



LA GRANADA



October 2026

Granaderos y Damas
de Gálvez



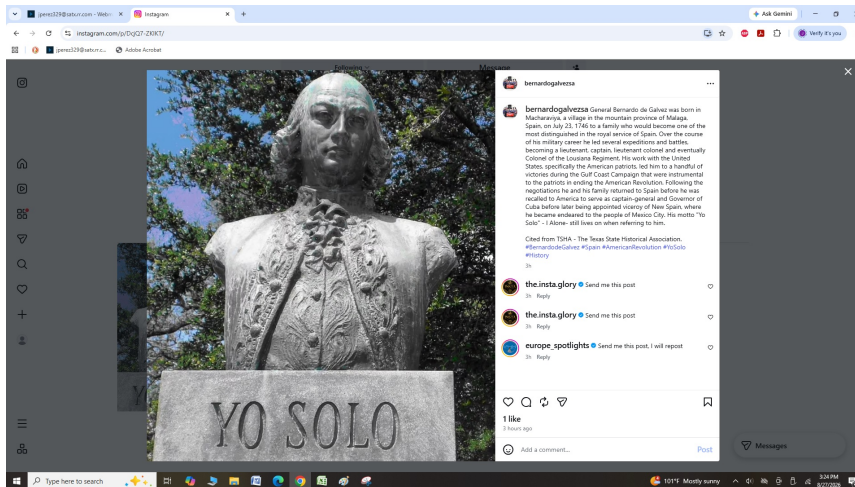
San Antonio
Founding Chapter

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editor: joe pérez

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Social Media Coordinator



Dama Briana Perez has been appointed as our chapter's Social Media Coordinator, and as such, will post information about our group and its mission on various social media platforms on a continuing basis.

Briana explains it this way; "As we celebrate 250 years of our country's history, it seems like the right time to move our

organization forward into the technological sphere that has become the norm for sharing and consuming information. In the coming months, we will be delving into social media applications Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube to continue educating the public about Spain's contributions to the American Revolution. Our goal is to engage the younger audiences in learning about this fascinating period of history." Very well said, Briana.

Shown above is the very first post Briana has placed on Instagram. You will notice some comments from other people but beware. Briana cautions us that, "Sometimes, comments on Instagram posts will simply say *Send this to me* or *Send me this post*, but these are common tactics used to phish information and steal accounts. The best thing to do when you see these types of comments is to ignore them and not engage with them so as to protect your own account and information."

Thank you, Briana, for agreeing to take on the duties of Social Media Coordinator.

IN THIS ISSUE:

	<u>PG.</u>
Social Media Coordinator	1
Meeting, Officers, Birthdays	2
González in Gonzales	3
Nominating Committee	3
Recent Articles on the Web	4
A Providential Stopover	
Gives Birth to a City	5-6
Minutes of September Mtg	7-8

Next Meeting

Wednesday, October 7

La Fonda Restaurant

8633 Crownhill Blvd

Dinner: 6:00 Meeting 7:00

Speaker:

Sarah Zenaida Gould, Ph.D.

Presentation:

**Preserving Our American Story:
Mexican American History, Civil
Rights, and the Work of MACRI**

Zoom Link to October Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86994638681?pwd=gal7UvBjaSSRCUiYWIfQjXinepEBDL.1>

Sarah Zenaida Gould, Ph.D., is Executive Director of the Mexican American Civil Rights Institute, an emerging national Mexican American civil rights history museum and archive, and one of only twelve Latino history museums in the United States. She received a BA in American Studies from Smith College and an MA and Ph.D. in American Culture from the University of Michigan.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Oct. 4

