



LA GRANADA



May 2026 (Part 2)

Granaderos y Damas
de Gálvez



San Antonio
Founding Chapter



editor: joe pérez



Fiesta Medal Market

On April 14, an overcast day and with the threat of rain, we staffed a booth at the Morgan's Wonderland Fiesta Medal Market where we sold several medals, handed out flyers and spoke with people about Gálvez and Spain's involvement in the American Revolution. We left before it rained and still brought in \$220 in medal sales for our treasury.



Texas Revolutionary War Patriots

On April 18, the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) conducted a dedication ceremony of the Texas SAR Monument. It was held at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin and honored Texas revolutionary war patriots. With pledges and speeches and the firing of muskets, it had all the pomp and circumstance of a very special event. Several men and women donned colonial attire. The monument bears the names of those from Texas who contributed to the cause of American freedom. It was an excellent ceremony.



IN THIS PART 2 ISSUE:

Fiesta Medal Market

Texas Revolutionary War Patriots

Descendants of Patriots

Minutes of April Meeting

From the Facebook page
Descendants of Revolutionary War Patriots
Posted January 14, 2026 by Joe Epps
(Edited by Joe Perez)

As requested, Spain was not formally allied with the American colonies, but from 1779–1783 Spain acted as a co-belligerent against Great Britain, playing a decisive—often underappreciated—role in shaping the outcome of the war. Below are the key Spanish leaders whose actions materially influenced the American Revolution.

There were key Spanish leaders who played significant roles in the American Revolution to include Governor Bernardo de Gálvez, who led military campaigns against British forces in the Gulf Coast and provided crucial supplies and support to the American patriots. Spain, while not formally allied with the United States, acted as a co-belligerent by financing the war and opening a second front against Britain, significantly aiding the American cause.

Spain entered the war in 1779, fighting Britain to recover Florida, Minorca, and Gibraltar while weakening Britain’s global power. Spain never signed the Treaty of Alliance with the U.S. Spain, however, gave assistance that was strategic, military, financial, and logistical.

King Charles III, King of Spain (1759–1788) was the architect of Spain’s overall strategy. Entering the war, he sought to reclaim Spanish territories lost to Britain (Florida, Minorca). He authorized covert aid to the Americans while avoiding direct recognition of U.S. independence until late.

His decision to fight Britain forced the British to split their forces worldwide, weakening their ability to suppress the rebellion.

Bernardo de Gálvez (1746–1786), governor of Spanish Louisiana and, later, Viceroy of New Spain was the most important Spanish figure in the American Revolution. His contributions were supplying arms, gunpowder, uniforms, and money to American forces before Spain entered the war.

He led successful military campaigns against the British:

- Manchac (1779)
- Baton Rouge (1779)
- Natchez (1779)
- Mobile (1780)
- Pensacola (1781) – decisive victory
- Secured the Mississippi River, preventing British attacks from the south
- Diverted British troops away from the Carolinas and Virginia

King Carlos III was another key Spanish leader who helped shape the war. He authorized covert and overt support to the American cause, approved Spain’s entry into the war against Britain, and balanced imperial caution with strategic opportunity. Without Carlos III’s approval, Spanish intervention would not have occurred. His policies made French-American cooperation viable.

José de Gálvez (1720–1787) Minister of the Indies and uncle of Bernardo de Gálvez, designed Spain's American war strategy, oversaw funding and logistics for Spanish operations, and supported covert aid channels to American rebels.

Diego de Gardoqui (1735–1798) was a Spanish diplomat and merchant who secretly supplied clothing, weapons, powder, and money early in the war flowing through Bilbao and Havana. He worked with Robert Morris and the Continental Congress and later served as Spain's first ambassador to the U.S. Gardoqui kept American armies supplied during critical shortages.

Luis de Unzaga y Amézaga (1717–1793) was Governor of Spanish Louisiana (before Gálvez). He quietly aided American rebels as early as 1776, allowing arms shipments up the Mississippi River. He maintained plausible deniability to avoid British retaliation and laid the groundwork for later Spanish intervention.

Francisco Saavedra de Sangronis (1746–1819) was a Spanish naval and financial officer who raised and delivered critical funds for the Yorktown Campaign. He coordinated Spanish financial support with French forces in the Caribbean. Spanish money helped make Yorktown possible.

