



# LA GRANADA



## June 2026

Granaderos y Damas  
de Gálvez



San Antonio  
Founding Chapter



editor: joe perez



# 2026 NATIONAL MEETING PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

The 2026 National Meeting was held earlier in the year than past meetings, which was typically in November. This was so the National Meeting could be held in conjunction with other America 250 events occurring in Pensacola at the time as well as to incorporate it with Gálvez Day in Pensacola on May 8th, which is the anniversary of Galvez' victory over the British at Fort George.

The Pensacola Chapter did an excellent job of coordinating the National Meeting events. There was a tour of Pensacola's Fort George. There was also a dramatic Re-enactor's March from the fort to the Gálvez statue two blocks away. That was followed by a special ceremony at the statue. There were museum tours, a ferry boat trip and a wonderful, elaborate gala.

Among all of these events was the business meeting, which is the main purpose of our national meetings. This year, one of the items on the agenda was to elect a new Governor General and a new Deputy Governor General. Elected by acclamation were Manny Rodriguez as Governor General and Trevor Odom as Deputy Governor General. Their terms will begin on January 1, 2027. Congratulations to Manny and Trevor!



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## Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 3

La Fonda Restaurant

8633 Crownhill Blvd

Dinner: 6:00 Meeting 7:00

### Presenter:

Gov. José (Joe) González

### Presentation:

The Gálvez Lineage:

Patriots and Warriors

In Spain's History



## June Babies

June 5

Barbara Chavez

June 11

Tim Thatcher

June 19

Herb Canales

June 23

Cliff Normand

June 29

Alex Zamora

June 30

Stella González

Peggy Guerrero

The speaker for the June meeting is our very own Governor José (Joe) González who will give valuable information about the Gálvez family heritage and their importance to the American continent. It would be good if all of our members were well aware of this subject since every member is a representative of our organization. Come enjoy good food, good camaraderie, and a good presentation. Guests are always welcome at our monthly meetings.

### Governor

José (Joe) González

### Deputy Governor

Joe Weathersby

### Treasurer

Manny Rodriguez

### Secretary

Janie Rodriguez

### Chaplain

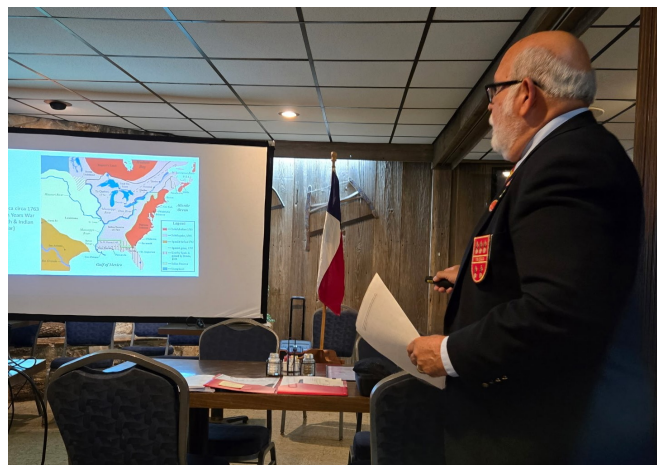
Charles Carvajal

### Sergeant Major

Adam Dominguez

# Medina County Historical Commission

On May 21, Governor Joe González gave a presentation to the Medina County Historical Commission. There were twenty attendees who made for a very receptive audience. They were all heavily involved in history projects. Joe spoke about Gálvez and Spain's involvement in the American Revolution. Afterwards, many asked him, "Why aren't we taught this?" While this history is not taught in schools, it is certainly taught by members of our group. Great job, Governor!



## More Photos of the National Meeting



The Pensacola Chapter gave attendees many opportunities to don historical clothing at several events.



