

The Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez Honor Guard

As an integral component of our parent organization, The Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez—founded in San Antonio, Texas in 1975—our Granaderos contingent educates the public on the roles and duties of Spain's soldiers during the American Revolution. During the last quarter of the 18th century Spain had revamped its army in the Americas to guard against incursions from Great Britain. Most of the metropolitan regiments of New Spain were stationed in Cuba to be dispatched where needed in times of war. These army units were primarily raised and formed in Spain and sent overseas. The unit our chapter recreates is the Navarra Regiment of foot, a well-respected unit at the time, commanded by a nobleman, Count Col. José Manuel Ezpeleta, from Cádiz, Spain.

Spanish Granaderos followed European military tradition, typically being recruited from the veteran soldiers of a battalion, hand-picked for bravery, height, and aggressiveness. As "chosen men" of the battalion, they were the only *soldados* allowed the privilege of wearing the bearskin miter hat, which they wore on parade, garrison duty, or campaign. Given their elite status above the line troops, grenadiers would usually have the first position in line of march or would be the anchor of the line of battle, holding the right flank. Grenadiers would often be detached from the parent battalion for special duties such as vanguard units, tactical reserves, guarding officers, or assisting with artillery emplacements.

Though earlier in the 18th century grenadiers were trained and equipped in the use of deploying hand grenades, by the time of the American Revolution grenades were falling out of use with land warfare and more often used in siege and naval actions. However, many units of foot and even mounted troops would continue to carry the title Grenadier as a status symbol.

The Navarra Regiment, along with numerous Spanish and French soldiers and sailors, Louisiana militiamen, European units of varied origins, freed black men, and Native First Peoples would serve with distinction under Gen Bernardo de Gálvez in the Gulf Coast campaign of 1779-81. Gálvez's forces endured many setbacks but would never lose a single battle. After multiple engagements and rapid dominance, Gálvez would achieve his ultimate victory at Pensacola against British forces.

Our Granaderos unit stays active throughout the year by giving presentations at area schools, libraries, and history fairs. Along with the San Antonio Chapter's Fife & Drum Corps, 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 4th 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 our unique and exciting group, please contact Sergeant Major Adam Domínguez at adamcsm101@gmail.com or 210-860-9257.

Please visit our website at www.granaderos.org or on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/GranaderosDeGalvez

