



LA GRANADA



January 2025

Founding Chapter



San Antonio, TX

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www.granaderos.org

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editor: joe perez

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GOLDEN JUBILEE



1975 - 2025

Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez

Happy New Year! Happy Golden Jubilee! The year 2025 is a milestone for our group. This year, our organization will celebrate its 50th anniversary. Our special group was founded in 1975 by Charles Barrera, Henry Guerra, and Erik Martel, in preparation for the nation's bicentennial the following year. Americans were encouraged to express how their culture contributed to making us a great country throughout its initial 200 years of existence.

The photo at right is from the San Antonio Express/News newspaper in 1977. There were

six original uniformed Granaderos, five of whom are shown here. Standing at left is founder and first governor, Charles Barrera; standing at right is Henry

De Leon; kneeling at right is Ventura Perez.

The other two men are Manuel Borrego and Raymond Ugalde, however, this editor does not know which is which. Not shown is founding member Adolfo Herrera.



HISTORIC Spanish uniforms and weapons will be worn by Los Grenaderos de Galvez in San Antonio's Fourth of July Parade
(LEFT) PHOTO BY KEN ADAMS

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Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 8

La Fonda Restaurant

8633 Crownhill Blvd

Dinner: 6:30 Meeting 7:30

Presenter:

Governor Joe González

Presentation:

State of the Chapter
First Ever Book Binge

At our next meeting, Governor Joe González will present our annual State of the Chapter Report, covering our accomplishments from this past year and our goals for the upcoming year. We will also have our first-ever Book Binge where you can get a book with a corresponding donation. More information on this is on page 4.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JANUARY BABIES

Jan 2

John Rodriguez

Jan 4

Cindy Flores

Jan 6

Connie Villarreal

Jan 8

Briana Perez
Susan Thonhoff Rodriguez

Jan 9

Olga Lizcano

Jan 14

Jesse Guerra

Jan 19

Steve Chiscano

Jan 20

Delia Rodriguez

Jan 25

Mike Aguayo

Jan 28

Melissa Zamora

Jan 30

Stan Bradford

Governor

José (Joe) González

Deputy Governor

Joe Weathersby

Treasurer

Manny Rodriguez

Secretary

Janie Rodriguez

Chaplain

TBD

Sergeant Major

Adam Dominguez

2024 CHRISTMAS PARTY



Our chapter's Christmas party was a tremendous success. It was held in a private party room at La Paloma Restaurant, which has now become our regular party location. The room was decorated with a Christmas tree adorned with colorful lights and ornaments. Bright red poinsettias added even more color to the room. Everyone enjoyed the camaraderie and it was



very nice to see several members who are not able to make our regular monthly evening meetings.

Governor González made a few important announcements and had us singing Happy Birthday to all members who have birthdays in December.

We enjoyed our choice of beverage (with or without alcohol), bean and cheese nachos for appetizers, our choice of entrée, and mango sorbet for dessert.

We conducted our annual Christmas ornament drawings, which is always a big hit. This was done by Elizabeth Perez and Manny Rodriguez, Jr. Prior to the drawings, everyone was invited to view the door prize ornaments that were on display in the room. This led to several attendees picking out their favorites and hoping they would get the luck of the draw. Several people walked out with brand new, beautiful Christmas ornaments for their trees at home.



With a good venue, good food and good company, everyone left with smiles on their faces. Many thanks go out to Manny & Janie Rodriguez, Elizabeth Perez, and Joe González for coordinating this year's Christmas party. We're looking forward to next year's party.



BOOK BINGE



At our January 2025 meeting we will conduct our first-ever Book Binge. We currently have a large inventory of books due to recent generous donations. A list of books will be emailed to the members by Governor González. **To simplify the process, the event is limited to those in attendance. The dollar amounts shown on the list are suggested donations. All current members (full or associate) are eligible for the standard \$5 discount per book.**

Message from Katie Hallybone, Governor of our Associate Chapter in Spain

"Dear Governor Joe González,

I'm sending this email to express our deepest gratitude for all the attention received in San Antonio. You can be very proud of your chapter. They all did such an amazing job to make us welcome. We enjoyed unrepeatable experiences and learned so much about our common history.

The visit to the Alamo was just so moving for us all! The lunch by the river and visit to Mission San José gave us unforgettable memories to last a lifetime!

Also, so grateful for all the help received from Joe Pérez to improve our musicians in uniform and music.

