



LA GRANADA



September 2025

**Granaderos y Damas
de Gálvez**



**San Antonio
Founding Chapter**

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www.granaderos.org

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editor: joe pérez

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Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez at the Battle of Medina Symposium

On Saturday, August 16th, we participated in the 2025 Battle of Medina Symposium in Leming, Texas. The event is sponsored annually by the Atascosa County & Medina County Historical Commissions. It was an excellent event with outstanding presenters, re-enactors, and vendors.

We sold several books and Governor Joe González gave an amazing presentation on Spain's participation in the American Revolution as well as information about our organization. The sale of books not only increased our treasury, it also served to spread the word about Spain in our country's War of Independence.



While there, we also gained two new members; Peggy Guerrero and Dr. Erika Haskins. We also arranged for a future speaker at a future monthly meeting.

At left, you will see a mannequin donning a Granadero uniform. This is the work of Granadero Jesse Guerra. It was a very popular display as several people took photos with it. He has affectionately been named Manny Quinn.

The event commemorates the deadliest battle ever fought on Texas soil, still to this day. Historians believe that over 1,000 men died either in the battle or later executed.

Thank you to all the Granaderos y Damas in attendance at the event.



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Next Meeting
Wednesday, September 3

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

Presenter:

Joe Weathersby
Deputy Gov. S.A. Chapter

Presentation:

Medicine in New Spain

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
September
Babies**

Sept. 1

Martin Vasquez

Sept. 6

Gustavo Hinojosa

Sept. 9

Dalyn Dominguez

Sept. 10

Freddie Bustillo

Sept. 23

Lucila Flores
Al Carr-Sosa

Sept. 25

Paula Owen

Sept. 27

Michael Boyd

Our Deputy Governor's presentation covers the medical practices, especially the surgical procedures on the battlefield, that were commonly used during the Spanish Colonial era at St. Augustine through the time of arrival of the Alamo company in San Antonio in the early 1800s.

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, **Peggy Huizar Guerrero** and **Dr. Erika Haskins**. 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!

Recent Articles on the Internet

Louisiana's Pivotal Role in our War of Independence

This article, from The American Press online magazine based in Lake Charles, Louisiana, tells of the role Louisiana played in the American Revolution. The link to the article is below.

<https://americanpress.com/2025/07/04/local-veteran-louisiana-played-pivotal-role-in-revolutionary-war/>

Remembering Hispanic Patriots on the 4th of July

This article is about a Tejano family in Galveston celebrating the 4th of July. The link to the article is below.

<https://dividedconquered.substack.com/p/the-hispanic-patriots>

Texas and the American Revolution Traveling Exhibit

This article has information on The American Revolution Experience Traveling Exhibit sponsored by the DAR and the American Battlefield Trust based in Coleman, Texas. The exhibit will travel across Texas for the next three years. The link to the article is below.

https://www.colemantoday.com/news/texas-and-the-american-revolution-experience-history-with-national-traveling-exhibit/article_e926b784-6851-43f8-a411-bd11a69bc256.html

More photos from the Battle of Medina Symposium



Pickles on the Pontchartrain

By Joe Pérez

The 1763 Treaty of Paris ended the French & Indian War and Spain lost Florida to the British. The French also lost Louisiana east of the Mississippi to the British, with the exception of New Orleans, which remained under Spain's control.

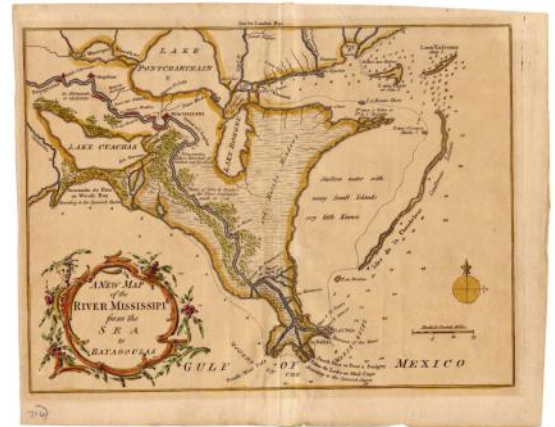
Seeing that the Florida territory was far too large to be governed by one office, the British separated the area into East Florida and West Florida with the Apalachicola River as the dividing line. The capital of East Florida was St. Augustine and the capital of West Florida was Pensacola.

