



LA GRANADA



November 2025

Granaderos y Damas
de Gálvez

GOLDEN JUBILEE



San Antonio
Founding Chapter

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editor: joe perez

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Veterans Parade

We will march in the Veterans Parade in downtown San Antonio on Saturday, November 8. Our soldiers and Fife & Drum Corps are practicing to represent our group and honor veterans.

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting this year is also our organization's Golden Jubilee celebrating 50 years of educating the public about Spain's participation in the American Revolution. It is November 14 – 16 and the different committees have been working hard to have a weekend that will include a cocktail party, educational symposium, a museum tour, a dinner, and a business meeting, just to name a few events. The deadline to register has passed but those who are attending will find it very enjoyable.

Christmas Party

Get ready to celebrate another awesome Granaderos y Damas Christmas party. Please see the flyer on Page 4 and register early! It will be a good time with food, friends and a chance to win a designer Christmas ornament

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Next Meeting
Wednesday, November 5

La Fonda Restaurant
8633 Crownhill Blvd
Dinner: 6:00 Meeting 7:00

Presenters:

Ron Finch & Melissa Zamora

Presentation

Annual Meeting Updates



November Babies

Nov 8

Roberto Flores

Nov 15

Elizabeth Perez

Nov 23

Sylvia Garcia

Nov 24

Christina Robinson

Nov 28

Karla Galindo

With our Golden Jubilee (2025 Annual Meeting) just a few short weeks away, we will be given an update on the big event as our chapter is hosting it. The Co-Coordinator, Granadero Ron Finch and Dama Melissa Zamora will fill us in on it. All of the Annual Meeting committee members have been working hard for the past few months and we are now in crunch time.

You are sure to be excited at what is planned for what is going to be a fun, interesting, and educational weekend.

Governor

José (Joe) González

Deputy Governor

Joe Weathersby

Treasurer

Manny Rodriguez

Secretary

Janie Rodriguez

Chaplain

Charles Carvajal

Sergeant Major

Adam Dominguez

New Member

We extend a cordial welcome to our newest member, **Herb Canales**. 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. Welcome aboard, Herb!

Spanish Soldier at the Battle of Yorktown Event

Al Carr-Sosa, a member of the Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez San Antonio Chapter and La Luisiana Chapter, continues to tell our story. On October 18 & 19, he was at a Battle of Yorktown event dressed as a fusilero in the Luisiana Regiment proudly educating the public about Spain's participation in the American Revolution. He also met a member of a Spanish Military delegation at the event. The event was part of the DAR America 250 program. Great job, Al.





REGISTRATION FORM

Get ready for some fun and food at our annual Christmas Party. We will have a free raffle to give away beautiful Christmas ornaments just in time for the holidays.

Please complete this registration form and send it
so that we receive it no later than November 21.

To pay by check: Make checks payable to Granaderos de Gálvez and mail with registration to
P.O. Box 34691, San Antonio TX 78265.

To pay by Venmo: Take a photo of the QR Code below with your cell phone and use the Venmo app.



Saturday, December 6

12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Paloma Blanca Mexican Cuisine

5800 Broadway Ste 300

Choose one entree per person from the following:

Puntas de Puerco: Spicy 7 oz. lean pork marinated with roasted garlic and covered in Salsa de Chile Chipotle. Served with Spanish rice and frijoles borrachos.

Pollo Half and Half: Grilled chicken breast covered in their signature Crema Cilantro and Crema Chipotle. Served with poblano corn, white rice, and Esmeralda salad.

Beef Chile Relleno: Poblano pepper filled with beef and potatoes, white cheese and covered with Salsa Española. Served with Spanish rice and frijoles borrachos.

Drinks: Water, Ice Tea, or Soda Appetizer: Bean & Cheese Nachos Dessert: Mango Sorbet

Dietary Restrictions and/or Food Allergies: _____

Name: _____ Menu Selection: _____

Name: _____ Menu Selection: _____

Name: _____ Menu Selection: _____

Number of people = _____ x \$35.00 per person = \$ _____ Total

(This article is reproduced from a previous issue of La Granada.)



The Founding of The Order of Granaderos de Gálvez And The Order of Damas de Gálvez

Historical data written by Angela Salinas Fernandez, provided by Robert H. Thonhoff
and compiled & edited by Rueben Perez

Have you ever wondered how the Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez San Antonio Chapter formed? Have you wondered when, and who were the founding members of both the Granaderos de Gálvez and Damas de Gálvez? I mentioned this to Robert Thonhoff and, as he often does, he came to the rescue.



Charles E. Barrera
Governor General
and Commander
Order of
Granaderos de
Gálvez

“Don’t worry, I have a brochure that will help tell the story of the founding of the organization.” He sent a brochure over to me that helped explain the beginnings of the organization. Today, we can see the growth, achievements and expansion of Granaderos throughout the country.