Big hugs from Macharaviaya.

Katie

Recent Articles on the Internet

Galveston Landmark: Hotel Gálvez

This article tells the history of Hotel Gálvez in Galveston, Texas. The link to the article is below.

https://www.galvnews.com/entertainment/free/hotel-galvez-is-an-iconic-galveston-landmark/article_ef2cdb3d-c037-5b4c-af07-663848cd1e27.html

Museum Highlights Louisiana's Role in American Independence

A new exhibit in the Capitol Park Museum in Baton Rouge is very interesting.

<https://www.krvs.org/louisiana-news/2024-12-12/american-revolution-experience-new-capitol-park-museum-exhibit-highlights-louisianas-role-in-freedom-fight>

STAMP OF APPROVAL

By Joe Perez

It is said you can learn much about a country by what it chooses to commemorate on its postage stamps. That's because postage stamps generally honor important people, places and events in a country's history. Members of the Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez know the important role of General Gálvez and Spain's contributions to the American Revolution. It only stands to reason that there would be stamps honoring General Bernardo de Gálvez in both Spain and the United States.



In 1976, the United States was celebrating its Bicentennial. In May of that year, Spain issued a set of four commemorative postage stamps in honor of the Bicentennial of our Constitution. Two stamps in that set

commemorate the heroic deeds of General Gálvez.

The first stamp issued was a bi-colored 3-peseta stamp with a head and shoulders image of Gálvez. In the far background is a ship at sea, presumably the Gálveztown. At left, we see a saber handle, a cannon, and a flag peeking out from behind what appears to be a seal. Closer inspection of the seal reveals a ship. The words above the ship are "Yo Solo" referring to Gálvez' lone entry into Pensacola Bay preceding his ground assault on British-held Fort George.

The second stamp issued was a bi-colored 12-peseta stamp showing the Battle of Pensacola. Gálvez has his saber drawn while atop a rearing horse. In the background, we can see what represents the deciding point in the battle as a lucky cannon shot hits the powder magazine in the Queen's Redoubt, which was an enclosed earthen defensive emplacement just outside Fort George. This event forced British General Campbell to initiate surrender. After the surrender, Gálvez sent his granaderos into the fort to raise the Spanish flag and secure the fort for Spain.



Both of these Spanish stamps were issued on May 29, 1976.

Five years after Spain issued its stamps, the United States issued one commemorating the bicentennial of the Battle of Mobile. The stamp was issued on July 23, 1980 in New Orleans,

Louisiana. Stamp issuances are not random. For example, the day of issue (July 23) represents Gálvez' birthday, the year (1980) represents the bicentennial of the Battle of Mobile and the city of issue (New Orleans) represents where he was headquartered as Governor of Louisiana.

The 15-cent stamp is valued at thirty cents today, however, there are some iterations of the stamp that are quite valuable due to color printing errors, which rarely occur on stamps. Depending on the color omissions, these error stamps are valued from \$625 to over a thousand dollars!

It is clear that the artist for the postage stamp was inspired by a view of the statue of Gálvez that stands in Spanish Plaza in Mobile, Alabama.

As an interesting side note, the first woman to appear on a U.S. postage stamp was Spain's Queen Isabella. She appeared on two stamps issued on January 1, 1893. The \$1 stamp shows the queen pledging her jewels to help fund the voyage. The \$4 stamp shows portraits of Queen Isabella and Christopher Columbus.



The U.S. Postal Service recently announced that, in 2025, it will issue fifteen stamps titled Battlefields of the American Revolution *“that will mark the 250th anniversary of the start of the revolution.”* One can only imagine what plans it has for the 2026 stamp program.

Our organization initiated the push for a Bernardo de Gálvez U.S. postage stamp for 2026. There are more reasons for the Postal Service to issue a Gálvez stamp now than there were in 1980, when the 15-cent Gálvez stamp was printed. Since then, he has been bestowed the designation of Honorary U.S. Citizen, his portrait hangs in the Foreign Relations Committee meeting room, and there have been statues of him erected in Pensacola, Florida and McAllen, Texas, with another statue slated for Galveston, Texas. At right is the logo for our Gálvez Stamp Project led by Manny Rodriguez. The Postal Service does not accept proposed designs since they have a department for that. Who knows what a new Gálvez stamp will look like? Whatever the stamp looks like, we will surely welcome it.

