



# LA GRANADA



## June 2023



Order of Granaderos  
y Damas de Gálvez  
San Antonio Chapter

■■■■■■■■■■ [www.granaderos.org](http://www.granaderos.org) ■■■■■■■■■■ editor: joe pérez ■■■■■■■■■■

## Fiesta San Antonio - King William Parade



On Saturday, April 29th, the last weekend of April and the last weekend of Fiesta San Antonio, the Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez San Antonio Chapter served as the Vanguard for the 2023 King William Parade, an official Fiesta San Antonio event.

It is an honor to serve as the Vanguard for the parade, which means we're out front and we lead the parade. Our Fife & Drum Corps had been practicing for a few months and they sounded great.

Alexander Rodriguez and Louis Pabone served as our Banner Carriers followed by Drum Major Ricardo Rodriguez who led the Fife & Drum Corps. The Color Guard followed them with a Friar and the Militia completing our entry.

This year, we participated in the parade only and not the fair afterwards due to a change in ownership of the property where we normally had our booth. It was another fine parade and thanks go out to everyone who represented us.

Great job!



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## Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 7

La Fonda Restaurant

8633 Crownhill Blvd

Dinner: 6:30 Meeting 7:30

Guest Speaker:

Joe Pérez

Presentation:

Spanish Participation  
In The American Revolution

Joe Pérez is a Past Governor of the San Antonio Chapter of the Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez and has been with the organization for twenty eight years.

Joe was born in San Antonio, Texas, and has lived here his entire life. He has a wife of thirty nine years and two adult children ages thirty three and thirty two. He has worked for the U.S. Postal Service for the past forty years and currently holds the position of Homeland Security Coordinator for the Postal Inspection Service.

Joe has maintained an interest in history, especially the period of the American Revolution and Spain's participation in our War of Independence.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY JUNE BABIES

June 11

Tim Thatcher

June 16

Crystal Benavides

June 23

Cliff Normand

June 29

Alex Zamora

June 30

Stella González

Governor

José (Joe) González

Deputy Governor

Elizabeth Pérez

Treasurer

Manny Rodriguez

Secretary

Janie Rodriguez

Chaplain

Joe Weathersby

Drum Major

Ricardo Rodriguez

Sergeant Major

Adam Dominguez

# New Members

**We welcome recently added members to the San Antonio chapter.**

**Michael Boyd**

**Dalyn Dominguez**

**Tim Draves**

**Jorge Garcia**

**Sylvia Garcia**

**Richard Martinez**

**Judy McKee**

**Ann O'Campo**

**Bob O'Campo**

**Helen Rodriguez**

**Othman Sankari**

**Luis Sepulveda**

**Andrew Simmons**

**Alekzandr Skye**

**Kevin Sutherland**

**Mary Thatcher**

**Darian Thompson**

**Carol Traub**

**Carmen Zurita**

*We are refining our new member procedures. Applications are now processed by our Treasurer, who copies our Membership Chairperson, who announces new members in our newsletter. Birth dates (month & day, not year) are also announced in the newsletter and recognized at our monthly meetings by our Governor. Information on member's birthdays is not complete and requests for this information will be sent to respective new members.*

## Parman Library History Fair

On Sunday, some of our members spread the word about Bernardo de Gálvez and Spain's participation in the American Revolution at a history fair in the Parman Library.

It was a rainy day, off and on, but that didn't keep people from coming to the fair. There were several students as well as accompanying parents and they were all very interested in learning about Spain's involvement in our War of Independence. We spoke with visitors and handed out fliers, fulfilling our mission of educating the public.

Visitors were very surprised that Texas played a role also by herding cattle from the San Antonio and Goliad areas to Louisiana to feed the troops of Gálvez.

Joe Weathersby and Joe Pérez represented the Spanish militia and regular army of the late 1700s. Vedia Weathersby and Stella González represented a later period but their clothing was very similar to the 1700s. Adam



Domínguez was there as a Roman soldier. It was nice that several time periods were represented.

# 2023 National Meeting in Baton Rouge



Order of  
Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez



*Save the Date*

**2023 National Meeting**

*November 3-5, 2023*

*Baton Rouge, Louisiana*

Plans are underway for the 2023 National Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, LA. Three hotel options are being offered in downtown Baton Rouge. Please begin making your room reservations while meeting details and planned events are being finalized.

**Hotel Indigo ~ 225-343-1515**

[Galvez Room Block](#)

**Hilton Capitol Center ~ 225-344-5866**

<https://book.passkey.com/e/50538967>

**Marriott Watermark Hotel ~ 225-408-3200**

[Book your group rate for GALVEZ Room Block](#)

# Recent Articles on the Internet

## Word is Getting Out

### Pensacola Heritage Foundation - Bernardo de Gálvez Day

This link is for an announcement for an annual event in Pensacola honoring Gálvez on May 8<sup>th</sup> every year, which is the anniversary Gálvez's capture of Fort George, ending his Gulf Coast Campaign.

