



LA GRANADA



February 2026

Granaderos y Damas
de Gálvez



San Antonio
Founding Chapter

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editor: joe pérez

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Happy 250th From Texas



On January 2nd, the Today Show had a segment on the nationwide America 250 celebration. It showed several local events that occurred throughout the country. One such event was at the Heritage Society Museum in Houston, Texas. The museum is hosting the American Revolution Experience Exhibit which will be a state-traveling exhibit sponsored by the Texas Daughters of the American Revolution from June 15 through July 15, 2026.

The segment was seen nationwide and included representatives from several organizations, including the SAR, the DAR, and the Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez chapters from Houston, San Antonio, and Louisiana. The San Antonio Chapter was represented by Ron and Valerie Finch. La Luisiana Chapter Governor Ann Bergeron said, *"It was an honor to be asked to join with DAR and SAR members from Texas at the Heritage Society Museum to participate in the filming of this piece for the TODAY show. A very heartfelt thank you to the Heritage Society for making sure that the participation of Spanish forces was portrayed alongside the Colonials."*

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Next Meeting Wednesday, February 4

La Fonda Restaurant
8633 Crownhill Blvd

Dinner: 6:00 Meeting 7:00

Presenter:

Diana & Margot Moreno

Presentation:

Our Journey to the Missions

FEBRUARY BABIES

Feb 2
Gleceria Devine

Feb 4
Jesse Villarreal, Sr.

Feb 7
Victoria Hess

Feb 13
Manny Rodriguez, Jr.

Feb 26
Mark Roberts

Feb 27
Melissa McPherson

Sally Avila

Diana & Margot Moreno are the President & Vice President, respectively, of the San Antonio Mission Indian Descendants. San Antonio Mission Indian Descendants was created *“to educate and bring awareness of the continuing existence and current presence of Native American descendants of the San Antonio Missions, the contributions of our Native American ancestors to the formation of San Antonio and assist individuals in their journey of discovery”*

Governor
José (Joe) González

Treasurer
Manny Rodriguez

Chaplain
Charles Carvajal

Deputy Governor
Joe Weathersby

Secretary
Janie Rodriguez

Sergeant Major
Adam Dominguez

DAR America 250 Dedication Ceremony

On Friday, January 16th, the Daughters of the American Revolution dedicated a Patriot Marker and two Educational Walls, one commemorating foreign military leaders and one commemorating forgotten patriots. The ceremony was in the Texas DAR Plaza of Liberty at the Veterans War Memorial in McAllen, Texas. It was a very fine, well-coordinated ceremony with educational and touching speeches that filled everyone's hearts with pride and patriotism. Thank you, DAR, for remembering those forgotten contributors to our War of Independence!

AMERICA
250



Top Row L-R: Joe Perez and Joe González with the Patriot Marker / Panel honoring foreign patriots / Panel honoring forgotten patriots.

Middle Row L-R: Fidel Santos, GeorgiAnne Brochstein, Mary Anthony Startz, Joe González, Joe Perez / McAllen Fire Dept Pipes & Drums Honor Guard / Statue of Bernardo de Gálvez.

At Left: Mary Anthony Startz giving an excellent speech honoring foreign leaders in the American Revolution.

New Member

We extend a cordial welcome to our newest member, **Jola Ruth West**, who joins us all the way from Dumfries, Virginia. We thank you for your interest in our organization and for joining us in our quest to educate the public about Spain's participation in the American Revolution, especially the heroic efforts of General Bernardo de Gálvez. Welcome aboard Jola!

Recent Articles on the Internet

Lecture Series: Unknown Florida in the American Revolution

The Ximenez-Fatio House Museum in St. Augustine, Florida, is hosting a lecture series about some of the people who lived in Florida and the impact they had on the American Revolution. The link to the article is below.

<https://www.visitstaugustine.com/event/unknown-florida-american-revolution>

Canary Islands Army Educational Awards

The Spanish Army is hosting a contest titled “250th Anniversary of the Spanish Military Contribution to the Independence of the United States of America.” It’s open to all schools in the Canary Islands. Entries can be in the form of written texts or creative projects such as models, dioramas, videos, drawings, paintings, or photographs. The link to the article is below.

<https://tenerifeweekly.com/2026/01/11/deadline-approaching-for-submissions-to-the-2026-army-educational-awards/>

USS Gálvez Among Ships Canceled

There have been several changes to the U.S. Navy’s ship building program. Among them, unfortunately for us, has been the cancelation of the ship named for Bernardo de Gálvez. The link to the article is below.

