



# LA GRANADA



## December 2024

Founding Chapter



San Antonio, TX



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



editor: joe pérez



# National Meeting in Laredo TX

Our organization's National Meeting was held from October 31 through November 3 and was an amazing event. The Laredo Chapter outdid themselves in hosting the event.

Thursday was Texican Night with a "country western" theme, barbecue and line dancing. Friday had an excursion to historic San Ygnacio followed by Noche Mexicana with culinary tastes from Northern Mexico as well as Ballet Folklorico music and dance. Saturday was our National Meeting where chapter reports were given, awards presented, and business was discussed regarding our non-profit status, bank account, and committees. We were awed by a unique castanet ensemble. That was followed by a tour of San Agustín Cathedral by Bishop Tamayo and a tour of historic downtown Laredo. We later had the Farewell Banquet with delicious food and lively entertainment. On Sunday, we had Mass and were entertained by a matachines group. Congratulations to the Laredo Chapter for hosting a National Meeting weekend that we will remember for a long time.



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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 8, 2025.

May you have an enjoyable  
Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas,  
and a Happy New Year!

Our January 2025 meeting will be very different than our usual monthly meetings. In January, Governor Joe González will give us a State of the Chapter Report covering activities and accomplishments for 2024. He will also speak about our goals for 2025, which will be our organization's Golden Anniversary. Joe will also install any new officers and/or Committee Chairs at the meeting.

In addition to that, we will have our first-ever Book Binge. We will have different levels of donations for different books. Many of the books are first-editions, signed by the authors, and out of print.

Anyone who cannot attend the meeting may reserve a book via email at [losgranaderosdegálvez@gmail.com](mailto:losgranaderosdegálvez@gmail.com), then mail the donation check to Granaderos de Gálvez, P.O. Box 34691, San Antonio TX 78265. A list of books and more information will be in our January 2025 newsletter.



## DECEMBER BABIES

**Dec 8**

Carmen Zurita

**Dec 11**

Anthony Delgado

**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

**Governor**

José (Joe) González

**Deputy Governor**

Elizabeth Pérez

**Treasurer**

Manny Rodriguez

**Secretary**

Janie Rodriguez

**Chaplain**

Joe Weathersby

**Sergeant Major**

Adam Dominguez

# New Member

We extend a cordial welcome to our newest member, **Matteo Leyva** from San Antonio. Matteo joined us at our November meeting. He was made aware of our chapter by Granadero Ricky Reyes. Matteo participates in living history and dresses as a Native American. He also joined us in this year's Veterans Parade. Thank you for becoming member, Matteo!

## San Antonio Hosted Spanish Contingent

On Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, members of the San Antonio Chapter hosted 14 Granaderos and Damas from Málaga, Spain, as they stopped here for a day before heading to the National Meeting in Laredo. Some of our members met with them and chauffeured them to a couple of historic sites in San Antonio.

We first took them to the Alamo for a private guided tour by Senior Curator Ernesto Rodriguez III who gave the tour in Spanish. He gave an excellent educational and interesting tour through the grounds.

We then had an enjoyable lunch at the Hard Rock Café on the banks of the beautiful RiverWalk.

After lunch, we took our Spanish visitors to Mission San José where we were treated to another private guided tour throughout the grounds. Our tour guide was excellent and engaging as she gave our guests the tour in Spanish.

The visitors from Macharaviaya were very appreciative that we accommodated them with transportation, lunch, and two private tours in their native language, as only two were fluent in English. We were helped with wonderful weather as well.

Our efforts served as just a taste of what they will experience when they come to San Antonio next year for our National Meeting and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our organization.

We are expecting about 40 members from Spain next year.

¡Viva la Orden de los Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez!



# Veterans Parade

On Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, we proudly marched in the U.S. Military Veterans Parade in downtown San Antonio. There were a few of our living history participants who could not be with us but we still had a good showing with two Banner Carriers (Alexander Rodriguez, Nick Nemesio), one General (Joe Perez), one Sergeant Major (Adam Dominguez), three flag bearers (Joe Weathersby, Ron Finch, Manny Rodriguez), two guards (Tim Thatcher, Jesse



Guerra), three fifers (Julie Soto, Alekzandr Sky, Janie Rodriguez), one drummer (Luis Martinez), three Native Scouts (Ricky Reyes, Sally Avila, Matteo Leyva).

Thanks to all of these participants, our chapter was well-represented in this year's Veterans Parade through downtown San Antonio.

