



LA GRANADA



July 2026

**Granaderos y Damas
de Gálvez**



**San Antonio
Founding Chapter**

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editor: joe pérez

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Creating a New Chapter in the Rio Grande Valley

On Wednesday, 17 June, Joe & Vedia Weathersby, Manny & Janie Rodríguez, Joe Pérez, Stella & Joe González attended a meeting with some members of the Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez, Rio Grande Valley Chapter. Six members of this chapter were physically present and an additional four attended virtually via Zoom.



The meeting took place at the Casa de Palmas Hotel in McAllen, Texas. The purpose, in addition to acquainting the local members with some of the officers of their mentoring chapter, was to learn about the mission of the Order and to obtain guidance in their quest for full-fledged independence as a stand-alone chapter. To that end, a PowerPoint presentation titled "Bernardo de Gálvez and Spain's Role in the American Revolution--What You Were Never Taught in School" was given. After the presentation and Q & A, Governor. González gave some guidance as to what the next and most logical steps should be for the nascent chapter to undertake. The RGV Chapter members are now working to create bylaws which will allow them to elect officers, establish a bank account, apply to be a Texas certified Domestic Nonprofit Corporation, and ultimately apply for and receive its own status as an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

At present, the RGV Chapter's unofficial leadership is being identified as an ad-hoc committee of the San Antonio Founding Chapter, a designation which will cease to exist upon their successful accomplishment of all their stated tasks and obtaining the required legal documents which all other chapters have already secured. It is exciting to see that folks from the RGV are taking significant steps to help us all tell the story of Spain's role through the leadership and commitment of so many, both in our nation's history and at the present time.

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We have
NO MEETING IN JULY
due to our sponsorship of
the 42nd Annual
Fourth of July
Patriotic Ceremony

This year, our 4th of July Patriotic Ceremony will be celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Our ceremony will have some special features to mark the occasion such as four vignettes titled *"Voices From A Revolution"* as well as the U.S. Postal Service unveiling a sheet of postage stamps titled *"Figures of the American Revolution."*

We will still have the wreath laying, fife & drum music, musket volleys, colonial re-enactors, and three rifle volleys followed by Taps. It is free and open to the public. Please see the flyer on page 6.

42nd Anniversary
Fourth of July
Patriotic Ceremony
Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery



July 4, 2026

Presented by the Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez
San Antonio Founding Chapter

Happy Birthday
July Babies!

July 1

Judge Ed Butler

July 2

Nancy Lara

July 4

Belinda Gavallos

July 8

Dr. Robert Devine
David Fautheree

July 17

Joe Cantu

July 27

Othman Sankari

July 29

John Espinosa

July 30

Manny Rodriguez
Donna Williams

July 31

Ricky Reyes
James Klausmeyer

Governor

José (Joe) González

Treasurer

Manny Rodriguez

Chaplain

Charles Carvajal

Deputy Governor

Joe Weathersby

Secretary

Janie Rodriguez

Sergeant Major

Adam Dominguez

New Member

We extend a cordial welcome to our newest member, **Andrew Stevenson**. 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 Andrew!***



Bexar County BiblioTech Public Library

On Saturday, June 6th, we gave a presentation at the Bexar County BiblioTech Public Library at 1203 Walters St. The BiblioTech is a library without any books. It has computers instead. It was a small audience but each person was very attentive and asked good questions afterwards. Some of them said they plan on going to our 4th of July ceremony next month. Thanks go out to the library and to the participants, Joe González, Joe Weathersby, Alex Zamora, and Joe Perez.



Teacher Workshop

On Wednesday, June 10th, the Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez were represented, along with the SAR, the DAR, and the 1718 Founding Families and Descendants, as we all participated in part of a Teacher Workshop at the Bexar Heritage Center. L-R: Carol Ann Trejo-Garcia, José (Joe) González, Vedia Weathersby, Joe Weathersby, Ron Finch, Diane Baird-Barger, Joe Perez. Joe González also gave a presentation to the teachers later that afternoon.



Manny Rodriguez

Our Incoming Governor General



At the National Meeting in Pensacola which occurred in May, our chapter's own Manny Rodriguez was elected by acclamation to serve as the Governor General over all chapters. His two-year term will be effective beginning January 1, 2027.

Congratulations, Manny!



FIRST CATTLE DRIVE OUT OF TEXAS IN 1779

Article by Vicente Alvaro Gomez, taken from the Facebook page Spanish Empire History

The first cattle drive out of Texas was not to the West nor the North - it was East!

As the thirteen original American colonies were withstanding the British naval blockade, Spain was at war with the British as an ally of France. Bernardo de Gálvez, Spanish Governor of Louisiana was appointed by King Carlos III as Captain General of all Spanish forces in the Caribbean and the Gulf of México during the war.



Painting by Augusto Ferrer-Dalmau of Spain

In 1779, Gálvez—in need of supplies for his forces in Louisiana—sent an emissary, Francisco Garcia, requesting and authorizing the first cattle drive out of Texas. Garcia arrived in San Antonio de Béxar on June 20, 1779. By August 1779, two thousand head of Texas cattle from the Spanish ranches located along the San Antonio River Valley and the La Bahia area (now Goliad) were headed to Gálvez's forces. However, Comanche warriors raided the cattle drive, preventing it from reaching Louisiana.

