



LA GRANADA



The Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez – Founding Chapter

DECEMBER 2015

www.granaderos.org

SAN ANTONIO, TX



2015 U.S. Military Veterans Parade



With only six members in the U.S. Military Veterans Parade, we looked and sounded like a much larger group. Governor Joe Perez led the way with Continental Marine Bill Bowlin carrying the U.S. flag and Granadero Roland Salazar carrying the Burgundian Cross flag. Drum Major Ricardo Rodriguez gave his commands to lead drummers Jesse Benavides and Urban Urbano whose pounding drums announced our presence far in advance of our appearance to the audience along the parade route. It was great to do our part to recognize veterans for their service. We even ran into Drummer Gerard Cortese and Fifer Kate Bolcar who were there with the 323d U.S. Army Band.

San Antonio Heritage Tours



Drummer Urban Urbano and Granaderos Jesse Guerra and Joe Perez spent the morning of Veterans Day at the Spanish Governor's Palace giving presentations to busloads of school children as part of the Heritage Tours sponsored by the San Antonio Conservation Society. We ran into Soldado de Cuera Gus Martinez and together we provided living history demonstrations and answered several questions from students who came in two busloads as part of the Heritage Tours.



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Granaderos y Damas
de Gálvez
San Antonio Chapter**

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**Happy Birthday
December Babies**

Dec 12 ----- Robert Thonhoff
Dec 16 ----- Lynda Normand
Dec 19 ----- Frank Galindo
Dec 20 ----- Robert O'Bryan
Dec 29 ----- Elizabeth Salinas
Dec 29 ----- Jesse Benavides

Next Meeting

Saturday, Dec 5

Sonia's Restaurante Mexicano

10447 Nacogdoches Rd

5:00 to 7:00

**We will have a brief
Regular Meeting
then Our
Christmas Party!**

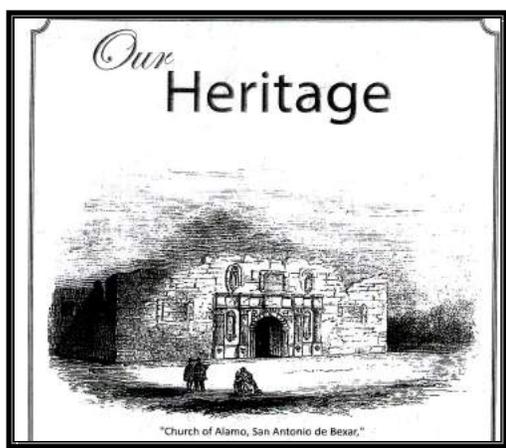
Dues Reminder

This is a friendly reminder that our membership dues are currently due and delinquent after December. Your membership dues allow our organization to continue functioning. Your dues allow us to have monthly meetings with interesting and dynamic presentations, participate in several events throughout the year such as having a display booth at history fairs and paying entry fees so we can march in parades. Your dues also help us sponsor projects such as placing a full-color plaque on a pedestal at the Gálvez statue in New Orleans, establish a fife & drum corps at a local middle school, conduct historical and patriotic events and other activities that fulfill our mission of educating the public about Bernardo de Gálvez and Spain's contributions to the American Revolution.

Dues of \$30 per person may be sent to Elizabeth Perez, 2714 Lovelace Blvd, San Antonio TX 78217 with checks made payable to Granaderos de Gálvez. Thank you!

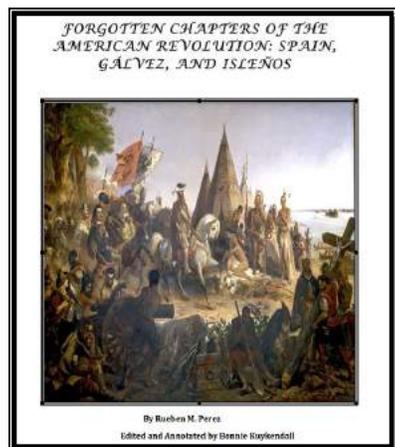
...and the **WINNERS** are...

On October 31st, Halloween night, two of our own members, Dama Dorothy M. Perez and Granadero Rueben M. Perez were treated at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Austin, Texas.