Tensions were slowly increasing during the American Revolution between England and Spain. From the start of the revolution, Spain had been secretly funneling much needed supplies to the American colonists via the Mississippi River. The supplies were shipped from Spain by the firm Gardoqui & Sons. The shipments went fairly smooth since they sailed covertly under the neutral (at least publicly) Spanish flag up and down the Mississippi River. Louisiana Governor Bernardo de Gálvez, like his predecessor Luis Unzaga, collaborated with Irish businessman Oliver Pollock. In addition to being a successful merchant in New Orleans, Pollock was also an agent in the service of the Continental Congress.

There were three water barriers between Spanish New Orleans and British West Florida. These were Lake Borgne, Lake Maurepas, and the largest of the three, Lake Pontchartrain. This part of West Florida was adjacent to Spanish Louisiana and a long way from the British capital of Pensacola thereby making it vulnerable to attack from the Spanish. The British realized they needed to provide protection to this area, so they built forts to protect their land and sent ships to protect their waterways.

Lake Pontchartrain was important for trade, as well as smuggling, for both the English and the Spanish. There was one ship in particular that had been cruising Lake Pontchartrain since 1776. It was the British ship HMS West Florida, a brigantine with two masts and several cannons. The crew would stop any ship it wanted and conduct searches, including Spanish ships carrying supplies to and from New Orleans. The British would confiscate any goods it deemed as contraband. Brazen to the point of being insulting, the HMS West Florida would taunt the Spanish by cruising near the Spanish fort at Bayou St. John while proudly displaying the British flag.

In 1779, Spain declared war on England and Louisiana Governor Bernardo de Gálvez began his Gulf Coast Campaign. He captured nearby British forts at Manchac, Baton Rouge and Natchez, all in one month. Gálvez had kept Spain's declaration of war a secret until he was in sight of Fort Bute in Manchac. It was then that he announced to his troops that Spain was at war with England. It was part of the genius of Gálvez to not announce the declaration of war



until it would have the strongest impact. The timing bolstered the morale of the troops and they took the fort with much enthusiasm. The British troops at Fort Bute were at a disadvantage since they had not yet received word from Pensacola that they were at war with Spain.

With war formally declared, Spain could fight the British outright on the side of the Americans without having to be discreet. Gálvez was taking care of the land battles but nearby Lake Pontchartrain was being handled by William Pickles, an officer in the Continental Navy. His ship was named The Morris, in honor of Robert Morris, known as the financier of the American Revolution. The task for Pickles was to take the HMS West Florida, which had been a menace to the Americans and Spanish on Lake Pontchartrain for a few years. However, the British ship was larger and better equipped than the Morris, which Pickles captained. The American would need to devise a plan to somehow give himself the advantage. He did so with a clever plan of deception.

On September 10, 1779, Captain Pickles deceptively flew the British flag on his small ship and maneuvered it next to the larger HMS West Florida. Pickles lied and said he was carrying supplies to Manchac. Suddenly and without warning, Pickles had his British flag lowered and the American flag raised. The British were shocked. At the same time, Pickles had some of his crew let loose a volley of musket fire at the West Florida while others threw grappling hooks on the British ship to pull it closer. Pickles' men then leapt onto the West Florida, much to the surprise of the British crew, who had removed their anti-boarding barricades just the day before. Two boarding attempts failed but Pickles' men kept trying and gained access to the ship on the third try. The battle was brief, lasting only about twenty minutes, but was later described by Pickles as very violent. Pickles lost more men than the enemy but managed to seize the British ship under capture, thus winning the battle. The British captain was also killed in the battle.



Pickles had taken control of Lake Pontchartrain, which cut an important British supply line as well as a quick communication line. His victory was surprising since Pickles was outmanned and outgunned. He won through cleverness and bravery and the battle is known as another naval victory against the British during the American Revolution.