# Recent Articles on the Internet

## Ghosts of the Gulf Coast

This article appeared in the New York Times and is subtitled, "*The Unsung Revolutionary War Campaign.*" Please see the link below.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Sv9sOcbO1ofy65DG7BdF7dZcym57I46E/view>

## Bernardo de Gálvez and Louisiana in the American Revolution

This is a nice video of Louisiana's role in the American Revolution. You will learn about a famous portrait supposedly of Gálvez but is actually a portrait of King Carlos IV. Please see the following link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLQ3WRsEYw8>

## An Underappreciated Victory

This is an excellent article that recounts a book by Stephen L. Kling & Kristine L. Sjostrom titled, "*An Underappreciated Victory*" about Gálvez's Gulf Coast Campaign. Please see the link below. <https://thebayouinsider.substack.com/p/an-unappreciated-victory>



The Mexican American Museum of Texas currently has an exhibit preview titled, "*Spanish Texas During the American Revolution: Life & Legacy, 1775-1783.*" It is at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library in downtown Dallas.

It recently opened on May 22 and will run until July 31. The preview includes 14 boards, a scaled model of "Don Fernando", and a Corriente Bull piñata to

appear in full scale at the Houston premiere. The full exhibit will travel throughout Texas for 8 years, which is the duration of the American Revolution. If you are in the Dallas area before the end of July, remember to stop by the Library to see it. The full exhibit will open in Houston at The Heritage Society Museum in Sam Houston Park in early August. This is an exhibit you won't want to miss.

— THE MEXICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM OF TEXAS —  
*Our History. Our Voices.*  
PRESENTS  
**SPANISH TEXAS**  
DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION,  
★ LIFE AND LEGACY: 1775–1783 ★  
*An expanded narrative of the American Revolution  
ensuring that the contributions of Texas Hispanos are properly recognized*

PREMIERES AT THE  
HERITAGE SOCIETY  
MUSEUM  
IN SAM HOUSTON PARK  
EARLY AUGUST 2026

CURATED PREVIEW AT THE  
J. ERIK JONSSON  
CENTRAL  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
MAY 23–JULY 31, 2026

**READ MORE ▶**

★ *A Major Exhibit of The Mexican American Museum of Texas.* ★

The poster features a large image of a black bull with horns on the right side. The background is a light, textured color with a faint image of a building.

# Did U.S. Soldiers Fight Under a Foreign Command?

By Joe Perez

Any serious student of the American Revolution knows that the United States won its independence from England only with the help of foreign countries, most notably Spain and France. While several countries contributed to the American's cause of freedom through donations of money and war materiel, the foreign assistance most commonly known is the service of foreign commanders. This has raised the question throughout our country's history, "Did U.S. soldiers fight under a foreign command?"

To address this question, one must delineate the difference between the two terms "foreign command" and "foreign commander." U.S. troops can fight under a foreign commander but if that commander is serving as an officer in the U.S. military, it is not a foreign command. However, if U.S. troops fight under an officer within a foreign military, they are fighting under a foreign command. Let us take a look at a few of the more commonly recognized foreign commanders during our War of Independence and study the question at hand. The terms Continental Army and U.S. Army are used here interchangeably since the thirteen colonies had already declared themselves the United States of America when the Continental Army was active.

Probably the most famous foreign commander during the American Revolution is the Marquis de Lafayette. Born into French wealth and nobility, Lafayette was inspired by the Americans' fight for freedom. In 1777, he volunteered and was commissioned a Major General in the U.S. Army. Lafayette led American troops in four battles. When he returned to France, he petitioned his government to support the American cause with money and troops. "This lobbying in Versailles may have been his greatest service to the United States as it helped tip the balance in favor of sending a French army in 1780 under the command of General Rochambeau."<sup>1</sup>



**Marquis de Lafayette**

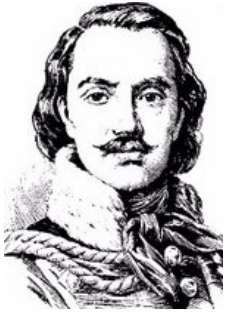
As a result of Lafayette's lobbying, Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur comte de Rochambeau was sent with his troops by the French government to aid (not be a part of) the American army. He was a Lieutenant General responsible for commanding around 7,000 French troops and was present during Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown.

