



# LA GRANADA



## January 2024

Founding Chapter



San Antonio, TX

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

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editor: joe p  rez

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## Happy New Year!  Feliz A o Nuevo!

On January 1, we will celebrate and wish everyone a Happy New Year.....and we have Julius Caesar to thank for that.

Soon after his rise to power, Julius Caesar decided to improve the Roman calendar by changing it from the lunar cycle to the solar cycle, making one year equal to 365 and   days long. In the year 45 BC, Caesar had to add 67 days to that year in order to make 46 BC start on January 1 instead of in March. An extra day had to be added to February every four years so the calendar would be in sync with the solar cycle. Thus, he created the Leap Year too.

Before Caesar, the year started in March, which is why the seventh month, starting in March, is named **Sept**ember, the eighth month, starting in March, is **Octo**ber, the ninth month **Nov**ember and tenth month **Dec**ember. The fifth month, starting in March, was **Quint**ilis but Julius Caesar changed its name to July, to honor himself, of course. It's good to be king.

The Julian Calendar was still slightly off so Pope Gregory XIII hired astronomer Christopher Clavius to correct the calendar. In 1582, the Gregorian Calendar was implemented, chopping off ten days from that year and slightly changing the occurrence of leap years.

## Origins of Modern Calendar Names

January ----- From Janus, god of doors. This month opens the year.  
February ---- From Februus, the month to purify by sacrifice.  
March ----- From Mars, god of war. After Winter, soldiers fought.  
April ----- From Aperire, to open, when trees open their leaves.  
May ----- From Maia, goddess of growth, when plants grow.  
June ----- From Juno, queen of the gods.  
July ----- Named for Julius Caesar, ruler of Rome.  
August ----- Named for Augustus, ruler of Rome.  
September -- Seventh month, counting from March. Septe is seven.  
October ----- Eighth month, counting from March. Octo is eight.  
November --- Ninth month, counting from March. Novem is nine.  
December --- Tenth month, counting from March. Dece is ten.

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## Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 3

La Fonda Restaurant

8633 Crownhill Blvd

Dinner: 6:30 Meeting 7:30

Presenter:

Governor Joe González

Presentation:

State of the Chapter  
2023 National Meeting

The speaker for our next meeting will be Governor Joe González. He will give the annual State of the Chapter Report covering our accomplishments for the previous year.

The year 2023 was a very active year for us as we saw many changes, with the most impactful being the election of Joe González as our new governor. Joe's first year has been stellar as he has provided the guidance we need to achieve our goals as a chapter.

Joe's presentation will also cover the International Meeting, held in Baton Rouge last November.

It will be a good time to reflect on this past year and look forward to accomplishments we may achieve in 2024.

## Happy Birthday!

Jan 2

John Rodriguez

Jan 4

Cindy Flores

Jan 8

Briana Perez

Susan Thonhoff Rodriguez

Jan 9

Olga Lizcano

Jan 14

Jesse Guerra

Jan 20

Delia Rodriguez

Jan 25

Mike Aguayo

Jan 28

Melissa Zamora

Jan 30

Stan Bradford

Governor

José (Joe) González

Deputy Governor

Elizabeth Pérez

Treasurer

Manny Rodriguez

Secretary

Janie Rodriguez

Chaplain

Joe Weathersby

Sergeant Major

Adam Dominguez



# DUES ARE DUE

If you haven't already done so, this is a friendly reminder 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 International Order. Associate Members cannot vote, nor hold office, nor have automatic membership in the International 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.



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## Rueben Perez – Several Books, Several Awards

Honorary Granadero Rueben Perez has been a prolific author for many years and has now written twenty books, all about history. His 17<sup>th</sup> book, *A Collection of Stories: Life and Legacy of Bernardo de Gálvez*, recently won Third Place in the category *Books by Non-Professional/References*. Like he has done with many of his books, he has generously donated several copies of this one to our chapter. Sales of his books has generated much-needed revenue for our treasury. Congratulations, Rueben, and thank you for keeping history alive!

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winner  
**Rueben M. Perez**  
*A Collection of Stories: Life and Legacy of  
Bernardo De Gálvez (2023)*



"To appreciate the history of our country, one has to look at the full picture of many facets of events that occurred during the American Revolution. Too often stories of the American Revolution were only about the events that happened in the thirteen colonies, overlooking the contributions made by Spain, France and other countries." - Rueben M. Perez (Cover letter)



A COLLECTION OF STORIES:  
LIFE AND LEGACY OF  
BERNARDO DE GÁLVEZ

Rueben M. Perez

Rueben's  
17<sup>th</sup> book!

Category I Books by Non-Professional/**References**

Bill  
Bill Buckner



# 2023 Christmas Party

Our Christmas Party last month was a great success with 33 attendees. It was held at La Paloma Blanca Restaurant on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The room was nicely decorated for Christmas which added to the festive atmosphere. The meals were delicious and the drinks were just what the doctor ordered. Liz and Briana Perez started off the festivities with a game that had everyone trying to solve what Christmas sayings that various emojis represented. Some figured out all of them, some figured some of them and your editor didn't figure out any of them. Oh well.



Birthday to our December babies. However, Governor González made sure we all sang Happy Birthday to members who were born in December.

More door prizes were added by Frank and Karla Galindo, who donated several medals that they produced over the years for their numismatic club. One medal design is made every year to honor a historical figure such as Bernardo de Gálvez, José Antonio Navarro, and others.