Juan de Miralles (1713-1780) was a Spanish agent and diplomat to the Continental Congress. He acted as Spain's unofficial representative in Philadelphia. He worked closely with George Washington and helped coordinate loans, intelligence sharing, and diplomacy. He died in 1780 and was honored with a military funeral attended by Washington.

Spain's role mattered because they tied down British troops across Florida, the Gulf Coast, the Caribbean, and Europe. Spain supplied the American war effort when Congress was broke. Spain protected American southern and western flanks. Without Spanish victories in the South and Gulf, Britain could have reinforced Cornwallis and attacked the Mississippi frontier, which would have prolonged or even altered the war's outcome.

Spain never formally allied with the United States the way France did, but Spanish leaders played a decisive, often underappreciated role in shaping the outcome of the American Revolutionary War. Their strategy focused on weakening Britain globally while quietly aiding the Patriot cause. Spain's leaders did not fight for American independence but they decisively weakened Britain and made American victory far more likely.

France helped win the war at Yorktown. Spain helped make Yorktown possible.

That last sentence is worth repeating.

**France helped win the war at Yorktown.
Spain helped make Yorktown possible.**

Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez San Antonio Founding Chapter

**Minutes for the meeting held
April 1, 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, Chaplain Charles Carvajal.

Attendance:

Sally Avila, Diane Baird-Barger, Herb Canales, Barbara Chavez, Ron Finch, Cindi Flores, Debbie Flores, Frank Flores, Lucila Flores, Roberto Flores, Carol Ann Garcia, Robert Garcia, Nicholas Fiqua, Patrick Gonzales, Rudy Huizar Gonzales, Edna Gravenhorst, Ted Gravenhorst, Debbie Guerra, Jesse Guerra, Joe Perez, Jorge Luis Garcia Ruiz, Victoria Soto, Vieda Weathersby, Alex Zamora, Melissa Zamora.

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

The Governor then reminded all that the Minutes for the March meeting had been distributed by email via our newsletter and asked if there were any corrections or changes. Motion was made by Joe Weathersby and seconded by Manny Rodriguez, Motion passed.

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

The Savings Account Balance for the beginning of the month of March was \$18,8972.88. The end of month total for savings was \$18,976.38.

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 March 1, 2026 was \$12,876.37 and the end of month total was \$12,294.64.

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

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Charles Carvajal and seconded by Joe Perez, Motion carried.

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

New business:

We have been invited to visit the San Antonio Municipal Archives on July 23, 2026 at 10:00 am. RSVP is required. Please contact Governor Joe González.

Old business:

Our meetings are now being available through zoom. Thank you Ron Finch and Melissa Zamora. The Bank account name change has been finalized. The Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Chapter is now in the leadership of J.D. Nahas as chairman. They are being mentored by the San Antonio Founding Chapter until they are a full-fledged chapter.

Committee Reports

Membership:

Joe Perez reported the membership to date is 106 including 11 members from RGV.

Scholarship:

Chairperson Liz Perez reported that emails have been sent out to 3 schools to check on applicants.

Color Guard /Fife & Drum:

The Color Guard and Fife & Drum Corps have been asked to perform April 11 for the Folkfest in New Braunfels; April 25 King William parade; June 27 will be rehearsal held at Ft. Sam Cemetery for our July 4 ceremony. On July 11 we were invited to the Esparza Reunion in Floresville.

Visibility:

Joe Weathersby announced that our 2026 medals were in and on sale for \$10.00. We will also be selling medals on April 4th at Morgan's Wonderland.

Announcements:

Those interested in attending the national meeting May 7-9 need to register. Please contact Governor Joe González if you need information. On June 10, a teacher workshop will be conducted by Bexar Heritage 250 with several members as presenters or living historians.

Program:

Governor Joe González introduced the guest speaker, Mr Rudy Huizar Gonzales, who is the fifth great grandson of Don Pedro Huizar who was one of several skilled artisans that made San Antonio de Bejar his home during the 18th century. In 1778 he began work for the Rose Window at Mission San Jose.

After a short Q&A the meeting was adjourned at 8:19.