



LA GRANADA



September 2026

Granaderos y Damas
de Gálvez



San Antonio
Founding Chapter

.....

editor: joe pérez

.....

Battle of Medina Symposium

On Saturday, August 15th, we staffed a table for book sales at the Battle of Medina Symposium in Leming, TX. It was another great day for book sales, speaking with people about our group, as well as excellent speakers in the auditorium. Staffing our table were Governor Joe González, Treasurer Manny Rodriguez, Secretary Janie Rodriguez, Granadero Jesse Guerra, and Governor Emeritus Joe Pérez.



Military Order of World Wars

On Wednesday, August 12th, we served as the Color Guard for the 2026 National Convention of the Military Order of the World Wars. We were a big hit and are still receiving compliments. Thanks go out to Governor Joe González, Stella González, Adam Dominguez, Joe Weathersby, Joe Pérez, Jesse Guerra, Louisette Zurita, and Alex Zamora.



IN THIS ISSUE:

	<u>PG.</u>
Battle of Medina Symposium	1
Military Order of World Wars	1
Meeting, Officers, Birthdays	2
New Member Lynda Guerrero	3
Passing of J.J. Zavala	3
Historical Comm. Symposium	3
Nominating Committee	3
Mark Your Calendar	4
Recent Articles on the Web	4
Spanish TX Exhibit in Houston	5
3 Forts in 1 Month	6
Minutes of August Mtg	7-8

Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 2

La Fonda Restaurant

8633 Crownhill Blvd

Dinner: 6:00 Meeting 7:00

Speaker:

Clementina García

Presentation:

Texas Roots in Mexican Records

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.

Zoom Link to September Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89133511496?pwd=9ahk33YDOqG9LUePBCsuzej1l2amSP.1>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Sept. 1

Martin Vasquez

Sept. 6

Gustavo Hinojosa

Sept. 8

Stephanie Garcia, M.D.

Michael Zink

Sept. 9

Dalyn Dominguez

Sept. 10

Freddie Bustillo

Sept. 12

Edward Rizk

Sept. 14

Cheyenne Zink

Sept. 23

Lucila Flores

Al Carr-Sosa

Sept. 25

Paula Owen

Sept. 26

Terri Chidgey

Sept. 27

Michael Boyd

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 two newest members, **Lynda Guerrero** and **Margaret Lickteig**. We thank you both 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, especially the heroic efforts of General Bernardo de Gálvez. **Welcome Damas Lynda and Margaret!**

Passing of Granadero J.J. Zavala

We mourn the loss of Granadero Joe Jesse (J.J.) Zavala, who passed on July 30th. J.J. had been a Granadero for several years and participated in many parades and color guards.

He was a San Antonio police officer for 38 years. He also served his country in both, the U.S Air Force Reserves and the U.S. Army Reserves, retiring as a Master Sergeant. He was also a long-time member of the Canary Islands Descendants Association. May J.J. rest in peace.



Historical Commission Symposium



On July 21st, Granadero Joe Pérez, gave a presentation at the *Tri-County Historical Commission Symposium Part 2*. This symposium was brought about through the combined efforts of Anthony Delgado (*Wilson County Historical Commission Chair*), Belinda Mora Gavallos (*Béxar County Historical Commission Chair*), and Martin Gonzáles (*Atascosa County Historical Commission Chair*) and they did a wonderful job. Thanks also go out to those at the Béxar Heritage Center: Mari Tamez, Rebecca Gonzales, and Ryan Martinez for hosting the event. Joe Pérez's presentation, *Spain's Hidden Hand: Spanish Texas and the American Revolution* was very well received.

Nominating Committee

A Nominating Committee will be assembled and its members must be voted in by Full Members who are present at our September meeting. The committee will meet and decide on its nominations for Governor and Deputy Governor, then present its nominations at the October meeting. At our November meeting, attendees will vote on the nominations as well as any nominations from the floor. Only Full Members are eligible to hold an officer position.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

September 2, October 7, November 4

Regular monthly meetings, 1st Wednesday of each month, except July & December

October 5

Living history presentation at Henry Guerra Library, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

October 24

America 250 Event in Goliad, TX

November 7

U.S. Military Veterans Parade

December 5

Christmas Party, La Paloma Blanca Restaurant, Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Recent Articles on the Internet

A Spanish Chapter in the American Revolution

This article, from the Rio Grande Guardian reflects upon our War of Independence with an eye on Spain's involvement. Please see the link below.

