeting will
be on Wednesday, January 3, 2024.
May you all have a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DECEMBER BABIES

Dec 8

Carmen Zurita

Dec 13

Terrence Burke, Jr.

Dec 16

Lynda Normand

Dec 19

Frank Galindo

Dec 20

Robert O'Bryan

Dec 24

Vedia Weathersby
Teresita Guillen

Dec 25

Norma Jean Garcia Rojas

Dec 26

Adam Dominguez

Dec 29

Jesse Benavides

OFFICERS

Governor

Joe González

Deputy Governor

Elizabeth Pérez

Treasurer

Manny Rodriguez

Secretary

Janie Rodriguez

Chaplain

Joe Weathersby

Sergeant Major

Adam Dominguez

2023 VETERANS PARADE

Veterans Day fell on a Saturday this year, so the parade was actually held on Veterans Day. We had an excellent entry with 1 officer, 5 granaderos, 3 American militia, 1 drum major, 6 fifiers, 2 drummers and 2 banner carriers, but we did not have a partridge in a pear tree.

To honor the military veterans on their special day, the fife & drum corps played the theme songs for each branch of military service.

Thanks go out to all who participated and represented the group in this year's parade.



DUES ARE DUE

It's time to renew your membership dues to cover all of 2024. They're due by January 1, 2024. Dues are \$30 for Full Member status and \$15 for Associate Member status. Full Members have voting rights, can hold office, and have automatic membership in the National Order. Associate Members cannot vote, nor hold office, nor have automatic membership in the National Order, however, they can participate in committees. If you haven't already done so, please mail your dues to Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez, P.O. Box 34691, San Antonio TX 78265. Or you can pay by Venmo at Manuel Rodriguez 896.



California and Texas Presidio Soldiers Added for Patriotic Service

By Anthony Startz, DAR National Chair, Specialty Research Committee
October 27, 2023



In applying for [DAR membership](#), lineage must be documented back to an ancestor who aided the cause of American independence. These efforts may come through military, civil or patriotic service.

The DAR Executive Committee has approved the addition of patriotic service for Spanish soldiers in two presidios in Texas and five presidios in California! Research Documentation has connected the collection of the royal decree funds requested by the King of Spain, Carlos III, to support the war effort to these presidio soldiers. Previously eligible service for presidio soldiers was approved in Santa Fe, New Mexico and Parral, Chihuahua, Mexico. The California Presidios are Santa Barbara, Monterrey, San Diego, San Gabriel and San Francisco. The Texas Presidios are Presidio La Bahia and the Cavalry Company of the Presidio San Antonio de Bexar.

Records documenting the funds for these additional presidios were found in the Bancroft Papers in California and the Bexar Archives in San Antonio, Texas. The King of Spain issued a Royal Decree in August of 1780 requiring all residents of New Spain to donate money for the war effort against the British. These funds collected over a large area included present day Texas, New Mexico, California, Arizona, and Mexico. The monies were sent to Havana, Cuba to provide payment for supplies for the Continental Army and to help finance the French military and fleets. The [Spanish Research team](#) continues to search for more records. In addition, there are many Donativo records for central and southern Mexico indexed in the [Patriot Records Project](#).



A report with a list of eligible soldiers will be posted on the landing page for [Spanish Research](#) under the [Specialty Research Committee](#). If you have questions, contact Molly Long Fernandez de Mesa or a team member of the Spanish Research Team or your State Specialty Research Chair.

This Committee Chair would like to thank many DAR members for their support in researching this service including Donna Kargo Santistevan, Donna Michelle Santistevan, Gloria Gibbel, Gayle Reizes, Robin Hurwitz, Kari Weis, Irene Hernandez Roberts, Kristine Sjostrom, Kathy Crusco, Jeannine Dobbins, and Susan Johnston. We would like to remember Ann Delano Lampman, deceased Honorary Regent of California, for her tireless efforts in records research.