Linda Patterson

Oct. 7

Roland Cantu

Oct. 9

Georgeanne Brochstein
Joe Chidgey

Oct. 12

Lisa Santos

Oct. 13

Charlie Carvajal
Gloria Bustillo

Oct. 19

Alfredo Guillen

Oct. 21

Deanna Rodriguez

Oct. 23

Blanche De Leon
Richard Howell

Oct. 24

Joe Perez

Oct. 31

Janie Rodriguez

Governor

José (Joe) González

Deputy Governor

Joe Weathersby

Treasurer

Manny Rodriguez

Secretary

Janie Rodriguez

Chaplain

Charles Carvajal

Sergeant Major

Adam Dominguez

González in Gonzales

A new opportunity to participate in a DAR America 250 Patriot Marker Dedication found us educating the public about Spain's role in the American Revolution, this time at the Thomas Shelton Chapter's ceremony in Gonzales, TX on 19 September 2026. Our San Antonio Founding Chapter was represented by Gov. José L. González & Dama Stella González. The Houston Chapter was represented by Gov. Mary Anthony Startz, accompanied by her sister Dama Mary Ann "Molly" Fernández de Mesa. Gov. González delivered an abridged version of his regular presentation focusing on Spain's monetary & in-kind donations and Gen. Gálvez's military exploits &



successful eviction of the British from the Gulf Coast. The post-ceremony reception included many "I had no idea" comments and several "thank yous" for the work done by the entire Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez. An interesting side note: Chapter Regent Terri Quebedeaux's ancestor/patriot was a Louisiana civilian militiaman who fought under Gen. Gálvez, adding a relevant connection to our participation. ¡Viva

España! ¡Viva Gálvez!

Nominating Committee

A Nominating Committee has been assembled consisting of Governor Emeritus Joe Perez, Dama Edna Campos Gravenhorst and Dama Deborah Guerra. The committee will present its nominations for Governor and Deputy Governor at the October meeting. At the November meeting, the membership will vote on those nominated by the committee and any others who are nominated from the floor. Those voted in will begin their two-year terms on January 1, 2027.

As information, the positions of Governor (President) and Deputy Governor (Vice President) are the only positions voted on by the membership. All other officers are appointed by the Governor. As a friendly reminder, only Full Members may vote and hold office.

Recent Articles on the Internet

Juan de Miralles: Spain's Secret Representative

Miralles served as a Spanish secret agent to the Continental Congress and had a very special relationship with George Washington. Please see the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/americanbattlefieldtrust/posts/in-november-1777-jos%C3%A9-de-g%C3%A1lvez-the-spanish-minister-of-the-indies-appointed-jua/1492739632900756/>

A Fight On Lake Pontchartrain

Captain William Pickles captures a British ship on Lake Pontchartrain. See the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/LaStateMuseums/posts/while-g%C3%A1lvez-and-his-army-were-in-the-manchac-to-baton-rouge-corridor-another-fi/1545695694269884/>

Gálvez Built His Army Along the Way

Gálvez's army grew during his Gulf Coast Campaign. Please see the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/LaStateMuseums/posts/g%C3%A1lvez-did-not-leave-new-orleans-with-a-massive-invasion-force-he-built-one-alon/1539186961587424/>

Gálvez Mural

An artist from Málaga, Spain, painted a mural honoring Gálvez. It is a gift from Málaga to the city of Galveston. Please see the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/2050721465831041>

Multilingual Fighting Force

The commands in Gálvez's army were given in Spanish but the soldiers a variety of languages. Please see the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/LaStateMuseums/posts/this-was-not-an-army-drawn-from-one-country-culture-or-language-as-g%C3%A1lvez-moved-/1538457031660417/>

Queen Sofía Opened a Symposium in New Orleans

Spain's Queen Sofía inaugurated a symposium celebrating America's 250th Anniversary and Spain's involvement in the American Revolution. She was also honored for her philanthropic work. Please see the link below.