References:

Wiese, Jason, 64 Parishes online magazine, *Battle of Lake Pontchartrain*, published January 26, 2024, accessed August 8, 2025

Caughey, John Walton, *Bernardo de Gálvez in Louisiana 1776-1783*, Pelican Publishing Company, 1991

Thompson, Buchanan Parker, *Spain: Forgotten Ally of the American Revolution*, Christopher Publishing House, 1976

Saravia, Gonzálo M. Quintero, *Bernardo de Gálvez: Spanish Hero of the American Revolution*, University of North Carolina Press, 2018

Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez

Minutes for the meeting held August 6, 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, Chaplain Charlie Carvajal.

Attendance: Sally Avila, Debbie Flores, Lucila Flores, Robert Flores, Robert Garcia, Stella González, Jesse Guerra, Edna Gravenhorst, Carol Hawkins, Nancy Lara, Art Martinez de Vara, Clint McKenzie, Joe Perez, Ricky Reyes, Sylvia Reyna, Vedia 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 Charlie Chaplain and Stella González led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Governor Joe González recognized this evening's guests as Sylvia Reyna. Welcome!

Treasurer Manny Rodriguez gave a report for the month of June 2025 The Savings Account Balance for the beginning of the month of June was \$16,332.19. The end of month total for June in savings was \$18,336.22. 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 June 1, 2025 was \$14,105.78 and the end of month total was \$16,371.48. The Savings Account Balance for the beginning of the month of July was \$18,336.22. Included are 2 CD'S. A Scholarship CD at \$2,000.00 and a 2025 National Meeting CD: \$1,000.00. The end of month total for July in savings was \$16,535.39. The checking account balance as of July 1, 2025 was \$16,371.48 and the end of month total was \$18,092.48. 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 Alex Zamora, Motion carried.

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

Old business: The 4th of July ceremony was a huge success as well as the July 12 Wilson County Historical Commission event that was attended by Governor Joe González, Joe Perez, Ron Finch and Alex Zamora as well as several Damas. It was also reported that all paperwork for our 501 c 3 was completed, submitted and finalized.

Committee Reports Membership: Joe Perez reported the membership to date is 96.

Nat'l Meeting: Edna and Nancy are working on swag bags. Items have been donated.

Governor Joe will be sending out reminder emails to chapter governors. Transportation is being looked into.

Visibility: Joe Weathersby reported that the new design for the 2026 medal has been submitted.

Melissa Zamora is looking into pull up signs, as well as caps and hats.

Scholarships: Governor Joe will get with the scholarship committee to redesign the scholarship requirements for high school seniors.

New Business: Robert Garcia filed for a \$2,500.00 grant through Bexar County Commissioners Court and it has been awarded. Thank you Robert!

Announcements: Governor Joe González will be a presenter at the Battle of Medina symposium on August 16. The speaker for September will be Joe Weathersby. His presentation will be Medicine & Health Practices of the 18th & 19th centuries.

Program: Mr. Art Martinez de Vara is an attorney, author, and civic leader. He is a three-time winner of the Presidio La Bahia Award and three-time Grand Prize winner of the Texas State Genealogical Society's Book Award as well as Mayor of Von Ormy, Texas.

After a short Q&A the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 by Governor Joe González.

REMINDER

The window is closing to register for the Annual Meeting, November 14- 16, celebrating the 50th Anniversary (Golden Jubilee) of the Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez. The registration fee is \$25 if you register by September 1. After that, the registration fee goes to \$75. Don't forget to get your registrations in no later than September 1.

Polo Shirts Are Available on our Website

The beautiful Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez polo shirts are available through our chapter's website. They come in various sizes. You can get one in men's cut or women's cut in either red or white.

Now, it is even easier to order your shirt online. The shirts are typically \$37 each but prices can vary according to size. Not only will you look good in these shirts, but our chapter receives \$5 for each one sold. Simply visit our website at www.granaderos.org and, under the About Us tab, order yours today. A big Thank You goes out to Dama Melissa Zamora for designing the shirts and to Granadero Roland Cantu for making them available on our website.