A Small Town in Spain that Contributed to American Freedom



It is no coincidence that Macharaviaya, a small town in Axarquía in Malaga, celebrates the Independence Day of the United States every July 4. On this day, a specific battle is reenacted in the town, that of Pensacola, the last battle where the Spanish army recaptured Florida, which was under British rule on March 29, 1781.

It was a Spanish general named Bernardo de Gálvez who was able to capture the city of Pensacola, capture the English garrison, consisting of about 14,000 men, prisoners, and return the North American peninsula to Spanish hands.

Because of this, Bernardo Gálvez was promoted to Lieutenant General and named Captain General of Florida and Louisiana. King Carlos III even gave him the title of Count of Gálvez. And not only that, but in the victory parade, Bernardo de Gálvez marched next to George Washington in the streets of Philadelphia, who said that, "if the Spanish military did not give its help, the United States would not have won the War of Independence."

And why is the 4th of July celebrated in Macharaviaya and the Battle of Pensacola is recreated? Because Bernardo Gálvez was born in this small town on July 23, 1746.

From a noble family, he spent his childhood working in the fields and attending school in the neighboring town of Benaque. He lost his mother very young, at the age of two, in 1748 and two years later, his father remarried. It is likely that he spent part of his youth in the Canary Islands, especially in Tenerife, where his father was stationed between 1757 and 1778. At the age of 16 he began a military career and in 1769 he arrived in America, requested by his uncle who held the job of general visitor of the region.

Thanks to his exploits he is now remembered as a key figure for the freedom of the United States. Indeed, on December 16, 2014, the President of the United States of America, Barack Obama, signed a joint resolution of the US Congress that granted honorary citizenship of the United States to Bernardo de Gálvez y Madrid, 229 years after the end of the American War of Independence.

This article is from the World Nation News online magazine issue of October 27, 2023.

Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez

Minutes for the meeting held November 1, 2023 at La Fonda Restaurant

Submitted by Secretary Janie Rodriguez

Officers in Attendance: Governor Joe González, Chaplain Joe Weathersby

Attendance: Sally Avila, Charlie Carvajal, Ron Finch, Valerie Finch, Cynthia Flores, Debbie Flores, Lucia Flores, Roberto Flores, Stella González, Jesse Guerra, Yolanda Ingles, Joe Perez, Ricky Reyes, Jimmy Peet, Susan Peet, Art Martinez de Vara, Vedia Weathersby.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Governor Joe González. The Invocation was given by Chaplain Joe Weathersby. Jimmy Peet led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Governor Joe welcomed guest Yolanda Ingles.

There was no treasurer's report due to the absence of the treasurer. Governor Joe announced all birthdays for the month of November and "Happy Birthday" was sung by all present, led by Jimmy Peet.

Old business: Copies of the newly revised ByLaws are available to members upon request. The details for the Christmas party are in the November newsletter online. The deadline for registration and payment are November 13.

Committee reports Education: Debbie Flores reported three schools are interested in a presentation.

Membership: Chairman Joe Perez reported one new member, a drummer, James Klausmeyer.

Visibility: Vendor site for our club polo shirts is back up. There has also been an interest in a fiesta medal for 2024.

Stamp Committee: Stella Gonzalez reported that the Wimberley DAR will send letters in support of the Galvez stamp.

New Business: Dues are to be paid by December 31. The Governor reminded all that full membership is \$30.00. Associate membership is \$15.00 and has no voting privileges. Members should send separate payments for dues and Christmas party.

About 12 local members will attend the National Meeting, to be held the first weekend in November in Baton Rouge. There will be a report on this at the January meeting. The National meeting will be held here in 2025, which is also the 50th anniversary of the order.

The Solados and Drum & Fife Corps will march in the city's Veterans Parade on Saturday November 11.

Program: Art Martinez de Vara's presentation "Reviving Valero: New Anthropological and Historic Methods that Promise to Open New Doorways to Early San Antonio," was about recent archaeology activities at the Alamo, including new burials found. His soon to be released book is "Beneath Sacred Ground," about these efforts .

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 by Governor Joe González.