Both were honored with **First Place** in the 2015 Manuscript Division during the Award Banquet held by the Texas State Genealogical Society. Dorothy and Rueben's manuscript ***LEST WE FORGET: Juana Navarro Veramendi Peres Alsbury and the Women Of the Alamo*** was submitted and published in Our Heritage, by the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society for the Spring-Summer, 2015 edition.

**Granadero Rueben Perez takes top honors.
First Place**



The Texas State Genealogical Society awarded Rueben M. Perez **First Place** for his award-winning book entitled ***Forgotten Chapters of the American Revolution: Spain, Gálvez, and Isleños*** in the 2015 Reference Book division.

This is Rueben's fourth award from the Texas State Genealogical Society with three first place awards and one-third place award.

Rueben has been a contributing writer for many articles appearing in *La Granada*, the official newsletter of the Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez.

Congratulations to Dama Dorothy Perez and Granadero Rueben Perez!

Welcome New Member

~ Jimmy Peet ~



Anyone who spends time with Jimmy Peet quickly learns that he is very passionate about his family, which includes three grown children and his Bride of 33 years, his vocation, which is as a Financial Adviser for his own Advisory, ETF Strategies, LLC, and about Texas History. He is a direct descendant of two of the Canary Islander settlers, who arrived in San Antonio in March of 1731, Curbelo and Delgado, numerous Alcaldes, or Mayors, of San Antonio who served between 1731 and 1836, a survivor of the battle of the Alamo, John W. Smith, who went on to become the first mayor of San Antonio after the Battle of San Jacinto, two Empresario's, Felipe Roche de la Portilla and James Power, who was also a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence , and Col. John Jacob Myers, who was the first to drive cattle north from Lockhart , TX to Abilene, Kansas after the Civil War

One of the most exciting discoveries for Jimmy of late is the role that the grandson of Juan Curbello, Don Jose Antonio Curbello played during the American Revolution. In 1781, Don Jose was the Lt. Governor of the Province of Texas. He asked for and received permission to export cattle to the east in order to feed the Spanish army serving in Louisiana and beyond. Records show that he shipped 1,069 head of cattle which were gathered from the surrounding ranches of the Canary Islanders in San Antonio.

Jimmy's primary interest when he is not helping people grow and protect their wealth is to tell the truth about Texas History and bring it alive through public speaking and social media. Research and discovery are what drives him. We are all connected in one way or another. By peering into the past, we are able to discover what connects us all.

Welcome to the group, Jimmy!



Imagine Gálvez Singing

(From the Houston Chapter Newsletter)

Marec Bela Steffens gives an update on the Gálvez opera project "Imagine Gálvez Singing".

Imagine, on stage, Bernardo de Gálvez singing 'Yo solo' as an opera aria. Imagine his wife Felicité at his side, busying herself with his uniform, button by button by button. Imagine yourself sitting in the audience. Imagine the pride of having contributed to this dream becoming true. We are not quite there yet. Most notably, we do not have a composer yet, nor do we have the funds. We have started reaching out and buttonholing potential stakeholders in Houston and beyond.

There is an international association called Clan Pollock whose members cherish their ancestor Oliver Pollock, the friend of three Spanish governors of Louisiana and close collaborator of Gálvez. I wrote a piece for their newsletter on our opera project. Several of you have experienced that my libretto draft has a strong impact on the people who hear it.

At the Annual Meeting in Washington DC, you should have seen those Granaderos y Damas from the other chapters, many of them in uniform or in period costume. I was sitting with them at a table, began reading my libretto, and they started identifying themselves with the characters of the Gálvez opera, gesturing and mimicking every time when I read 'their' part! They were completely immersed.

We have plenty of good ideas. One is: Let us have a showcase presentation of 1-3 scenes with singers and piano or harpsichord, plus the remainder of the libretto read in parts and in costumes, at our next annual meeting! Now is the time to turn our ideas into actions. We need to bring the horsepower to the road, or rather, our ships into the bay! Imagine Gálvez singing.