THE FOUNDING of THE ORDER OF GRANADEROS de GÁLVEZ

Los Granaderos de Gálvez was founded in 1975 by Mr. Charles E. Barrera and Mr. Henry Guerra, both from San Antonio, Texas. Mr. Barrera was Supreme Governor General from 1975 to 1981. He was a Canary Island

Descendant and President General of The Sons of the Republic of Texas. He was a member of several civic, genealogical, and historical organizations.

For those of us who remember Henry Guerra, he was one of the best newscasters in San Antonio when television was just coming of age and he would end his newscasts with, “**Good night y muy buenas noches**”. As members of the local Bicentennial Commission, both Mr. Barrera and Mr. Guerra, extended an invitation to Erik I. Martel, then the newly installed Consul General of Spain housed in Houston, to be their guest for the U.S. Bicentennial Celebration in San Antonio. The ceremony would be held at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery honoring all War Veterans starting with General Bernardo de Gálvez. Consul General Martel accepted the invitation. From this conversation, Charles E. Barrera, Henry Guerra, and Erik I. Martel conceived the idea



Henry Guerra
The Voice of San Antonio
Good Night Y Muy Buenas Nochas

Founder and Honorary
Member of the Order of
Granaderos de Gálvez

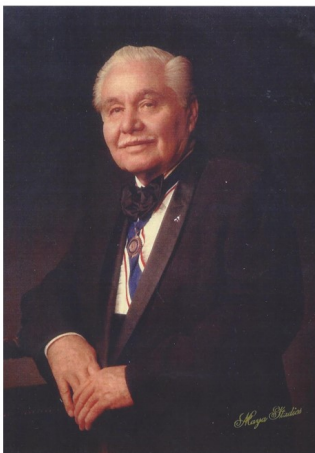
of the founding of Los Granaderos de Gálvez to educate the public about the great contributions that General Bernardo de Gálvez made to the American colonies during the American Revolution.

Consul General Erik I. Martel gave his full support to the idea of an American organization that would honor the unsung hero, General Bernardo de Gálvez.

Mr. and Mrs. Barrera went to Madrid, Spain, to research the military uniforms and other pertinent information on Gálvez and his era. During this time, the Barreras gave interviews to the newspaper and television outlets, including how the San Antonio Granaderos marched in the Bicentennial parade in San Antonio.

Back in the United States, the Barreras began speaking about Gálvez at meetings of various organizations and finally succeeded in forming a small nucleus of Los Granaderos de Gálvez. Mr. Barrera founded the first chapter in San Antonio, Texas, becoming the Supreme Governor General Commander. The charter members were **Ventura G. Perez (Granadero Joe Perez' father), Adolfo Herrera, Henry de Leon, (Dama Dolores Beardsley's brother and Dama Deanna Rodriguez' great uncle), Manuel Borrego and Raymond Ugalde.**

By 1977, a second chapter was founded in El Paso, followed by a chapter in Galveston and Houston in 1978. Chapters were later founded in Jacksonville FL, St. Augustine FL, Pensacola FL, and Washington D.C. The current chapters are in San Antonio, Houston, Pensacola, Laredo, and Louisiana. All chapters are dedicated in their efforts to carry out the goals of the Order, making people aware of the Spanish contributions to the success of the American Revolution.



Mr. Charles E. Barrera
Born July 14, 1910-Died January 4, 1981



The Honorable Erik I. Martel and Granadero
Commander Charles Barrera
of San Antonio.

In November 1978, King Juan Carlos of Spain granted the first audience to the Granaderos and Damas de Gálvez. In June 1979, the king appointed Charles Barrera as Honorary Vice Consul of Spain in San Antonio. One month later, the King honored Charles Barrera with the highest decoration that is bestowed upon a civilian, ***“La Encomienda de la Orden del Merito Civil.”*** Former Consul General Erik Martel is quoted in a letter to Mr. Barrera, dated November 13, 1981, “To summarize, Charles gave his all for the Granaderos and anything I can say in this respect or anything we, who are honored by belonging to the Order today can do, will always be little.

THE FOUNDING of THE ORDER OF DAMAS de GÁLVEZ



Alicia de la Cerda Barrera
Founder, Order of Damas de Gálvez
Born November 23, 1911-Died August 8, 2000

The Order of Damas de Gálvez was founded in June 1977 in San Antonio, Texas by Mrs. Alicia de la Cerda Barrera. Shortly thereafter, the El Paso Chapter of The Order of Damas de Gálvez was founded followed by Damas chapters in Galveston TX, Houston TX, Jacksonville FL, and St. Augustine FL.