## Teaching History in Our Schools

On Tuesday, November 12, we gave a living history presentation to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at Holy Spirit Catholic School. We have presented there before, a few years ago, but this was a new set of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Joe González represented a chaplain who fulfilled the spiritual needs of soldiers, while Manny Rodriguez spoke about the duties of a granadero soldier. Joe Weathersby represented a member of the Louisiana militia who volunteered to serve under Gálvez. Janie Rodriguez and Joe Perez were a fifer and drummer, respectively, in the Spanish army. They spoke about the roles these musical troops played in camp and on the battlefield. They even played a tune for the audience.

We continue with our mantra: If they don't teach this history in our schools, then we will.



# A Christmas Present for Washington

By Joe Perez

In the latter part of 1776, General George Washington was facing a dismal winter. His army had experienced recent defeats and morale was very low among his troops. In October, Benedict Arnold, an otherwise successful General in the Continental Army, was defeated at the Battle of Valcour Island. That same month, Washington's Army was defeated at the Battle of White Plains, New York, and he was forced by the British to retreat all the way into Pennsylvania. In November, the British captured Fort Mifflin, which left the Americans with no forts on Manhattan Island. Just four days later, across the Hudson River from



Manhattan, the British captured Fort Mifflin in New Jersey. Washington's army was suffering because of desertions and many of the enlisted troops' terms were expiring. The Americans were losing the war and it appeared as though General Washington was to end the year in dismal fashion.

Although the British had chased Washington out of New York and New Jersey, they did not pursue him into Pennsylvania.

Instead, they decided to establish a few outposts in the area to include one at Trenton, New Jersey. Once established, the British army settled in for the winter, using the outposts as their quarters. The British planned to use the winter months to re-supply its army and make plans on how best to attack Washington's army in a few months when spring would bring better weather.

Washington had lost much-needed supplies when he retreated his army from New Jersey and he had lost contact with two of his leading generals. While the British had Hessian troops (German mercenaries) established at Trenton, George Washington set up camp across the Delaware River from the Hessians. He had about 5,000 soldiers encamped, however, nearly two thousand of them were unable to fight and needed medical care. Under-fed and under-clothed, Washington's army was in the midst of trying times and in dire need of inspiration.

Then, on December 19, patriot Thomas Paine published a pamphlet titled, "The American Crisis". So inspiring was the pamphlet that Washington ordered it immediately read to all of his troops. The first two sentences of the famous pamphlet are "*These are the times that try men's souls; the summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.*" The pamphlet served the troops well in that it inspired them to give more tolerance to their extremely trying conditions. With improved morale among his men, it appeared that the fortune of the Continental Army was about to take a favorable turn.

The fortune of Washington's army improved indeed. One day after the reading of Paine's inspirational pamphlet, additional American troops flowed into camp. Two thousand six hundred Continental troops arrived followed by one thousand militia men. In just two days, the spirits of Washington's army improved dramatically. Later in the month, additional supplies arrived, including much-needed blankets. With improved morale and an increase in the number of troops, Washington began planning an attack.

On Christmas morning, with plans in place, Washington's troops marched quietly to the west bank of the Delaware River, across from Trenton, New Jersey. Needing every single soldier, even the officers and musicians were ordered to carry muskets. Then, one of the most famous events in American history took place; Washington crossing the Delaware. Troops were to cross at three locations and, while not all three were successful, Washington's was. The crossing started after sunset on Christmas night and wasn't completed until 3:00 a.m. the morning of December 26<sup>th</sup>.



At 4:00 a.m., the Americans marched toward Trenton. They met initial resistance from an outpost but drove the Hessians back to Trenton. Having separated into groups, the Americans attacked Trenton from different sides, cutting off the enemy's escape routes. Once Washington's army reached Trenton, the heavy fighting began. The Hessians put up a fierce resistance but they were not prepared for the surprise attack by Washington. Legend has it that the Hessians were drunk from celebrating Christmas, however, there is no evidence to support that. Reports of the Hessians being dazed can be better supported by the fact that it was a surprise attack early in the morning when the Hessians were roused from their sleep.

There were only two Americans who died and four wounded in the battle, while 22 Hessians were killed, 83 wounded and 813 taken as prisoners. This was not a big battle as far as the number of men involved, however, the impact it had on the American Colonists was huge. Prior to the battle, Washington's army was in disarray with desertions and expired enlistments, morale was very low, they suffered repetitive defeats and many were questioning if the revolution was a lost cause. With this victory and the publication of "The American Crisis", the spirit of the American Colonists was invigorated. This victory was like a Christmas present for General Washington. His fortune and the fortune of America were about to change for the better.

Fortune would have it that just six days later, America would get another gift. On New Year's Day, the King of Spain appointed Bernardo de Gálvez as interim Governor of Louisiana, headquartered in New Orleans at the mouth of the Mississippi River. This appointment and its location, within a week of Washington's victory, were little noticed on the part of the American Colonists, however, it would turn out to be pivotal for the outcome of the American Revolution.

# Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez

**Minutes for the meeting held November 6, 2024 at La Fonda Restaurant  
Submitted by Secretary Janie Rodriguez**

Officers in Attendance: Governor Joe González, Deputy Governor Liz Perez, Treasurer Manny Rodriguez and Secretary Janie Rodriguez

Attendance: George Aguayo, Mike Aguayo, Sally Avila, Diane D. Baird-Barger, Charles Carvajal, Barbara Chaney, Ron Finch, Debbie Flores, Lucia Flores, Roberto Flores, Dr. Francis Galan, Deborah Guerra, Jesse Guerra, Stella González, Yolanda Inglis, Matteo Leyva, Mary Ann Oliver, Joe Perez, Ricky Reyes, Alex Zamora, Melissa Zamora

The meeting was called to order at 7:29 p.m. by Governor Joe González. The Invocation was read by Governor Joe González and Ron Finch led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The review of minutes was asked if any questions or corrections were needed. Motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Manny Rodriguez and seconded by Ron Finch, motion carried.

Treasurer Manny Rodriguez gave a report for the month of October 2024. The Savings Account Balance for the beginning of the month of October was \$6,773.33. This amount includes the following: Scholarship CD \$2,000.00, Scholarship general funds \$3,360.00, Non encumbered funds \$454.30 and 2025 National meeting CD \$1,000.00. This includes activity for the month was interest paid: \$0.97 and donation to scholarship of \$40.00. The end of month total for October in savings is \$6,814.30. The checking account balance as of October 1, 2024 was \$7,465.95. Activity for the month was as follows: We received bank interest of \$0.31, 5 memberships \$135.00, donation of \$40.00 to scholarship fund, sale of broaches \$90.00, sales of 18 name badges \$180.00, Spain Luncheon payment for \$310.00 and redeposit of petty cash \$40.00. Outgoing funds were a transfer of \$40.00 to savings, reimbursement for repair of musket \$60.00 Petty cash for gas reimbursements \$100.00 Name badge purchase \$306.00 purchase of one fer shirt \$78.00 D&F rehearsal room \$35.00 and Payment to Hardrock Cafe for Spain guests \$669.75. End of month balance for October is \$6,972.51. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Alex Zamora and seconded by Charles Carvajal. Motion carried.

Governor Joe González announced this month's birthdays and "Happy Birthday" was sung by all!

Old business: The national meeting was well attended and successful, Laredo did an amazing job. Spaniards' visit to S.A. was terrific with visits to the Alamo and San Juan Mission. They loved it.

Non profit issue was addressed at the national meeting, all chapters as well as the National office will get their own numbers. An advisory committee was formed to assist in the process.

Soldiers and Drum & Fife Corps attended the 200 celebration of Victoria, we were very well received and invited to return in the future. After the event we were treated to fellowship and a meal, which was outstanding. Thank you Blanche De Leon for hosting!

Preparations for the 2025 National Meeting are ongoing. All are encouraged to participate. Please check your email for committee sign-ups.

Our Christmas party will be held on December 7th, registration form can be found in the November newsletter.

2025 membership dues are due and late notices will be sent out in early January.

Committee Reports were suspended tonight due to an agenda calling for chapter elections.

Nominating Committee Chair, Joe Pérez, announced that Joe González & Elizabeth Pérez were being nominated for re-election. Joe Pérez then asked if there were any nominations from the floor for the office of Governor. There being none, by acclamation, Gov. Joe González will remain as Governor. Joe Pérez then asked if there were nominations from the floor for the office of Deputy Governor. Stella González nominated Joe Weathersby. A vote was taken via written ballot and Joe Weathersby was elected as the new Dep. Governor.

Program: The speaker for our meeting was Dr. Francis Galán is an Associate Professor at Texas A&M University-San Antonio and an award-winning author. His primary research uses Spanish archival records to examine military, political, economic, and social relations in Texas under Spain and Mexico.

After a short Q&A the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 by Governor Joe González.



## Governor & New Deputy Governor

Voting was conducted at our November meeting for the positions of Governor and Deputy Governor. Joe González was elected Governor for a second term while Joe Weathersby was elected Deputy Governor as a nomination from the floor. Both officers will assume their 2-year terms on January 1, 2025. Congratulations Governor Joe González and Deputy Governor Elect Joe Weathersby!



## DUES ARE DUE

If you haven't already done so, this is a friendly reminder to renew your membership dues to cover all of 2025. They're due by January 1, 2025. Dues are \$30 for Full Member status and \$15 for Associate Member status. 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.