<https://www.stripes.com/branches/navy/2025-12-29/trump-class-battleship-busy-year-naming-ships-20240798.html>

A Facebook Post on Descendants of Revolutionary War Patriots

In January, a lady by the name of Judith Lepoma posted on Facebook about Gálvez and two of her ancestors who served under him; Jacque Mathurin and Nicolas Carceaux. See link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/437067973791773/posts/2090196175145603/>

Native American Allies in the American Revolution

AI Generated with
Editing by Robert Garcia Jr.
Sept., 2025

Introduction

The American Revolution is often remembered through stories of heroic generals, battles for liberty, and the determination of the colonists to form a new nation. Yet this familiar picture leaves out important allies who shaped the course of the conflict. Among them were Native Americans, who faced difficult choices about where to place their loyalties. Many sided with the British, believing it the safer way to protect their homelands from colonial expansion. A few, however, chose to ally with the Patriots, even though such a decision carried real dangers. Their aid—whether on the battlefield, in diplomacy, or through food and medicine—gave strength to the cause of independence. By looking at their contributions, we gain a fuller understanding of the Revolution as a shared struggle that reached beyond the thirteen colonies.¹

The Oneida Nation

The Oneida, part of the Iroquois Confederacy, became some of the strongest allies of the Patriots. In 1777, at the Battle of Oriskany, they fought side by side with colonial soldiers in one of the bloodiest battles of the war. Leaders like Han Yerry Doxtader and his wife, Tyonajanegegen, showed remarkable bravery. When Han Yerry was wounded, his wife loaded his musket so he could keep firing.²

During the harsh winter at Valley Forge in 1777–78, the Oneida and Tuscarora walked more than 250 miles to deliver corn to Washington's starving troops. Among them was Polly Cooper, who not only taught the soldiers how to prepare the corn but also stayed to nurse the sick. She refused any pay, accepting only a shawl and bonnet from Martha Washington in gratitude.³

The Stockbridge Indian Company

The Stockbridge Indian Company was made up of Mohican, Wappinger, and other Algonquian people. They volunteered as minutemen at the very start of the war. Fighting at Bunker Hill and marching with Washington's army, they earned a reputation as skilled light infantry. In 1778, however, tragedy struck when nearly the entire company was ambushed and destroyed near today's Bronx, New York.⁴

Chief Skenandoa

Chief Skenandoa, a respected Oneida leader, also played an important role. As a “pine tree chief,” he brought hundreds of Oneida and Tuscarora warriors into alliance with the Americans. His close ties with missionaries and colonial leaders helped secure trust between Native allies and the Patriots. Without such leadership, the alliance might not have lasted through the difficulties of the war.⁵

The Catawba Nation

In the southern theater of the Revolution, the Catawba Nation of the Carolinas supported the Patriot cause despite their small population, weakened by disease. They provided scouts, warriors, and guides during campaigns against British and loyalist forces. Their knowledge of the land gave the Continental Army and local militias a strategic edge in Carolina battles. Their service is a reminder that even small nations played a critical role in shaping the outcome of the Revolution.⁶

The Delaware (Lenape)

The Delaware Nation initially tried to remain neutral but eventually signed a treaty with the Americans in 1778—the first formal treaty between the new United States and a Native nation. Some Delaware warriors guided Continental soldiers through difficult terrain, while the treaty even included a symbolic provision that Delaware might one day become the “14th state” of the Union. Though this promise was never fulfilled, it showed that Native support was considered politically significant as well as militarily useful.⁷

The Choctaw and Chickasaw

Native aid was not limited to the thirteen colonies. Along the Gulf Coast, the Choctaw and Chickasaw contributed fighters who aided Patriot-aligned militias and Spanish forces. Bernardo de Gálvez, governor of Spanish Louisiana, coordinated with them in campaigns against the British in West Florida. Their involvement highlights how the Revolution was part of a much broader conflict that stretched into the Mississippi Valley and beyond.⁸

Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, and Micmac Allies

In New England, eastern tribes such as the Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, and Micmac offered assistance to the Patriots, particularly in naval and coastal operations. Some served as guides and mariners for American privateers, while others fought in the Penobscot Expedition of 1779. Although that campaign ended in disaster for the Americans, Native involvement demonstrates how these smaller nations tied their fortunes to the cause of independence despite the risks.⁹

Creek and Seminole Factions

While the Creek Nation largely allied with the British, some factions offered aid to American militias in Georgia. Early Seminole bands in Spanish Florida, though not yet fully organized as a distinct nation, indirectly supported Patriot-aligned campaigns through their association with

Spanish allies. These examples remind us that Native choices were never uniform; decisions often depended on local politics, geography, and survival.¹⁰

