

## **The Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez Fife & Drum Corps**

Our Fife & Drum Corps was created in 1988 and is an integral component of our parent organization, the Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez, which was founded in San Antonio, Texas in 1975.

Wearing historically authentic Spanish Colonial uniforms, the Fife & Drum Corps serves to educate the public about the important role that fifers and drummers played as active-duty members of the Spanish Army in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In the heat of battle, muskets firing and cannons booming often kept soldiers from hearing officers' orders, so they relied on the high-pitched fife and percussion sound of the drums for battlefield commands. Soldiers had to learn all musical commands such as Attack, Retreat, Forward March, etc. provided by the fifes and drums. These musicians also regulated the daily lives of soldiers with varied commands for activities such as morning call, assembly, call to meals, church services, and lights out, among several others. Yet another duty assigned to military musicians was to entertain the troops in hopes of maintaining morale high while "in camp" or temporarily bivouacked.

Our Fife & Drum Corps stays active throughout the year by giving presentations at area schools, libraries, and history fairs. Each year it serves as the Vanguard for the King William Fair Parade, an official Fiesta San Antonio event. It also marches in the Veterans Day Parade, and is one of the principal components in the Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Patriotic Ceremony sponsored by the Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez, San Antonio Chapter, at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery.

To become a member of this unique and exciting group, contact Drum Major Ricardo Rodríguez at [tejano1845@aol.com](mailto:tejano1845@aol.com) or 210-685-1888.

Please visit our website at [www.granaderos.org](http://www.granaderos.org) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GranaderosDeGalvez](https://www.facebook.com/GranaderosDeGalvez)

