



LA GRANADA



October 2025

Granaderos y Damas
de Gálvez

GOLDEN JUBILEE



San Antonio
Founding Chapter

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www.granaderos.org

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editor: joe pérez

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Continuing Our Work in Waco

We continue with our mission of educating the public about Spain's participation in the American Revolution. Members of our organization have been doing this for fifty years. We know the job is never finished, so we continue with our work. Whether it is in schools, libraries, parades or meetings with historical, genealogical, military, or civic organizations, we continue. In San Antonio, Houston, Laredo, New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Pensacola or Macharaviaya, members of our various chapters continue the effort.

Continuing this work, on Saturday, September 20th, Governor Joe González gave an excellent presentation about Bernardo de Gálvez and Spain's participation in the American Revolution in Waco, TX. The audience consisted of members and spouses of the Henry Downs Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. The hosts were very cordial and very engaged. Kudos to Joe González for teaching this important part of our American history. Thanks, also, to Dama Stella González for her support and photos. We are grateful for the ladies of the DAR.



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Next Meeting
Wednesday, October 1

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

Presenter:

Kris Krueger
President, Wm. Hightower Chpt
Sons of the American Revolution

Presentation:

The Battle of Kings Mountain
The Beginning of the End

October Babies

Oct. 2

Jimmy Peet

Oct. 7

Roland Cantu

Oct. 9

Joe Chidgey

Oct. 12

Lisa Santos

Oct. 13

Charlie Carvajal
Gloria Bustillo

Oct. 16

George Aguayo

Oct. 19

Alfredo Guillen

Oct. 21

Deanna Rodriguez

Oct. 23

Blanche De Leon
Richard Howell

Oct. 24

Joe Perez

Oct. 31

Janie Rodriguez

The guest speaker for our October meeting is an enthusiastic history buff and currently serves as President of the William Hightower Chapter of the SAR in New Braunfels. His presentation will be on a pivotal battle that turned the tide in the American Revolution.

Governor

José (Joe) González

Deputy Governor

Joe Weathersby

Treasurer

Manny Rodriguez

Secretary

Janie Rodriguez

Chaplain

Charles Carvajal

Sergeant Major

Adam Dominguez

New Members

We extend a cordial welcome to our newest members, **Victoria Hess and Terri & Joe Chidgey**. 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, Damas Victoria and Terri and Granadero Joe!

Granadero Mannequin on Display

The City of San Antonio will host a museum exhibit in the Municipal Archives & Records Office located at 719 South Santa Rosa Street. The exhibit is scheduled to run from October 2025 through December 2026. On display will be various historical uniforms, civic clothing, municipal records and various items pertaining to San Antonio history.

In preparation for the exhibit, Governor Joe González and Joe Pérez went to the Municipal Archives & Records Office on Tuesday, September 16th and dressed a mannequin with a Spanish granadero uniform of the Navarra Regiment. This regiment was the most numerous at the Siege of Pensacola, a victorious battle for General Bernardo de Gálvez during the American Revolution and the crown jewel of his Gulf Coast Campaign. One of San Antonio's connections to the American Revolution is the cattle that were sent to Gálvez to feed his troops. We thank Archivist Marcus Flores for assisting us and Dr. Erika Haskins for coordinating our participation in this endeavor.



New American Navy Ship: USS Gálvez



The newest U.S. Navy ship is named after American Revolutionary hero Bernardo de Gálvez. It is to be commissioned at a later date. Its name, the USS Gálvez, was announced by the Secretary of the Navy at a special event in Madrid, Spain.

The Navy describes the ship as a guided missile frigate designed for multi-mission capabilities and enhanced combat presence. It said the ship will symbolize the future of naval warfare embodying agility, strength, and international collaboration.

The importance of Spain and Gálvez to our country's independence continues to get more recognition.

Recent Articles on the Internet

Francisco Saavedra: Ensuring Victory at Yorktown

The Journal of the American Revolution online magazine of September 11, 2025, has an interesting article explaining Saavedra's role in raising money at Havana to pay for France's success in their naval blockade at Yorktown. The link to the article is below.