<https://news.gulfbreezenews.com/articles/pensacola-heritage-foundation-plans-annual-bernardo-de-galvez-event/>

### In lieu Of Flowers...

DAR member in Louisiana who passed is asking us to consider a donation to the Spirit of '76 Chapter Patriotic Marker Project honoring Revolutionary Soldiers who fought under Bernardo de Galvez and are buried in St. Louis Cemetery in New Orleans. See the link below.

<https://obits.nola.com/us/obituaries/nola/name/aline-davis-obituary?id=51763423>

### The American Revolution on the Gulf Coast

The Baytown TX Genealogical Society's presentation on Spanish patriots in the American Revolution.

[https://baytownsun.com/local/baytown-genealogy-society-presents-the-american-revolution-on-the-gulf-coast/article\\_ff2dca68-e9e9-11ed-b949-a7d0d065a8fa.html](https://baytownsun.com/local/baytown-genealogy-society-presents-the-american-revolution-on-the-gulf-coast/article_ff2dca68-e9e9-11ed-b949-a7d0d065a8fa.html)

### Bernardo de Gálvez Statue – Spanish Plaza in Mobile Alabama

Photojournalist Carmen Sisson captures images of the Southern part of America. A link is below.

<https://carmensisson.photoshelter.com/gallery-image/G0000b0I8MU0DR68/I0000a7wH5K.tOo0/72>

### The American Revolution Left a Cathedral in Spain Unfinished

Funds for a cathedral in Málaga were used to help American colonists instead.

<https://www.ncregister.com/blog/why-american-revolution-left-cathedral-unfinished>

### Encyclopedia Britannica Biography of Bernardo de Gálvez

Yes, the Encyclopedia Britannica online edition has an entry for Gálvez. You can read the article and you can listen to the article (5 minutes) as well. See the link below.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Bernardo-de-Galvez>

### Pensacola, Florida Promoting Gálvez in a Big Way

This link has articles about groups promoting Gálvez in and around Pensacola. You can see the

articles at: <https://news.gulfbreezenews.com/articles/learning-history/>

# Los Isleños

Historians Stephen Estopinal and Chad Leblanc share the history of Louisiana's Canary Islanders

By Catherine Schoeffler Comeaux

The cultures of Louisiana, like its intricate web of waterways, lace this region with their enduring traditions and histories—interconnected but distinct. The mainstream is fed by the rivulets of native cultures and those of the peoples who migrated here. One lesser-known filament in this web can be found in Saint Bernard, southeast of New Orleans, where each spring the descendants of Spanish Canary Islanders who arrived in South Louisiana between 1778 and 1783 celebrate their culture at Los Fiesta de los Isleños with traditional dance, Spanish wine, and dishes such as ropa vieja, arroz con pollo, and croquetas.

Louisiana's Isleño ("Islander") community traces its history to the late 18th century when Bernardo de Galvez, the Spanish governor of the Louisiana Territory, recruited inhabitants of the Spanish archipelago off the coast of Morocco to populate, cultivate, and defend the deltaic lands south of the Mississippi River.

Today, the descendants of these immigrants are able to learn about and live out their cultural identities thanks in large part to the preservation work performed by the Los Isleños Heritage and Cultural Society of Saint Bernard (founded in 1976); and the Canary Islanders Heritage Society of Louisiana (CIHSL) of Baton Rouge (founded in 1996). With a common mission spanning the two main regions of historic Isleño settlements, the organizations work together to offer educational programming and events throughout the year. Frequently at the helm of this work are cultural champions Stephen Estopinal and Chad LeBlanc.

Estopinal, whose family has been in St. Bernard Parish since 1778, traces the Estopinal name back to the ship manifests of the original Isleño settlers. Before retiring, he worked as a civil engineer and land surveyor—which granted him up close access to property records dating back to the Isleños' first settlement of Saint Bernard, which he spent over forty years researching. He explained how the lands granted the soldier recruits and their families were chosen primarily for their strategic locations on the Mississippi River and Bayou Lafourche—waterways that accessed New Orleans and needed to be defended against invasion. These were mosquito-infested, flood-prone areas, often in the direct path of hurricanes. Three of the four original settlements of Isleños were unsuccessful, but Concepción, now called Saint Bernard, was.

[Learn more about the Los Isleños settlement in St. Bernard in this story sponsored by the Louisiana Office of Tourism [here](#).]