Native Women's Roles

Native women played critical but often overlooked roles in the Revolution. Tyonajanegen of the Oneida not only supported her wounded husband at Oriskany but also took up arms herself. Women also influenced diplomacy within matrilineal societies such as the Iroquois, where clan mothers could influence whether their men went to war. At Valley Forge, Polly Cooper's service exemplifies how Native women fed, healed, and sustained soldiers in ways that went beyond traditional battlefield contributions.¹¹

Spanish-Native Collaboration

The Revolution was part of a global conflict. Spain's entry into the war in 1779 widened the battlefield, and Spanish officials like Bernardo de Gálvez relied heavily on Native allies along the Gulf Coast. Choctaw, Chickasaw, Alabama, and Apalachee groups all contributed guides, scouts, and fighters to Spanish campaigns against the British. In these alliances, Native peoples were not passive participants but active partners pursuing their own strategies for survival and leverage.¹²

Aftermath and Broken Promises

Despite their contributions, Native allies received little reward after the Revolution. The Delaware treaty of 1778, which had promised the possibility of statehood, was ignored. The Oneida, though they had sacrificed much, saw their lands steadily taken through treaties and purchases. The Catawba, who had supported the Patriots so faithfully, lost nearly all of their territory within a generation. In the nineteenth century, many of these same tribes faced removal west of the Mississippi.

The Revolution thus left Native Americans in a paradox: they had helped secure American independence, but their own independence and lands were increasingly eroded. Remembering their service challenges us to see the Revolution not just as a triumph of liberty but also as the beginning of new struggles for Native survival.¹³

Conclusion

The story of Native allies in the American Revolution is both inspiring and bittersweet. Their courage, sacrifices, and loyalty strengthened the Patriot cause at critical moments. The Oneida and Tuscarora brought food and fighters, the Stockbridge Company gave their lives as soldiers, and leaders like Chief Skenandoa built bridges of trust. The Catawba aided campaigns in the South, the Delaware signed a treaty of alliance, and the Choctaw and Chickasaw extended support into the Gulf Coast theater. In New England, the Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, and Micmac aided maritime campaigns, while smaller Creek and Seminole factions offered local support. Native women sustained the fight through courage, food, and diplomacy, and Spanish alliances showed the Revolution's global reach.

Yet after independence was won, the new United States often ignored or displaced the very tribes that had fought beside them. By remembering their role, we honor a more complete history—one where America's freedom was secured not by colonists alone, but through the shared struggles and sacrifices of Native men and women who hoped for a more just future.¹⁴

Notes

1. Colin G. Calloway, *The American Revolution in Indian Country: Crisis and Diversity in Native American Communities* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995), 3–5.
2. William A. Starna and George R. Hamell, *History and Culture of Iroquois Diplomacy* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1999), 112–14.
3. Jean M. O'Brien, *Dispossession by Degrees: Indian Land and Identity in Natick, Massachusetts, 1650–1790* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1997), 202.
4. David J. Silverman, *Red Brethren: The Brothertown and Stockbridge Indians and the Problem of Race in Early America* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2010), 88–90.
5. Anthony F. C. Wallace, *The Death and Rebirth of the Seneca* (New York: Vintage Books, 1972), 187.
6. James H. Merrell, *The Indians' New World: Catawbas and Their Neighbors from European Contact through the Era of Removal* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1989), 145–47.
7. Gregory Evans Dowd, *A Spirited Resistance: The North American Indian Struggle for Unity, 1745–1815* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992), 82–84.
8. Thomas E. Chávez, *Spain and the Independence of the United States: An Intrinsic Gift* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2002), 159–61.
9. Colin G. Calloway, *The Scratch of a Pen: 1763 and the Transformation of North America* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006), 188–90.
10. Edward J. Cashin, *The King's Ranger: Thomas Brown and the American Revolution on the Southern Frontier* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1989), 74–77.
11. Barbara Graymont, *The Iroquois in the American Revolution* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1972), 220–23.
12. Chávez, *Spain and the Independence of the United States*, 165–68.
13. Calloway, *The American Revolution in Indian Country*, 250–55.
14. *Ibid.*, 145–48.

DUES REMINDER

2026 membership dues are now due. Full Membership is \$30 and Associate Membership is \$15.

The three ways dues may be paid are:

- By check made out to Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez mailed to Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez, PO Box 34691, San Antonio TX 78265
- By Venmo at <https://venmo.com/u/Manuel-Rodriguez-896>
- In person at our next general membership meeting on Wednesday, February 4th.