<https://allthingsliberty.com/2025/09/francisco-de-saavedra-de-sangronis-a-spainards-pivotal-role-in-the-yorktown-triumph/>

The Road to Independence

The NSDAR Alta Mira Chapter is sponsoring a series on the founding of our nation. This article appeared in the Porterville Recorder, the online magazine of Porterville, California. The link to the article is below.

https://www.recorderonline.com/gallery/the-road-to-independence-spains-contribution-to-the-americas-independence/article_dfbb9643-733b-405c-afc7-701e4294eb2f.html

Remembering Francisco Bouligny

The city of New Iberia, Louisiana, honors the Spanish officer who founded the city in 1779. It is from KATC News, an affiliate of ABC News in Louisiana. The link to the article is below.

<https://www.katc.com/iberia-parish/remembering-francisco-bouligny>

U.S. Navy's Newest Frigate Named USS Gálvez

The U.S. Navy announced a future ship honoring Bernardo de Gálvez. It is from an online site that advertises itself as one of the largest online maritime training and educational platforms in the world. The link to the article is below.

<https://www.marineinsight.com/shipping-news/us-navys-new-future-guided-missile-frigate-named-uss-galvez/>

A Cajun Revolution

This article is from The Hayride, an online magazine of Southern politics and culture. It is an opinion piece about removing or changing the names of statues, judging the past through modern standards, and changing the Acadiana flag. The link to the article is below.

<https://thehayride.com/2025/09/%E2%9A%9C%EF%B8%8F-a-cajun-revolution-erasing-our-lady-of-the-acadians-%E2%9A%9C%EF%B8%8F/>

Republic of the Rio Grande

By Joe Pérez

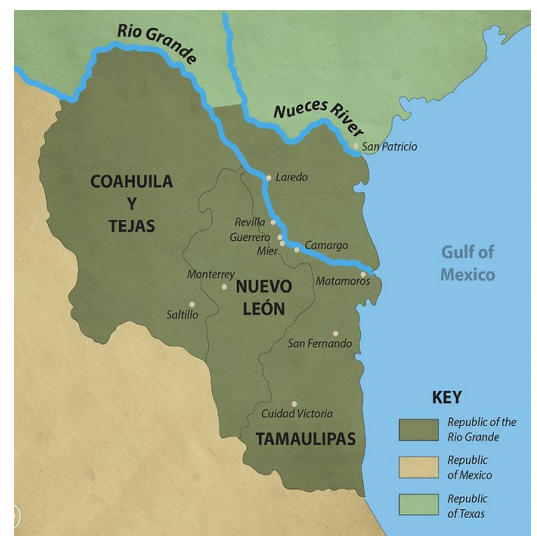
In these modern times, we celebrate the six flags of Texas. At various times, Texas has been (in part or whole) France, Spain, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, the Confederate States of America, and the United States of America. However, there are those who celebrate more than just six flags. Some add to the mix the solid green flag for the Republican Army of the North or the 3-starred, red white and black flag of the Republic of the Rio Grande. Of the latter two, the solid green flag is more well-known because of the Battle of Medina which still remains the bloodiest battle on Texas soil. However, the other flag is lesser-known, as is the country it represents, the Republic of the Rio Grande. Perhaps it is because the country was in existence for a mere 283 days.

The area of southern Texas/northern Mexico has a very contentious history. In only three years, this area experienced drastic changes. In 1819, the Adams-Onís Treaty established the boundary line between the U.S. and New Spain. A year later, in 1820, Moses Austin was granted permission from Spain to settle in the area. A year after that, in 1821, Mexico gained independence from Spain.

After a few years of disorder in the fledgling country, Ant nio Lopez de Santa Anna was elected President of Mexico in 1833. Two years later, he repealed the existing constitution and replaced it with one that was more centralist, giving him the powers of a dictator. There was immediate resistance to his actions.

That same year, political leaders from three Mexican states and the area north of the Rio Grande River and Nueces River, convened in Washington-on-the-Brazos to strategize how to oppose Santa Anna. It was a tumultuous time in Northern Mexico and the winds of revolution were blowing strongly. Santa Anna knew he had to act. He sent soldiers to Laredo to take command of the garrison there. He then led his army farther north to San Antonio and attacked the rebels in the Alamo mission. Ironically, during the 13-day siege of the Alamo, delegates meeting in Washington-on-the-Brazos signed the Texas Declaration of Independence. Shortly after signing it, the delegates hurriedly left town to avoid the advancing Mexican army. However, the following month, Texas gained its independence from Mexico in 1836 by defeating Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto.