The Isleños were and continue to be adaptable people. When Estopinal first visited the Canary Islands with his family in 2008, he was amazed at the difference between the terrains of the mountainous Islands and that of low, wet Louisiana. Those first immigrants to Louisiana had to learn to farm this strange new land, as well as to trap and fish in the productive marshlands and bays. There, they developed a resiliency to the constant barrage of hurricanes and flooding with strong extended family connections to aid them in their recovery. “This resiliency after natural disaster and the practice of looking out for our neighbors are Isleño traits,” claimed Estopinal. These values persist today, especially in those who continue to make their home in the low-lying lands so deeply affected by environmental degradation.

Living in such difficult terrain at the far edges of Louisiana, the early Isleños remained relatively isolated, allowing their folkways to persist. They continued to speak Spanish and make the foods they knew from home, though the influence of their new environment crept into those traditions in its own way, too. Paella, the rice and seafood dish of Spain, morphed



Stephen Estopinal

into jambalaya, and the Spanish spoken by the Isleños evolved into what is now known as Louisiana Isleño Spanish. The Isleños of Saint Bernard, more geographically isolated than their counterparts near Donaldsonville, continued to speak this Isleño Spanish as a first language into the twentieth century; a handful of native speakers are still alive today. Estopinal’s own grandfather spoke the 18th century Canary Islander Spanish as his first language.

While traveling in the Canary Islands, Estopinal met a musician named Fernando who had once traveled to Louisiana to play La Fiesta in Saint Bernard. He spoke no English but quickly made a call to a friend who could serve as interpreter between he and Estopinal. A familiar voice on the line called out, “Steve, where are you?” It was Estopinal’s friend Wimpy Serigne back in Saint Bernard—he knew Fernando and was happy to keep the conversation flowing between friends an entire ocean away.

Leblanc, current President of the CIHSL and a generation younger than Estopinal, spoke about the historical loss of language in the Isleño communities near his hometown of Pierre Part, which had not been established for long before throngs of Acadians started arriving in 1785. “Almost overnight, the language disappeared, and the names got ‘Frenchified,’” he said. As the Acadian culture overwhelmed the Isleños, Spanish words of the Isleños and other Spanish speaking settlers became part of the everyday parlance of the Acadians as their own language was transformed to include words like *lagniappe* (a little extra), *cocodrie* (alligator), and *cabri* (goat).

As an author and avid genealogical sleuth, passionate about history and knowing where people come from, Leblanc wrote about this cultural interfacing in his recently published historical novel *The Roots of the Bayou*. “I wanted people of Cajun and Isleños descent to know their intertwined history. It’s based on people from my family tree,” he said, explaining how he brought the tree to life by comingling facts with imagined stories inspired by the baptismal records, sailing dates, and other genealogical data he has collected over the years.

“I WANTED PEOPLE OF CAJUN AND ISLEÑOS DESCENT TO KNOW THEIR INTERTWINED HISTORY. IT’S BASED ON PEOPLE FROM MY FAMILY TREE,” —CHAD LEBLANC



Chad LeBlanc

For his 2018 nonfiction book, *The Isleños of Pierre Part*, LeBlanc looked up every kid in his kindergarten class to find out their potential connections to the Isleños. When he investigated his co-workers’ ancestry, he found four out of the ten people working in his small IT office in Baton Rouge were of Isleños heritage. “Once you get into genealogy, it’s addictive,” he said. He puts his “addiction” to good use through his work with the CIHSL helping people understand their ancestry.

[Read about St. Bernard's marker placed to commemorate the community of Fazendeville at the Chalmette Battlefield here.]

“If your family has been in South Louisiana for two hundred years, and you go back on your family tree ten generations—you do the math, how could you not have those names?” he asked, referring to names like Aguilard, Acosta, Domingue, Falcon, Hernandez—which were listed on the manifests of the ships that carried the original Canary Islander immigrants to Louisiana.

Estopinal, who shares Leblanc’s obsessions with history, and especially Isleños history, is also a writer. Influenced by his own military background and his family’s oral history, he is currently working on the tenth book in his *de Melilla Chronicles* series—which tell the stories of the Isleños and their involvement in various military battles throughout history.

“All during school we were taught that the battles of the American Revolution were fought mainly on the East Coast,” said Estopinal. “But I discovered that Galvez and his Louisiana Spanish Regiment drove the British out of Baton Rouge, Mobile, Pensacola and the entire Mississippi River Valley. Without Galvez, America could not have succeeded. The Isleños were brought here specifically for Galvez’s military campaigns. This is a story that needs to be told.”

By way of storytelling and their enthusiasm in sharing their Louisiana Isleño culture, Estopinal and Leblanc inspire a closer look at our own heritage, wherein lies stories that connect us not only to our own ancestors but to the greater history of this place, and to each other.