Marec's contact: maerchenkater@web.de

Bernardo de Gálvez in Statues

By Joe Perez

Although not common knowledge, awareness of Bernardo de Gálvez and his role in the American Revolution is increasing. Let us take a look at some of the ways he has been recognized in the past as well as in upcoming ways, in the form of statues. What better place to start than in the Spanish town of Macharaviaya, the birth-place of Bernardo de Gálvez. Proud of their native son, the citizens of Macharaviaya erected a statue of Gálvez in a prominent location. Standing proudly with papers in hand, Bernardo overlooks the town



Bernardo de Gálvez statue in the city of Macharaviaya

hall. Behind him is the beautiful rolling countryside surrounding Macharaviaya. When entering the town, you will see a shrine to the Gálvez family and nearby is a Gálvez museum. Ironically, there are more statues of Bernardo de Gálvez in the United States of America than there are of him in Spain.

The second statue of Gálvez that we will look at is in the U.S. city where one of his most famous battles took place. In Mobile, Alabama, you will find a beautiful park called Spanish Plaza which honors the Spanish heritage of the city. One of the statues in the park is of Bernardo de Gálvez, in a regal pose, created by artist Vicente Rodilla Zanón. At right is the full frontal view of the statue with a bronze plaque on its base. One of the



interesting things about this statue is it was the inspiration for the only U.S. postage stamp of Gálvez; a 15-cent First Class stamp issued in 1980 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Mobile. In that battle, Gálvez defeated the British and captured Fort



Charlotte. Let us take a closer look at this statue from the left side, showing Galvez' hand on his sword. From this angle, one can see that it was the inspiration for the postage stamp design. The artist for the stamp drew an image of the statue, painted in colors and made the Burgundian Cross flag in the background more prominent.

Now, let us take a look at two statues of Gálvez that are in the same mold but stand in two separate cities; one in Washington, D.C. and one in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Gálvez statue in Washington, D.C. stands in a park at the corner of Virginia Avenue and 22nd Street NW, near the State Department. It is a bronze equestrian statue created by artist Juan de Avalos and presented as a bicentennial gift to the United States from King Juan Carlos of Spain. The inscription on

the front of the base reads, "*Bernardo de Gálvez (Count de Galvez) 1746 – 1786*". The inscription on one side of the statue reads,



"Bernardo de Gálvez the great Spanish soldier carried out a courageous campaign in lands bordering the lower Mississippi. This masterpiece of military strategy

lightened the pressure of the English in the war against the American settlers who were fighting for their independence. May the statue of Bernardo de Gálvez serve as a reminder that Spain offered the blood of her soldiers for the cause of American independence." That is followed by a smaller inscription that reads "*Excerpts from a speech given on this location on June 3, 1976 by His Majesty Don Juan Carlos I, King of Spain.*"

A year later, in 1977, another statue of Gálvez in the same mold was dedicated. It stands in the shadows of the World Trade Center in New Orleans, Louisiana. The original plaque reads, "*The Government of Spain donates this statue to the City of New Orleans to commemorate the bi-centennial year of the independence of the United States to which the Spanish Governor so decisively contributed.*" Our organization financed and dedicated a new full color plaque at the statue in 2012.



The Bernardo de Gálvez Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution in Galveston,



Texas is currently raising funds to erect a statue of Gálvez in Menard Park on the seawall. Shown at left is a rendering by commissioned artist Eric Kaposta who will sculpt

the statue in bronze. It is hoped the statue may be in place in late 2016. One can visit the website galvezstatue.org to make a donation.

In the city of another of Gálvez' battles, another statue will be erected. The Pensacola Heritage Foundation is commissioning an equestrian statue of Gálvez near the site of the fateful artillery explosion that led to Gálvez' capture of Ft.



George. The Foundation is hoping to have the bronze statue built within the next two years.

Artist Salvador Amaya has recently finished working on a statue of Gálvez. Amaya, who lives in Madrid, Spain, carved the statue in wood and that will be used as the mold for the bronze casting. The statue is one meter tall; a little over three feet. It is a beautiful carving of Gálvez standing with intricate detail of the military officer's braiding on his coat and vest. To the left is the artist at work.