One would think that peace and stability had finally arrived in the northern Mexico/southern Texas region. But one would be wrong to think that. In Laredo and the surrounding area, bordered on the north by the Republic of Texas and on the south by Mexico, there were those who didn't want to be governed by either of those two countries.



Texas claimed its southern border to be the Rio Grande River but Mexico claimed the border to be farther north at the Nueces River. In this disputed area was the city of Laredo. A city claimed by both countries but protected by neither of them.

In 1839, just three years after Texas independence, Mexican lawyer Antonio Canales made a proclamation that inspired others in the area. These citizens resented the centralist government of Santa Anna's Mexico as well as the lack of protection from the Republic of Texas against raids by Indians whose land was being taken. Canales has been described by historian Milton Lindheim as a lawyer by profession and a rebel leader by preference. Canales called a meeting of like-minded leaders to convene in Laredo where they discussed establishing a new country, separate from Texas and Mexico. Canales traveled throughout the area on both sides of the Rio Grande River trying to gain favor for his cause. He was successful in recruiting an army consisting of Mexicans, Texans, and Caddo Indians. His army and his treasury were small but, after defeating the Mexican army at Mier, many towns in the area supported his cause. This led to his army and treasury swelling as he saw an influx of cash, supplies and new recruits. At the battle of Mier, 350 Mexican soldiers defected and joined Canales' army.



Antonio Canales

The success Canales initially enjoyed was squandered by bad decisions and bad luck. His army had grown to a thousand men, but when he marched them to Matamoros and saw that the Mexican army had 1,500 troops there, he quickly withdrew his army and led them to Monterrey instead. Colonel Ross, a Texan serving under Canales, was outraged at the withdrawal and deserted, taking fifty Texans with him. In Monterrey, Canales had Colonel Zapata lure the Mexican army out of town, after which, Canales attacked and took the town. However, several Mexican spies were sent into town where they were able to bribe 700 of Canales' soldiers to defect. The next morning, a shocked Canales abandoned the fight and fled with the rest of his army for the safety of Mier.

While in Mier, Canales called for another meeting with delegates from Coahuila y Tejas, Nuevo León, and Tamaulipas. In January of 1840, one year from their initial meeting to discuss forming a new nation, they met at a ranch near Laredo where they formally declared their independence from Mexico and the creation of the Republic of the Rio Grande with Laredo as its capital. The name of this newly formed country came from the fact that a very long stretch of the Rio Grande River ran through it. A few months later, Canales was urged to retreat to Texas to recruit more men but he refused. In opposition to Canales' decision, 60 more men deserted his army. The Mexican army was now closing in on Laredo to squelch this rebellion. While Canales and his army stayed in Laredo to fight, his new republic's government officials, including the president, left their posts and fled to Victoria, Texas.

Canales' army was on the march and camped outside the town of Santa Rita de Morelos. Colonel Zapata took 30 men with him into town for supplies. The next morning, Zapata and his men found themselves surrounded by 200 Mexican soldiers, which quickly swelled to 2,000 men. Drastically outnumbered, Zapata surrendered and was executed. Canales made a feeble attempt to attack the Mexican army to no avail before retreating to the town of San Fernando

where he engaged the Mexican army again. He was severely defeated in that battle, losing nearly 250 of his 400-man army.

Canales was not ready to give up even though fortune was not in his favor. With his governmental body operating safely out of Victoria, he established an interim capital in Lake Esposito between Carrizo Springs and Crystal City before traveling into Texas seeking support of any kind. His trip was very successful in acquiring financial support. This allowed Canales to acquire more arms, ammunition, food and clothing. His men were jubilant and re-energized. His colonels were victorious against the Mexican army in retaking Laredo, Guerrero, Revilla, Mier, Camargo, and Ciudad Victoria. The irony is that some of his colonels secretly changed their allegiances to the Mexican army. This served to force the loyal colonels into hasty decisions. The final straw was when one of Canales' disloyal colonels caused a loyal colonel to make a misstep in diverting his troops from the town of San Luis Potosí to the town of Saltillo. At Saltillo, the loyal colonel and his men were attacked by the Mexican army. Though highly outnumbered by the Mexican army, the men fought valiantly and were able to escape and return to Texas. That defeat broke the spirit of Canales and his army.