<https://riograndeguardian.com/stories/a-spanish-chapter-in-the-american-revolution,76809>

The Forgotten Cuban Role in America's Independence

This article, from the Heritage Foundation shines a light on how Cuba assisted in the American Revolution. Please see the link below.

<https://www.heritage.org/american-history/commentary/the-forgotten-cuban-role-americas-independence>

Spanish Texas

During the

American

Revolution:

Life and Legacy,

1775-1783

The Mexican American Museum of Texas has launched its newest traveling exhibit, *Spanish Texas during the American Revolution: Life and Legacy, 1775-1783*, produced in collaboration with author and historian Dr. Tim Seiter. The exhibition is now on display at The Heritage Society at Sam Houston Park in Houston TX from 8/4/2026 through 1/30/2027.

Experience the American Revolution from the perspective of Spanish Texas. Through bilingual interpretive panels, artifacts, historic clothing, immersive displays, and family stories, visitors discover the people, cultures, and events that helped shape Texas and the founding of the United States.

Created by master piñata artist Alfonso Hernandez, "The Piñata Man," Don Fernando is the exhibition's signature feature. Inspired by the Corriente cattle introduced by Spanish colonists to Texas, he welcomes visitors and celebrates the enduring ranching traditions of Spanish Texas.

Walk among life-size historic figures, period clothing, artifacts, maps, and interactive displays that bring eighteenth-century Spanish Texas to life for visitors of all ages.

THE HERITAGE SOCIETY AT SAM HOUSTON PARK

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE EXHIBIT GRAND OPENING OF

SPANISH TEXAS

DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION:
LIFE AND LEGACY, 1775-1783

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2026
6 P.M.
1100 BAGBY STREET, HOUSTON

GUEST SPEAKERS:

- The Mexican American Museum of Texas
- Dr. Tim Seiter, Texas Historian and Author

DOCENT-LED EXPERIENCE WITH SPANISH FLAIR

Free for Members; \$15 for non-members

Tickets:



This speakers' engagement was made possible by Houston City Council Member Twila Carter and Humanities Texas. Special thank you to Valerie Vann and to Jill and Jerry Brooks for light bites and refreshments.



3 Forts in 1 Month

By Joe Pérez

When Spain's King Carlos III declared war on England, it gave Bernardo de Gálvez the green light to initiate his Gulf Coast Campaign, with the purpose of removing the British completely from the Gulf of Mexico. His ultimate goal was to take Pensacola, the capital of British Florida. He didn't want to leave New Orleans, the capital of Spanish Louisiana, vulnerable to nearby British forts so he planned to take the forts nearby first.

His first target was the nearest outpost, Fort Bute in Manchac. Gálvez left some militia-men behind to protect New Orleans. He marched his troops nearly 80 miles in eleven days. Recruiting men along the way, he arrived at Manchac with 1,427 men. On September 7th, Gálvez took the small British fort with little resistance. This was a result of the British sending troops to Baton Rouge since Manchac could not easily be defended well anyway. The British lost one soldier in the battle while the Spanish lost none.



After resting a few days, Gálvez marched his troops to the fort at Baton Rouge. It had high walls and was surrounded by a ditch that was nine feet deep and eighteen feet wide. The British commander, Colonel Dickson, felt assured that his eighteen cannons and six hundred troops would repel the Spanish attack but he never had such a brilliant adversary like Gálvez.

In a cunning move, Gálvez sent several troops into a nearby grove to chop down trees, make as much noise as possible, and fire on the fort intermittently. Colonel Dickson then moved his cannons on that side of the fort and bombed the grove the entire night to prevent the Spanish from establishing a stronghold. At sunrise, Dickson could see he'd been outsmarted by Gálvez. While he was bombing the grove, Gálvez established cannon placements on the opposite side of the fort, well within range for his artillery. Gálvez fired upon the fort in a relentless barrage. Colonel Dickson had no choice but to raise the white flag of surrender. In the terms of capitulation, Gálvez demanded the British also surrender Fort Panmure in Natchez. The British colonel was in no position to negotiate and agreed to the terms.