Don't forget:

- *Milk*
- *Bread*
- *Granaderos y Damas Dues*



March 6-7, 2026

Nunez Community College, Chalmette LA

Featured speakers include:

Jay Dardenne Stephen Kling Kristin Gjostrom
Dr. Thomas Chavez Michael Henderson Frances Kolb Turnbull
Dr. Timothy Seiter
Stephen Estopinal Dr. Bradford Waters Raymond Berthelot

For more information and to register click this link or scan the QR code:

<https://secure.anedot.com/la-louisiana-gdg/08529ca5-e79e-4ccb-a151-5529eb6e5493>



Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez

San Antonio Founding Chapter

Minutes for the meeting held
January 7, 202 at La Fonda Restaurant
Submitted by Secretary Janie Rodriguez

Officers in Attendance: Governor Joe González, Deputy Governor Joe Weathersby, Treasurer Manny Rodriguez and Secretary Janie Rodriguez, Chaplain Charlie Carvajal.

Attendance: Sally Avila, Diane Baird-Barger, Herb Canales, Ron Finch, Cindi Flores, Debbie Flores, Lucila Flores, Roberto Flores, Robert Garcia, Stella González, Peggy Guerrero, Victoria Galvan Hess, Joe Perez, Liz Perez, Ricky Reyes, Martin Vasquez, Vedia Weathersby, Alex Zamora, Melissa Zamora.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Governor Joe González. The Invocation was given by Chaplain Charlie Carvajal and Martin Vasquez led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Governor then reminded all that the Minutes for the November meeting had been distributed by email and asked if there were any corrections or changes. There were none. Joe Weathersby moved that the Minutes be accepted as written; the motion was seconded by Charlie Carvajal. The motion was passed.

Treasurer Manny Rodriguez gave a report for the month of November 2025. The Savings Account Balance for the beginning of the month of November was \$18,854.26. The end of month total for November in savings was \$18,858.91. Included are 2 CDs. A Scholarship CD at \$2,000.00 and a 2025 National Meeting CD: \$1,000.00. The checking account balance as of November 1, 2025 was \$22,778.03 and the end of month total was \$19,008.29. For the month of December 2025 the Savings Account Balance for the beginning of the month was \$18,858.91. The end of month total for December in savings was \$18,863.71. Included are 2 CDs; a Scholarship CD at \$2,000.00 and a 2025 National Meeting CD: \$1,000.00. The checking account balance as of December 1, 2025 was \$19,008.29 and the end of month total was \$12,534.50. Please address any questions to Treasurer Manny Rodriguez or Governor Joe González. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Ron Finch and seconded by Vedia Weathersby and the motion carried.



Governor Joe González announced January birthdays and "Happy Birthday" was sung by all!

Old business: Governor Joe González reported that the annual meeting attendees numbered 90 throughout the weekend. "THANK YOU" notes from Mary Anthony Startz, Dr.

Francis Galan and Bishop James Tamayo were read. Thank you to Ron, Melissa and the committee for the time spent to make this a success.

Committee Reports Membership: Joe Perez reported the membership to date is 13 but dues are still coming in.

Scholarship: Chairperson Liz Perez gave a presentation on the restructured scholarship project that will go out to Catholic High School seniors. The high schools will include Holy Cross, Providence, and St. Anthony. Liz Perez and Sylvia Garcia will be contacting these schools to set up meetings and explain our program. Liz also stated that they have added Briana Perez as their technical assistant to maintain spreadsheets.

Color Guard /Fife & Drum: The Fife & Drum Corps will be performing in the upcoming George Washington celebration in February. This will include leading the dignitaries for the Abrazo on the Bridge ceremony and marching in the parade.

Program: Governor Joe González gave a presentation on the state of the chapter. This included upcoming events and future speakers. After a short Q&A, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 by Governor Joe González.

Wreath Laying Ceremony in Galveston TX

The George Washington Chapter, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, recently sponsored a wreath-laying ceremony at Lakeview Cemetery in Galveston, TX. Mayor Craig Brown spoke, and chapter members, as well as participants from the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 880, and others, laid 348 wreaths on veterans' graves. Veteran graves from wars dating from the Texas Revolution to the present are represented in the cemetery. (Courtesy of *The Daily News, Galveston County, January 9, 2026*)



The Leadership of a Young General

In 1925, Charles Robert Churchill, then President of the Louisiana Society Sons of the American Revolution, published "Bernardo de Gálvez Services to the American Revolution". On page 363, Churchill wrote of Gálvez, "*The achievements of this youth were not the incident of accident, nor were they due to the guidance of older minds, for he acted where his chiefs held back, and by his personal bravery and leadership compelled their cooperation.*"