On November 6, 1840, Canales formally surrendered at Camargo. As for the government officials of the short-lived republic who fled to Victoria, they went back to Laredo where they surrendered their three-starred flag to representatives of Santa Anna. The blaze of glory known as the Republic of the Rio Grande died out in a very eventful 283 days.



There is some debate as to what this new country's flag looked like. At right are two versions. Format A (top) is the design that was taken from a drawing by a spy in one of the republic's camps. It shows three stars on a field of blue with the stars representing the three Mexican states that seceded; Coahuila, Nuevo León, and Tamaulipas. The horizontal stripes, from top to bottom, are white, red, and black. Format B (bottom) shows three stars on a field of red, with the stars representing the three seceding states. It has two horizontal stripes with a white one on top and a black one below it. This format has also been represented with a blue bottom stripe as well as a green one. Each version has its supporters as to its historical accuracy. The Republic of the Rio Grande Museum uses Format B with a black stripe as shown while the City of Laredo's logo uses Format B but with a green bottom stripe. Whichever version was actually adopted, it wasn't used for very long.



Format A



Format B

References:

<https://www.republicoftheriogrande.org/>

<https://www.historynet.com/the-republic-of-the-rio-grande/>

<https://mexicounexplained.com/republic-rio-grande/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_the_Rio_Grande

Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez San Antonio Founding Chapter

General Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2025 - La Fonda Restaurant

Officers in Attendance: Joe González, Joe Weathersby, Charlie Carvajal

Members in Attendance: Alex Zamora, Melissa Zamora, Joe Perez, Vedia Weathersby, Robert Garcia, Stella Gonzalez, Diane Baird-Barger, Sharon Simonick, Robert Flores, Lucila Flores, Debbie Flores, Ricky Reyes, Cynthia Flores, Erika Haskins, Vicki Galván Hess, Ron Finch, Valerie Finch, Peggy Guerrero, Angie Aguirre, Lisa Santos, Jesse Guerra, Deborah Guerra, Sally Avila.

The meeting was called to order at 7pm by Governor Joe González. The invocation was given by Charlie Carvajal and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ricky Reyes.

Governor Joe González welcomed and recognized all guests.

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

Due to the absence of the Chapter Treasurer, the Governor then read the September Treasurer's Report. After all income and expenditures, the Chapter has a final total savings and checking balance of \$41,124.44. Total National Meeting expenditures will be paid from these funds. Vedia Weathersby moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, Alex Zamora seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Governor then read a list of all the September birthdays, followed by the singing of the traditional birthday song.

Old Business: The Governor reported that the Granaderos participation at the Battle of Medina Symposium was successful. Governor Joe González was a presenter, our chapter acquired 3 new members and made a profit on book sales.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Joe Perez shared that we have 101 members, which includes 33 Associate members and 3 Honorary members.

Visibility: Melissa Zamora asked members to contact Joe Weathersby about name tags, and to contact Valerie Finch about Dama capes.

Honor Guard: The group has several events scheduled and will be busy during all of San Antonio and the area's *America 250* celebrations.

National Meeting: Ron Finch reported 64 registrations. He asked members to contact Joe Perez for registration forms.

New Business:

Fiesta Medal: Joe Weathersby reported that the 2026 medal will feature a celebration of the cattle drive to Galvez' army.

Commemorative Golden Jubilee Lapel Pin: Ideas for the design have been submitted – the cost for the pins will be paid by the Granaderos National Office.

Announcements:

The speaker for our October meeting is SAR New Braunfels President Kris Krueger. Topic TBA. The Granaderos have been invited to present the colors at the Granado-Pacheco Family reunion on November 1 in Floresville.

Preparations for our participation in November's Veteran's Day Parade will begin soon.

The Bexar Heritage Center will hold an event September 12 at 10 am. Information is on their Facebook page.

Speakers for the Granaderos' National Meeting will include Dr. Francis Galán from Texas A&M SA and Dr. David Carlson. Dr. Thomas Chavez will speak on Saturday after lunch.

Presentation: Joe Weathersby presented an informative and engrossing speech on "Medicine in New Spain."

Before Adjournment, Archivist Stella Gonzalez passed out our children's Galvez Timeline to all members in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella González (subbing for Janie Rodriguez, Secretary)

GOLDEN JUBILEE