In only one month, September 1779, Gálvez captured three British forts. This was done while the American Revolution was in full force. It secured the lower Mississippi River for the Spanish and prevented British soldiers from being deployed north to fight against the troops of George Washington. Yet, this was just the beginning of Gálvez's Gulf Coast Campaign.

Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez

San Antonio Founding Chapter

Minutes for the meeting held
August 5, 2026 at La Fonda Restaurant
By Secretary Janie Rodriguez

Officers in Attendance:

Governor Joe González, Deputy Governor Joe Weathersby, Treasurer Manny Rodriguez, Secretary Janie Rodriguez, and Chaplain Charles Carvajal

Attendance:

Sally Avila, Diane Baird-Barger, Debbie Flores, Lucila Flores, Roberto Flores, Robert Garcia, Stella González, Edna Gravenhorst, Lynda Guerrero, Peggy Guerrero, Jose Hernandez, Allison Jones, Nathan Jones, Ana Lima, Joe Perez, Ricky Reyes, Sharon Simonick, Alex Zamora, Melissa Zamora.

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 p.m. by Governor Joe González. The Invocation was given by Chaplain Charles Carvajal, and Sharon Simonick led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Gov. González requested a moment of silence in memory of long-time Granadero J.J. Zavala who passed away on 30 July 2026. Gov. González and Gov. Emeritus Joe Perez will be attending J.J.'s committal service at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery next week.

The Governor then reminded all that the minutes for the June meeting had been distributed by email and asked if there were any corrections or changes. A motion was made by Joe Weathersby and seconded by Stella González. The motion passed.

Treasurer Manny Rodriguez gave a report for the months of June & July 2026. The Savings Account Balance for the beginning of the month of June was \$18,988.23. The end of month total for savings was \$18,992.91. Savings Account Balance for the beginning of the month of July was \$18,992.91. The end of month total for savings was \$18,997.75. 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, 2026 was \$11,934.14 and the end of month total was \$11,157.91. The checking account balance as of July 1, 2026 was \$11,157.91 and the end of month total was \$10,798.36.

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 Ricky Reyes. The motion carried.

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

Old Business:

Governor Joe González presented all upcoming events for our chapter.

Committee Reports

Membership:

Joe Perez reported the membership to date is 111 including 13 members from RGV.

Adhoc:

Joe Perez and our webmaster, Roland Cantu, are reconstructing our web page. This is an ongoing process.

Education:

Debbie Flores announced that 30 letters were sent out to area schools for presentations, and we have received one response.

Scholarship:

The executive board met via zoom on June 21, 2026, and voted to allow the Minnie Piper Stevens Foundation to represent our chapter's scholarship effort. Committee Chair Elizabeth Perez will forward our requirements to MPSF for distribution.

Visibility:

Joe Weathersby presented the new medal for 2027. The recommendation was to have the Galvez family coat of arms on the front with a short family history on the back. This will be around the \$500.00 mark so a motion to approve was made by Joe González, seconded by Ricky Reyes, and the motion carried.

New Business:

Joe González presented an estimate for the brooch order. The estimate was for \$750.60 for 50 Brooches. It was recommended that they be made with a magnet clasp instead of the pin clasp. This vote was tabled until this is looked into by Manny Rodriguez.

Announcements:

The Battle of Medina Symposium is on 15 August in Atascosa County Gov. will be speaking via Zoom to the West Waco Library and Genealogy Center on Monday 24 August. Topic Bernardo de Gálvez and Spain's Role in the American Revolution—What You Were Never Taught in School.

The speaker for the September meeting is Clementina Garcia, current President of Los Bédareños Genealogical Historical Society.

Program:

Our Guest Speaker, Nathan Jones, is the Director of Curation at the Alamo. He helps share the full 300-year history of the Alamo collections through exhibitions and interpretation.

After a short Q&A the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.