In August 1978, the first Supreme Council Meeting and Annual Convention of the Damas was held in San Antonio with the respective founders Charles E. Barrera, Governor General and Alicia de la Cerda Barrera as Dama of the Grand Cross of Gálvez presiding.

Mr. and Mrs. Barrera were dedicated in their efforts to carry out the goals of the Order, making people aware of the Spanish contributions to the success of the American War of Independence.

The Damas de Gálvez, as a separate entity, dissolved and membership status in the Granaderos was modified so that male and female members held equal status and became known as the Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez.

Our Mission remains the same today, "To educate the public about Spain's participation in the American Revolution." And so, we conclude our story with the words "***Good night y muy buenas noches***"



Celebrating the Birthday Mass of
of Bernardo de Gálvez at San Fernando Cathedral



Mrs. Barrera and Mayor Henry Cisneros
greeting the King and Queen of Spain

If by chance you should have pictures, articles, or any memorabilia regarding the history of our organization, please send or give them to our Archivist, Stella González (e-mail: stellagonzalez@aol.com).

For more information feel free to visit our chapter's website at www.granaderos.org

Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez San Antonio Founding Chapter

**Minutes for the meeting held
October 1, 2025 at La Fonda Restaurant
Submitted 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, Rob Bernal, Barbara Chavez, Valarie Finch, Robert Garcia, Belinda Mora Gavallos, Stella González, Peggy Guerrero, Dexter Haskins, Erika Haskins, Kris Krueger, Joe Perez, Vedia Weathersby, Alex Zamora, Melissa Zamora.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Governor Joe González. The Invocation was given by Joe Weathersby and Joe Perez led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Governor Joe González recognized this evening's guests as Sylvia Reyna. Rob Bernal, Belinda Mora Gavallos, Dexter Haskins and Kris Krueger, Welcome!

The Governor then reminded all that the Minutes for the September meeting had been distributed by email and asked if there were any corrections or changes. There were none. Manny Rodriguez moved that the Minutes be accepted as written; the motion was seconded by Joe Weathersby. The motion was passed.

Treasurer Manny Rodriguez gave a report for the month of September 2025.

The Savings Account Balance for the beginning of the month of September was \$18,849.46. The end of month total for September in savings was \$18,844.81, Included are 2 CD'S. A Scholarship CD at \$2,000.00 and a 2025 National Meeting CD: \$1,000.00.

The checking account balance as of September 1, 2025 was \$22,379.63 and the end of month total was \$26,783.43.

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

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Joe Weathersby and seconded by Alex Zamora, Motion carried.

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

Old business: Governor Joe González presented a talk and power point on Spain & Galvez to the DAR chapter in Waco, TX and received an honorarium. Chapter dues for 2026 will be collected in January.

Committee Reports:

Scholarship: Governor Joe González says that changes will be made to the scholarship committee and will be offered to high school seniors.

Membership: Joe Perez reported the membership to date is 102.

Nat'l Meeting: Nat'l Meeting registrations will be accepted until Oct, 15, 2025. Valet parking by Menger is \$30.00 or guests can park at the River Center Mall parking garage. The November meeting will focus on the final update with a full agenda.

Visibility: Joe Weathersby reported that the new design for the 2026 medal has been submitted and is arriving from China. Pins for Nat'l Meeting have been made and received.

Fife & Drum: Fife & Drum will be performing in the upcoming Veterans Day Parade, Nov. 8.

Announcements: The restaurant situation will be addressed by restaurant management and be kept "as is" for now. Our chapter Christmas party is scheduled for Dec. 6, 2025. The cost will be \$35.00 per person

Program: The guest speaker for our October meeting was an enthusiastic history buff and currently serves as President of the William Hightower Chapter of the SAR in New Braunfels. Kris Krueger's presentation was on a pivotal battle that turned the tide in the American Revolution. After a short Q&A the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 by Governor Joe González.

Recent Articles on the Internet

Spain and the Birth of American Democracy Symposium

This is a YouTube video showing a presentation given by a Bernardo de Gálvez reenactor speaking to an audience at a history symposium. The symposium was held at the DAR Constitution Hall September 19-20, 2025. "Thank you" to the DAR and all other sponsors of this event! The reenactor did a great job in his presentation. The link to the video is below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ueMWgu-bLc>

From Axarquía to America's Revolution

This is a brief article from EuroWeekly News online magazine about people in Spain preparing to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. declaration of independence. The link to the article is below.

<https://euroweeklynews.com/2025/10/15/from-axarquia-to-americas-revolution/>

The loss of Pensacola by the British to the Spanish fighting for the colonists helped convince British officials that the war was becoming un-winnable.
- Col. Ben Findley (USAF ret.), author