Prussian officer Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, known as Baron von Steuben, arrived in the United States in 1778 armed with letters of introduction from Benjamin Franklin and Silas Deane. Von Steuben was given the ranks of Major General and Inspector General in the U.S. Army. Using a drill manual that he developed, he helped transform the Continental Army from a haphazard group of individuals to a disciplined and well trained military.

Lieutenant Colonel Johann de Kalb was given the noble title of Baron while serving in the French army. Baron de Kalb came to the United States in 1777 with Lafayette and was given

the rank of Major General in the U.S. army. He led several U.S. troops in various battles, dying from wounds he received at the Battle of Camden.

Another foreign commander during our War of Independence was Casimir Pulaski, an outstanding Polish cavalry officer and considered a father of the American cavalry. George Washington recommended that Pulaski be commissioned as a Brigadier General in the U.S.



**Casimir Pulaski**

Army. Since Washington could not grant him rank, they had to wait until Congress made that appointment. In the one month's time between Pulaski meeting Washington and Pulaski's appointment as Brigadier General, he actually led a few U.S. military forces, albeit impromptu. He was with Washington at the Battle of Brandywine. During the battle, when U.S. forces began to fall back, Pulaski observed the British trying to cut off their path of retreat. Washington ordered Pulaski to garner as many of the retreating men that he could and hold off the British, which he did successfully.<sup>2</sup>

Pulaski commanded those American soldiers during that successful retreat and since his commission in the U.S. army had not yet been approved by Congress, one could argue that those U.S. troops were fighting under a foreign command. However, the reason he was on the battlefield was because his commission as a Brigadier General had already been submitted. Since he was following a direct order from General Washington, he was acting as a subordinate to a higher-level U.S. officer in the chain of command and therefore, the troops were not under a foreign command.

Except for Rochambeau, all of the aforementioned military men served as officers in the Continental Army. They were foreign officers but since they served in the U.S. Army, their troops were not under a foreign command.

However, there is one instance where U.S. troops did fight under a foreign command during the American Revolution. In 1780, U.S. Navy Captain William Pickles was ordered to use his ship, the *West Florida*, and join the Spanish fleet.<sup>3</sup> Captain Pickles, along with Continental Marines on his ship, were ordered to take part in the Battle of Mobile "*for the space of twenty days or longer, if necessary, or as requested by the Spanish Commander-in-Chief.*"<sup>4</sup> That commander was General Gálvez.

Gálvez commanded his own forces as a General in the Spanish army. The Continental Marines who participated in the Battle of Mobile served under his command, thus being the first U.S. troops to serve under a foreign command. That it happened under Gálvez reinforces his special connection with the United States of America and its war for independence.



**Bernardo de Gálvez**

#### References:

<sup>1</sup> Chartrand, René, *American War of Independence Commanders*, p.14, Osprey Publishing Ltd., 2003

<sup>2</sup> Wilson, James Grant & Fiske, John, *Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, p.133, Pickering-Sumter, 1898, [google.com/books](https://www.google.com/books), accessed October 10, 2018.

<sup>3</sup> Smith, Charles R., *Marines in the American Revolution*, p.193, History and Museums Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, 1975

<sup>4</sup> James, James Alton, *Oliver Pollock, The Life and Times of an Unknown Patriot*, p.202, D.Appleton-Century Co. Inc., 1937

# Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez San Antonio Founding Chapter

Minutes for the meeting held  
May 6, 2026 at La Fonda Restaurant  
By Secretary Janie Rodriguez

## **Officers in Attendance:**

Governor Joe González, Treasurer Manny Rodriguez, Secretary Janie Rodriguez, and Chaplain Charles Carvajal.