Then it was time for the drawings to see who won the coveted Christmas ornaments. As we do every year, several designer ornaments were given to the lucky winners of the drawings.

Governor Joe González didn't want to leave anyone out. Since we don't have a December meeting, we don't get the chance to sing Happy



Thanks go out to Elizabeth and Briana Perez for coordinating the party, Manny and Janie Rodriguez for booking the restaurant and donating the Christmas cards for everyone and to Joe Perez for donating the Christmas ornaments this year.

It was good to see everyone enjoying each other's company at this year's party.

# 2025 Golden Anniversary International Meeting

The year 2025 will be the Golden Anniversary of our organization. Since it was started in San Antonio, we will celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary where it all began. Our chapter will host the 2025 International Meeting and we want to organize an event that will not be forgotten.

Governor Joe González is wasting no time in this endeavor. He has assembled committees for the event with some of the committee chairs already established. The committees are: Finance, Registration, Facilities, Program, Entertainment, and Welcoming. Other committees may be established as we go if necessary.

If you are interested in serving on a committee, please let Governor Joe González know. It will be fun to be a part of such an exciting group project.



## Recent Articles on the Internet

### **DAR Honors Gálvez and His Patriot Soldiers**

265 Louisiana patriots who fought in the American Revolution under General Gálvez were honored on a historical marker sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution Spirit of '76 Chapter. The link to the article is below.

**<https://clarionherald.org/news/daughters-of-the-american-revolution-honor-galvez-and-his-patriot-soldiers>**

### **Brainly.com Helps Students with Assignments**

Brainly.com is a website to help students with their studies. This episode asks the student a question regarding Bernardo de Gálvez. The link to the episode is below.

**<https://brainly.com/question/43505369>**



# How the son of the small pueblo Macharaviaya became big in America



**MACHARAVIAYA – From small acorns, great oaks grow. Or so the saying goes. However, this is particularly apt when considering how a small pueblo in the mountains of La Axarquía was the birthplace of a governor of Louisiana. And one of only eight US honorary citizens.**

Macharaviaya can be found via a winding road so redolent of Andalucían hillside villages. Turning right at a fork in the road you descend into the village's plaza.

## ***Macharaviaya***

In the centre of the small roundabout stands a statue of Bernardo de Gálvez. He holds a scroll and looks towards the ayuntamiento (town hall). Why the ayuntamiento? Because that is the direction of America, and it was there he made his name.

## ***Who was Gálvez?***

Bernardo de Gálvez y Madrid was also Viscount of Galveston and Count of Gálvez. Born in Macharaviaya on 23rd July 1746 he was a Spanish military leader and colonial administrator who served as colonial governor of Louisiana and Cuba. And later as Viceroy of New Spain.

## ***Bernardo Gálvez statue in Macharaviaya***

Before he went to the Americas he participated in the Spanish invasion of Portugal. However, it was his aiding of the American Thirteen Colonies in their quest for independence against Britain that was his crowning glory. He defeated the British at the Siege of Pensacola (1781) and reconquered Florida for Spain.

## ***Bernardo not the only Gálvez to make history***

Jose de Gálvez founded schools for boys and girls. The girls' school was the first in Spain. And it was four years before the next one opened in Madrid. He also built the church of San Jacinto, designed the shrine at the entrance to the village, and instituted an agricultural bank.

Miguel de Gálvez was the first to export the sweet wine of Axarquía, much loved by the Russian Tsarina Catherine the Great.

## ***Gálvez family held all the cards***

The Gálvez family were also patrons of the card factory in the village. This factory had the monopoly on the sale of playing cards in the American colonies. Therefore, it was a significant source of employment and development for the town. It consisted of a building with offices, equipment, and living quarters for employees. Accordingly, this was a family that made sure its homeland was not forgotten as they set out to conquer and protect new lands in the name of the King of Spain.



The [Museo de los Gálvez](#) in the village is testament to the family and provides a 3D animated talk available in several languages, as well as articles from the village's history.

## ***Artistic village***

Macharaviaya was founded in 1572 on the remains on a Moorish site. It is believed the name is derived from the Andalus Arabic, Machar Ibn Yahya, meaning the court of Yahya. Painted white, it sits on the side of a hill to the west of Iznate, some 235 metres above sea-level. Agriculture was the primary concern of the village until the card factory opened. Nowadays, however, it is home to a selection of painters, writers and sculptors, as well as those who continue to farm.

## ***Churches***

The size of the church belies the size of the village. Built on a grand scale for such a small place it echoes to the sound of voice and footstep. It is often used for music and poetry recitals as well as worship. Although, the interior is surprisingly plain for a Catholic church. The adjoining hamlet of Benaque boasts a church with a tower which was originally the minaret of a mosque. Inside are frescoes dating from the sixteenth century.

## ***Also read: [La Axarquía: wine and a lost village](#)***

All told, Macharaviaya may be overstating its case with the sobriquet of Pequeño Madrid (Little Madrid) which it received in the eighteenth century due to its economic progress. But, in any case, it is a charming village and municipality with a lot of history. Well-kept, and pleasing to the eye, it is a pleasant place to spend an hour or two.

***The above article is taken from the December 16, 2023 issue of the online magazine InSpain.news.***