Bernardo de Gálvez deserves to be recognized for his invaluable contributions to our country's independence. The National Park Service for Fort Matanzas in Florida (about 15 miles south of St. Augustine) states succinctly on its website;

"The place of Don Bernardo de Gálvez in American history rests not only on his military conquests but on the man himself—what we might call his style. There was something quintessentially American about him. The emergence of such a man from Spain's rigid empire stirs thoughts about such personal elements as chance, destiny, and luck. Unquestionably, Bernardo de Gálvez was the right man in the right place at the right time—for the United States of America."



Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez

Christmas Party



Our December meeting is also our Christmas Party!
Bring a new toy to be donated by the group to The Children's Shelter.
We will also be celebrating our group's 40th Anniversary.

Saturday, December 5
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
SONIA'S
Restaurante Mexicano
10447 Nacogdoches Rd
(Across from Lady Bird Johnson Park)

Dinner will be a buffet style
Mexican food variety of
Carne Guisada
Tamales
Rice
Beans
Iced Tea
Buñuelos

Please let us know the names of those in your party (for the name tags).

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Number of people = _____ x \$20/person = \$_____ Total

Please make checks payable to Granaderos de Gálvez and mail to:
Elizabeth Perez, Treasurer, 2714 Lovelace Blvd, San Antonio TX 78217

Everyone gets a free ticket for a raffle of gorgeous designer Christmas ornaments.

***Don't forget to bring a new toy to donate to The Children's Shelter on behalf of the
Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez San Antonio Chapter.
(The toy should be new but not giftwrapped so they can see what the toy is.)***

Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez

Minutes for the meeting held November 4, 2015 at the Royal Inn Oriental Cuisine Restaurant

Submitted by Joe Perez

Attendance:

Reyna Araiza, Abel Araiza, Eileen Barrientos, Henry DeLeon, Sylvia Escamilla, Joel Escamilla, Carlos Garza, Priscilla Hancock, Bob Hancock, Belinda Mercado, Steven Mercado, Jimmy Peet, Rueben Perez, Joe Perez, Susan Thonhoff Rodriguez, Rudy Rodriguez, Victoria Thonhoff, Robert Thonhoff, Richard Whynot

- The meeting commenced at 7:30 p.m.
- Priscilla Hancock gave the Invocation and Richard Whynot led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Governor Joe Perez welcomed guest Rudy Rodriguez and asked Joel Escamilla to introduce his guests. Joel introduced his daughter Belinda Mercado and her husband Dr. Steven Mercado.
- Joe Perez introduced our guest speaker, Judge Robert Thonhoff, who gave a very interesting presentation on the bicentennial of the death of Bernardo de Gálvez. He took us back in time on a trip our group made to Mexico City in 1986 to place a plaque at the crypt of Bernardo de Gálvez in the Church of San Fernando. The plaque celebrates the bicentennial of Bernardo's death. The presentation was enjoyed by all.
- After Judge Thonhoff's presentation, Joe suspended the meeting at 8:30 and resumed it at 8:40.
- The Treasurer was absent but she gave her report to Governor Joe Perez for presentation at the meeting. Joe gave the Treasurer's Report for October. We had a Beginning Balance of \$4,802.28, Expenses of \$289.62, Income of \$220.40 and an Ending Balance of \$4,733.06. A motion to accept the report was made by Rueben Perez and seconded by Richard Whynot. After a vote, the motion carried.
- Joe directed everyone's attention to two 15" x 20" framed enlargements that we will use at our display table at events. One is a map showing the cattle drives from Texas to Louisiana during the American Revolution to feed the troops of Gálvez and the other framed piece is the artwork used for the plaque at the Gálvez statue in New Orleans. Both pieces are well-done and will help tell the story of Gálvez and Spain's assistance during our War of Independence in a visual format.
- Joe mentioned upcoming events in which we are participating; the U.S. Military Veterans Parade on November 7th and the Heritage Tours at the Spanish Governor's Palace on November 11th.
- Bob Hancock invited the group to participate in an event honoring Texas Independence sponsored by the Medina County Historical Association to be held in Hondo on March 5, 2016 at 10:00. Governor Joe Perez said he will put it on our group's 2016 calendar.
- The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