## **Attendance:**

Sally Avila, Diane Baird-Barger, Ron Finch, Valarie Finch, Stella González, Yolanda Ingles, William Kiser, Chris Leos, Joe Perez, Ricky Reyes, Alex Zamora.

## **Zoom Attendance:**

Judge Butler, Vicky Hess, Rueben Perez, and Donna Williams.

The meeting was called to order at 6:59 p.m. by Governor Joe González. The Invocation was given by Chaplain Charles Carvajal and Alex Zamora led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Treasurer Manny Rodriguez gave a report for April 2026. The Savings Account Balance for the beginning of the month of April was \$18,976.38. The end of month total for savings was \$18,982.39. Included are 2 CDs. We have a Scholarship CD of \$2,000.00 and a 2025 National Meeting CD of \$1,000.00. The checking account balance as of April 1, 2026 was \$12,295.76 and the end of month total was \$11,055.18. Please address any questions to Treasurer Manny Rodriguez or Governor Joe González. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Alex Zamora and seconded by Ricky Reyes. The motion carried.

Governor Joe González announced May birthdays and "Happy Birthday" was sung by all!

## **Old Business:**

A tour of the San Antonio Municipal Archives Museum will be held July 23 from 10:00 to 11:30 am. Four slots are still available. Please RSVP with Joe González ASAP if you are interested. A Dutch treat lunch at Pico de Gallo afterward is planned.

Events in April were as follows: Fiesta medal sales took place on April 4 at Morgan's Wonderland. The New Braunfels Folkfest was held on April 11. A monument dedication ceremony at Texas State Cemetery was held on April 18. The King William parade was on April 25. A presentation at a DAR dedication event was held in Wimberley, TX on April 25.

## **New business:**

A Bexar Heritage 250 Teacher Workshop will be held on June 10. Teacher sign up is

on-going. The July 4th Patriotic Ceremony has 20 organizations that have signed up and we are waiting for 10 others to respond. We have a new living historian to portray Gen. Bernardo de Galvez at events. His uniform will be made with funds earmarked by an Edouard Foundation Grant courtesy of Ron and Valarie Finch. We are currently looking into applying again for grant money from the S.A. Conservation Society Foundation to further enhance our outreach projects.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Membership:**

Joe Perez reported the membership to date is 109 including 13 members from RGV.

#### **Scholarship:**

Chairperson Liz Perez reported that 2 applicants have responded but no applications have been filed as of today.

#### **Color Guard /Fife & Drum:**

The Color Guard and Drum & Fife will rehearse on June 27 for the July 4th ceremony. 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.

#### **Announcements:**

The national meeting is being held May 7-9 in Pensacola. Zoom links were sent out earlier today for those wishing to attend virtually. The election of a new Governor General will take place on Saturday, May 9. ONLY Full Members may cast a ballot. Election officials have a current list of full members and their email addresses to validate their voting privileges. ONLY if either of the 2 declared candidates withdraw their nomination, nominations from the floor will be requested. With no floor nominations candidates will be elected by acclamation. The declared candidates are Manny Rodriguez (SA Chapter) for Governor General and Trevor Odom (Pensacola Chapter) for Deputy Governor. A presentation on Bernardo de Galvez and Spain's Role in the American Revolution will be given on May 21 to the Medina County Historical Commission. We have been contacted by one of our chapter's members who lives in the DFW area about what is needed to get a chapter established there. More information will be given as it becomes available.

#### **Program:**

Governor Joe González introduced the guest speaker, Dr. William Kiser, History Department Chair at Texas A&M University San Antonio. He is the author of six books and numerous articles on the U.S. Borderlands and the American West. His presentation was titled: "The Business of Killing Indians: Scalp Warfare and the Violent Conquest of North America."

After a short Q&A the meeting was adjourned at 8:37.