*I recommend the following two books to those interested in further reading about the Isleños of Louisiana: Gilbert C. Dinn’s The Canary Islanders of Louisiana (1999) and Samantha Perez’s The Isleños of Louisiana (2011). You can also find Estopinal’s body of literary works at [estopinal.com](http://estopinal.com), and LeBlanc’s at [chadleblanc.com](http://chadleblanc.com).*

*To learn more about the Isleños, upcoming events from the two societies, and resources for genealogical research, visit [canaryislanders.org](http://canaryislanders.org) and [losisleños.org](http://losisleños.org).*



The preceding article, by Catherine Schoeffler Comeaux, appeared in the April 22, 2023 edition of Country Roads, a cultural reporting publication focusing on South Louisiana, the Mississippi Delta, and the Gulf Coast.

The two gentlemen mentioned in the article are:

Stephen Estopinal of Saint Bernard, Louisiana can trace his ancestors back to the first ships of Canary Islanders to arrive in Louisiana. He has long been involved in both of the Canary Islanders' historical societies and has performed extensive research into Los Isleños heritage. He's volunteered at Jean Lafitte National Park's "Living History" events wearing the traditional military dress of the Canary Islanders, and has written many books on local history. He is currently working on the tenth book in his historical fiction series, The De Melilla Chronicles—which focuses on the contributions of Canary Islanders to Louisiana history.

Chad LeBlanc is a historian and writer from Pierre Part, Louisiana—whose research into the history of Louisiana's Canary Islanders has resulted in a novel and a nonfiction work telling their story. He also currently serves as the President of the Canary Islanders Heritage Society.

## Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez Polo Shirts

We now have the opportunity to buy beautiful polo shirts with our organization's logo embroidered on them. You can get the shirts in a men's cut or women's cut and they come in either red or white. The shirts are short sleeved polo styled with a collar and buttons.

They are \$37 and our chapter will receive \$5 for each shirt sold. Buying the shirts has been made very easy. All you have to do is visit the website link shown below. Different sizes have different prices. You can pick them up or have them delivered using the delivery option.

[https://stores.inksoft.com/los\\_granaderos/shop/home](https://stores.inksoft.com/los_granaderos/shop/home)

Men's Cut



Women's Cut



# Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez

Minutes for the meeting held May 3, 2023 at La Fonda Restaurant  
Submitted by Secretary Janie Rodriguez

Officers in Attendance: Governor Joe González, Deputy Governor Liz Perez, Treasurer Manuel Rodriguez, Secretary Janie Rodriguez, Chaplain Joe Weathersby, Drum Major Ricardo Rodriguez. Attendance: Cindi Flores, Jorge Garcia, Robert Garcia, Stella González, Deborah Guerra, Jesse Guerra, Richard Martinez, Joe Perez, Jimmy Peet, Lisa Santos, Armandina Sifuentes, Jerry Sifuentes, Vedia Weathersby, Alex Zamora, Melissa Zamora.

The meeting was called to order at 7:21 p.m. by Governor Joe González. The Invocation was given by Chaplain Joe Weathersby. Deborah Guerra led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurer Manny Rodriguez gave the Treasurer's report. Savings account balance as of April 1, 2023 was \$2,534.96. We received 9 donations totaling \$1,350.00. Ending balance for April was \$3,884.96. Checking account balance as of April 1, 2023 was \$8,178.82. Activity for the month was as follows. We received 2 memberships totaling \$60.00 and a bank dividend of \$0.13. Outgoing payments were: \$38.45 for speaker's meal, and payment for D&F rehearsal room \$35.00. April end of Month Balance is \$8,165.50. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Jimmy Peet and seconded by Joe Weathersby. Motion carried.

Governor González announced all birthdays for the month of May. Old business was the changing of banks from Credit Human to Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union and the King Williams Parade was a huge success. Committee Reports: Membership Chairperson Joe Perez reported that new packets have been sent out to new members. Visibility Chairperson Melissa Zamora reported the Granaderos shirts are ready to order. These shirts can be ordered in red or white. Orders can be made online and shipped, or picked up. Granaderos will receive \$5.00 per shirt sold. Scholarship Chairperson Liz Perez reported that she received 1 donation of \$200.00 tonight. Scholarship committee is still accepting donations.

New business, Governor González recapped all upcoming presenters for May and June.

Governor González introduced our guest speaker for the evening. Armandina Sifuentes is an eighth-generation Texan and a descendant of the subject of her presentation, Concepción de los Ángeles Charli. Her research led to the placement of a monument on the grounds of the Alamo, near the long barracks, that recognizes women and children who survived the 1836 Siege and Battle of the Alamo. Her ancestor was one of them, and she is the mother of Alamo defender Toribio Losoya. The monument was placed by the DRT Alamo Couriers Chapter so people can learn the story of the Alamo and Texas more fully.

After a short question and answer session, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 by Governor González.