<https://www.democrata.es/en/politics/queen-sofia-opens-a-symposium-in-new-orleans-and-receives-a-tribute-for-her-philanthropic-work/>

A PROVIDENTIAL STOPOVER GIVES BIRTH TO A CITY

By José (Joe) L. González, AFSC, MEd

22 March 2018 ©

(Written during San Antonio's Tri-centennial Year)

Traveling to establish missions in East Texas, an expedition co-lead by Franciscan Fray Damián Massanet and Domingo Terán de Los Ríos, first governor general of Texas, set up camp on 13 June 1691 at a rancheria of friendly Payaya (Coahuiltecan) Indians who called their village and river Yanaguana. Fray Damián renamed the river Río de San Antonio in honor of San Antonio de Padua whose feast day was being celebrated by the Catholic Church on the very day of their arrival. The following morning Fray Damián celebrated Mass with all members of the expedition and Indians in attendance. Since Franciscan missionaries were required to document their travels, Fray Damián recorded all the activities, landmarks, peoples & wildlife encountered, as well as other factors which would serve as sources for future explorers, both military and religious. Thereafter, the expedition broke camp and continued eastward toward the missions & presidios to be established along the eastern-most border being threatened by suspected French incursions.

Who's who

Fray Damian Massanet



- * A Catholic church official
- * Convinced the viceory of New Spain to colonize East Texas and convert the Caddoes to Catholicism
- * Founder of the first Spanish mission in East Texas
 - * Mission San Francisco de los Tejas
 - * Due to a lack of interest by the Native Americans to convert to Catholicism and many dying from disease the mission was abandoned.
- * Helped colonize the "Land of the Tejas" along the Neches River
 - * Mission Santa Maria

For all intents and purposes, the area "discovered" by Fray Damián remained populated solely by "First Peoples" until 1709 when it was visited by Fray Antonio de San Buenaventura y Olivares, serving as chaplain to an expedition captained by Pedro de Aguirre. After this expedition, Fray Antonio returned to Spain where he tirelessly lobbied for renewed and expanded missionary activities in Tejas. By 1716, Fray Antonio

was back in Mexico with a stronger commitment to found a mission at the site he had visited by the San Antonio River seven years earlier. Believed to already be in his late 80s, but still very energetically stubborn and not afraid to make waves or ruffle feathers, Fray Antonio received approval from the Marques de Valero to remove and relocate the struggling mission at San Francisco Solano—in present-day Guerrero, Coahuila—to the San Antonio River area. Governor General of Coahuila y Tejas Martín de Alarcón was ordered to accompany Fray Antonio but much to the latter's dismay and frustration de Alarcón delayed the expedition's departure. Traveling with a smaller escort, Fray Antonio chose to depart without de Alarcón, reaching his planned destination on 01 May 1718 where he founded Misión San Antonio de Valero. As with the river nearby, it also would honor *San Antonio de Padua* (St. Anthony of Padua) one of the early Franciscans who worked with St. Francis of Assisi, the Founder of the Order. De Alarcón, who had arrived on the 25th of April, established the Presidio San Antonio de Béxar and its settlement (to be initially known as Villa de Béxar) on 05 May 1718.



Fray Antonio de San Buenaventura y Olivares

On 08 September 1720, Fray Antonio retired from missionary work, returning to Mexico at a very advanced age, in poor health, and recovering from a broken leg. It is believed he died at the age of 92 perhaps while living at the missionary *Colegio de la Santa Cruz de Querétaro* (at which he had held the position of guardian from 1706 to 1709).

During this year's Tricentennial Celebration it is my hope that more attention be given to those who initially established this area 300 years ago by bringing them to the forefront of Texas History, as they justly deserve. Frays Damián and Antonio, I personally thank you for being the tenacious visionaries you were and having the faith you had to grow the church in unknown lands. To close, at this point I believe a reprise of an earlier statement is quite appropriate: "If it weren't for the padres, none of what we have here would exist." (---Mr. Phil Rogers)



Sources: TSHA, UIW's Journal of Life and Culture of San Antonio, Federal Writers Project (1940) "Texas: A Guide to the Lone Star State," Blessed with Tourists: The Borderlands of Religion and Tourism in San Antonio (2003) "The Native Place of Yanaguana."

Editor's Note: This article appears in Governor González's excellent book "The Sons of St. Francis y Las Misiones Franciscanas en Nueva España, Stories of Lesser-Known Missions and Unheralded Men – Their Work, Sacrifices, and Accomplishments."

Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez San Antonio Founding Chapter

**Minutes for the meeting held
September 2, 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, Debbie Flores, Lucila Flores, Roberto Flores, Ron Finch, Valarie Finch, Edward Garcia, Robert Garcia, Stella González, Debra Guerra, Jesse Guerra, Lynda Guerrero, Peggy Guerrero, Margaret Licktieg, Col. Joe Milligan, David Peters, Julia Peters, Briana Perez, Liz Perez, Joe Perez, Ricky Reyes, Manny Rodriguez Jr., Vedia Weathersby.

Zoom Attendance:

Cindi Flores, J.D. Nahas, Sharon Simonick, Andrew Stevenson, 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 Briana Perez led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Governor then reminded all that the Minutes for the August meeting had been distributed by email and one correction needed to be made. Correction on page 2 for executive board meeting should have been July not June, Motion was made by Manny Rodriguez Sr. and seconded by Liz Perez. Motion passed.

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

The Savings Account Balance for the beginning of the month of August was \$18,997.75. The end of month total for savings was \$19,277.60. Included are 2 CD'S. A Scholarship CD for \$2,000.00 and a 2025 General Fund CD: \$1,000.00.

The checking account balance as of August 1, 2026, was \$10,798.36 and the end of month total was \$12,709.81. Please address any questions to Treasurer Manny Rodriguez or Governor Joe González.

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

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

Old Business:

Governor Joe González recapped past events for our chapter in August.

12 Aug. Military Order of the World Wars Event—the Plaque awarded to the chapter by the MOWW was displayed to our membership.

15 Aug. Battle of Medina Symposium

24 Aug. Zoom Presentation to West Waco Library & Genealogy Center

Committee Reports

Biennial Nominations Committee:

Past Governor Joe Perez explained that our bylaws state that ex-governors that are active members can serve on this committee. Since Joe Perez is the only one that meets these criteria, he nominated Debra Guerra and Edna Gravenhorst for this committee. Vote taken and motions carried.

Education:

Debbie Flores announced that emails were sent out and teacher packets will follow. We've had five (5) return contacts from interested schools.

Membership:

Joe Perez reported the membership to date is 100 including 13 members from RGV.

Visibility:

Joe Weathersby presented the new medal for 2027. The Gálvez family Coat of Arms will be on front with a short family history on the back.

Scholarship:

Liz Perez announced that all requirements for the 2027 scholarship have been submitted to the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation.

Soldados/Fife & Drum:

Governor Joe González announced the upcoming schedule.

05 October—Presentation at Henry Guerra Library Branch

24 October—America 250 Event at Goliad State Park; Details TBA

07 November—Veterans Day Parade

New Business:

Joe González presented the order estimate for the brooch order. The estimate was for \$750.60 for 50 Brooches. Manny Rodriguez Sr. was told by the seller that the magnet back for the brooch could not be sewn on the brooch and would not support the weight. Motion was made to accept the order by Janie Rodriguez and seconded by Joe Perez. Motion carried.

A significant donation received at Battle of Medina symposium will be used to purchase a new Chapter-owned laptop and camera for Zoom transmissions and speakers' presentations. Our present laptop is too old and not able to reliably perform both functions. We've been operating thus far thanks to the generosity of Ron and Valerie Finch. Motion was made to approve the purchase by Joe Weathersby and Seconded by Liz Perez. Motion carried.

Announcements:

Gov. González will speak at a DAR America 250 Patriot plaque dedication in Gonzales, TX on 19 September.

Speaker for October meeting is Dr. Sarah Zenaida Gould, Executive Director, Mexican American Civil Rights Institute.

Chapter's Christmas Party will be on 05 December at La Paloma on Broadway.
Details TBA

Program:

Clementina García is a native of Cotulla, Texas, and is currently the President of Los Bexareños Genealogical and Historical Society. She has a strong interest in ancestry and the history of Spanish, Mexican, and Tejano families who lived in present-day Texas. She generously shares her research skills to help others search through their genealogy.

After a short Q&A the meeting was adjourned at 8:27.