Spanish military leaders organized another cattle drive in 1780. This time, 1,234 cattle were successfully driven from Texas. They reached Opelousas, Louisiana, in August of that year. All told, more than 9,000 head of cattle were trailed from Texas to Louisiana between 1779 and 1782 in support of Spanish troops and local militias.

Recent Articles on the Internet

Online Game About the Battle of Pensacola

Bellum Omnium is an online gaming site currently offering an online tournament titled Pensacola 2026 where gamers can relive Gálvez's capture of Ft. George against the British. Please see this link: <https://x.com/Velezwargamecon/status/2063715420452901196>

Mural of Gálvez and Spain in the American Revolution

This announcement is for an unveiling of a mural in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington DC. Please see the link below.

<https://districtfray.com/event/spain-at-the-birth-of-the-united-states-by-paco-roca/>

A Personal America 250 Story

In this article, TV host Danella Ri'chard explains her personal connection with the American Revolution through one of her ancestors. Please see the link below.

<https://www.travelweekly.com/Articles/My-personal-America-250-story>

Portrait of Gálvez on Loan to the Smithsonian

A 1781 portrait of Gálvez will be on display June 26 – July 1 at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in Washington D.C. after more than four generations in private hands.

<https://npg.si.edu/about-us/press-release/photo-op-us-premiere-18th-century-painting-bernardo-de-g%C3%A1lvez-national>

Four Southern Cities That Helped in the American Revolution

This article explains what New Orleans LA. , Williamsburg VA, Charleston SC, and Salem NC all have in common pertaining to the American Revolution. Please see the link below.

<https://www.atlantamagazine.com/southbound-articles/you-say-you-want-a-revolution-four-southern-cities-that-helped-shaped-a-nation/>

The American Revolution: Turning Point for the Spanish Empire

This is an interesting article about the American Revolution framed within the workings of the Spanish Empire. Please see the link below.

<https://notevenpast.org/the-spanish-empires-hidden-hand-how-the-galvez-network-turned-the-tide-of-the-war-of-independence/>

**42nd Annual
Fourth of July Patriotic Ceremony**



**Colonial Reenactors
Firing of Muskets
Fife & Drum Musicians
Historical Vignettes "Voices From A Revolution"
Stamp Unveiling by U.S. Postal Service
3 Volleys Followed by Taps
Wreath Laying**

**July 4th
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery
1520 Harry Wurzbach Rd**

Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez San Antonio Founding Chapter

**Minutes for the meeting held
June 3, 2026 at La Fonda Restaurant
By Secretary Janie Rodriguez**

Officers in Attendance:

Governor Joe González, Deputy Governor Joe Weathersby, Treasurer Manny Rodriguez, and Secretary Janie Rodriguez.

Attendance:

Diane Baird-Barger, Ron Finch, Valarie Finch, Carol Ann Garcia, Stella González, Erika Haskins, Joe Perez, Vedia Weathersby, Alex Zamora, Melissa Zamora.

Zoom Attendance:

Cindi Flores, JD Nahas, Lisa Flores, Darves Notetaker, Fidel Santos, Donna Williams

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Deputy Governor Joe Weathersby. The Invocation was given by Joe Weathersby and Diane Baird led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Deputy Governor then reminded all that the Minutes for the May meeting had been distributed by email and asked if there were any corrections or changes. A motion was made by Vedia Weathersby and seconded by Joe Perez. The motion passed.

Treasurer Manny Rodriguez gave a report for the month of May 2026.

The Savings Account Balance for the beginning of the month of May was \$18,983.42. The end of month total for savings was \$18,988.23. 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 May 1, 2026, was \$11,055.19 and the end of month total was \$11,934.14.

Please address any questions to Treasurer Manny Rodriguez or Governor Joe González.

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Joe González and seconded by Melissa Zamora. The motion carried.

Deputy Governor Joe Weathersby announced June birthdays and "Happy Birthday" was sung by all!

Old Business:

Governor Joe González gave a presentation to Medina County Historical Commission on May 21.

Committee Reports**Membership:**

Joe Perez reported the membership to date is 111 including 13 members from RGV.

Color Guard /Fife & Drum:

The Color Guard and Fife & Drum Corps will be preparing for the July 4th ceremony with rehearsal scheduled for June 27. The Color Guard will be presenting the Colors and staffing a table for recruiting and information at the Gregorio Esparza family reunion in Floresville, TX on July 11. We will also give the Presentation of Colors at the Military Order of the World Wars at its National Convention on August 12.

Announcements:

At the national meeting held May 7-9 in Pensacola, Manny Rodriguez was elected as our next Governor General and Pensacola's Governor Trevor Odom was elected as Deputy Governor General. Both of their terms begin January 1, 2027.

SA Chapter Officers will attend the New RVG Chapter Meeting in McAllen, TX on June 17.

July 4th Patriotic Ceremony, as always, is held in lieu of a July meeting. The program begins promptly at 10:00 am and ends by 11:00 am. 22 organizations will participate.

SA's Governor will be one of the readers of the Declaration of Independence at the Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin.

There are still two spaces available for the San Antonio Municipal Archives Museum visit on July 23, please contact Governor Joe if interested.

The Battle of Medina Symposium will be held August 15 in Atascosa County.

Program:

Governor Joe González was our guest speaker. He reprised a 2020 presentation titled "The Galvez Lineage: Patriots and Warriors in Spain's History."

After a short Q&A, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02.