

SAR 2026 Texas State Convention

Newsletter Article

Compatriots Montgomery Miller and Joseph Howell Burton

15 Jun 2026

Sons of the American Revolution Patrick Henry Chapter #11

Host Chapter for the 2026 Texas State Convention at Austin Southpark Hotel

Austin, TX – 15 Jun 2026 – The Patrick Henry Chapter #11 of the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution, proudly hosted the 2026 Texas State Convention held in Austin, Texas, on 16-19 April 2026, at the Austin Southpark Hotel which brought together well over 100 SAR Compatriots from across the State to discuss SAR's mission objectives and to build on the framework for continued membership growth.



Significant preparations were made by many members of your Board of Managers in coordination with multiple members of our Texas State Leadership Team, most significantly Compatriot Dennis Brunson who was instrumental in helping us to understand all of the details required to successfully host a State Convention.



I would like to highlight the efforts that our Compatriot Monty Miller undertook to design and source the collateral for the convention. All of these items were well-received by our attendees and brought a level of professionalism that reflected well on your Patrick Henry Chapter.



We had a healthy attendance of roughly 125 Compatriots and their DAR wives for the 4-day event that was anchored by the Saturday evening banquet



One of our newest members of the Chapter was the Banquet Guest Speaker, Compatriot Richard V. Battle (see separate story). As an unexpected treat, he was surprised by his induction into our Chapter by State President Mel Oller immediately following his speech. Our State Color Guard was ever-present throughout the weekend and were in full Continental uniforms for the banquet.



In addition, there were five new members inducted into the Texas SAR Hall of Fame with the Patriot Award and our very own Immediate Past President and Chapter Color Guard Commander, Shiidon Hawley, pictured here alongside our incoming State President, Dustin Whittenburg, was awarded this prestigious honor during the banquet.



The highlight of this year's Convention was the Saturday morning celebration at our serene Texas State Cemetery (TSC) for the official unveiling of our SAR Cenotaph memorialising 69 Patriots of the American Revolution who are buried here in Texas (see separate story). We hosted a group of dignitaries and relatives of those listed on the monument including at least one of our own Compatriots, Jesse Villarreal, who also enjoyed his "Trip of a Lifetime" on Honor Flight Austin's Flight #103 this Spring (see separate story).



At this event, our Texas State President Mel Oller welcomed Governor Greg Abbott as our Guest Speaker and also inducted him into the Texas SAR and specifically into our Patrick Henry Chapter after his speech.



Our Chapter Color Guard Commander, Shiidon Hawley, coordinate with the State Color Guard Commander to provide ceremonial support with many of our fellow Chapter Compatriots: including Vice President Mark Ellison, Past President Wayne Courreges, our previous TSC Flag Commander, Kent Lattig, and Wesley Mokry to name a few.



Finally, we completed our morning at the TSC with another induction ceremony of our Travelin' Judge, Daryl Coffey (middle) and husband of the Austin Wreaths Across America Team, Debra Coffey, who both support us significantly with our Memorial Day and Veterans Day Flag Ceremonies. We felt that an induction at the TSC would be the perfect location and were pleased to be joined by State President Oller (2nd from right), Compatriot Remmer Machamer (far left) who is a significant member of the Wreaths Across America Team (see separate article), our Chapter Registrar, Tom Fitzgerald (second from left), who was indispensable (along with our former Chapter Registrar, John Fine) in getting Governor Abbott's SAR Application successfully executed, and the aforementioned Compatriot Kent Lattig (far right).



Back at the hotel, our Compatriot Volunteers all helped with the important registration desk taking shifts throughout the weekend. Pictured in the left photo are Compatriots Videographer Monty Miller, Sergeant at Arms George Bright, and Registrar Tom Fitzgerald and in the right photo Newsletter Editor Alex Robinson and uniformed Wesley Mokry.



Compatriot John Knox once again leaned in to help as he does as the majority of our events with an impressive flag display for the room used for all of the meetings during the convention.



Compatriot Monty Miller commandeered the Oaks Room with his video equipment and green screen and used that to record Patriot Stories and to provide photos of Compatriots in their Continental uniforms and there is a link at the bottom of the Newsletter where you can see these in case you would like to create one yourself as Monty does set up at many of our monthly meetings and has recorded a group of us discussing our Patriot Ancestor which you can locate here on our website under Testimonials.

[Testimonials](#) | [Patrick Henry Chapter Texas SAR](#)



Compatriot Alex Robinson led the successful silent auction, coordinating with the donors and the members from State and our Chapter Buddy System Coordinator (coming soon) Wayne Courreges who shared the room with the State Poster Contests. Alex was invaluable with his work to final out the bids, collect the funds, and ensure that the books were resolved with our State Treasurer as donations to the silent auction are directed to the SAR Patriot Fund.



Finally, our Chapter cheated off the paper of the Dallas Chapters who hosted the previous State Convention and purchased an \$800 gift certificate from Townsends (Continental Uniforms) as our Chapter fund-raising raffle. We had some communication challenges and also were asked to sell various challenge coins from State which may have limited the effectiveness of our raffle but we did end up with a small profit and recipient was quite happy with her win the evening of the banquet.

[Townsends](#)

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NOTE: Since Compatriot Montgomery Miller compiled this for the News Release that wasn't officially released, I am leaving it as he wrote it as I was unaware of some of these details and thought some of you would also enjoy a refresher.

Our Patrick Henry Chapter of the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was chartered in 1938. We are a part of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. We have members whose ages stretch from the 2 years old to their "prime" and we count President George H. W. Bush and his son President George W. Bush and five former Texas Governors as past members and our newest member, the current Governor of Texas, Greg Abbott and are researching President Lyndon B. Johnson; however, most of our members come from much more humble backgrounds. Most of our ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War were hard working farmers who were good with a plow and a rifle.

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

On 09 December 1896, The Galveston Daily News announced the organization of the Texas Society of Sons of the American Revolution. At the organizational meeting on 08 December, there were men from Galveston, Austin, Dallas, Weatherford, Eagle Pass, Fort Clark, and other Texas cities. They formed the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter and selected the Honorable Ira H. Evans as the first state president. The first annual meeting of the Texas Society SAR (Texas SAR) was held on 22 February 1897, with fifteen members in attendance, and by March the membership was up to twenty. As of March 2014, there have been sixty-six Chapters formed in the state of Texas with forty-six still active. Membership has grown from the original fifteen to 2,500, and as of 2014, 10,943 men have joined the Texas Society over the past 114 years.

For more information about the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution visit <https://www.texassar.org/>.

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was organized on 30 April 1889, the 100th anniversary of the inauguration of George Washington as our nation's first President. We have used the acronym "SAR" to identify ourselves for over 135 years. The "SAR" was conceived as a fraternal and civic society composed of lineal descendants of the men who fought in the battles of the American Revolution or otherwise supported the cause of American Independence. The National Society was chartered by an Act of the United States Congress on 09 June 1906. That charter was signed by President Theodore Roosevelt, who was a member of the SAR.

The "SAR" is the largest male lineage society in the United States and currently has approximately 38,000 members in over 575 chapters across the United States and internationally. It is headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky. Any male 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a Patriot of the American Revolution is eligible for membership.

We are a non-profit, non-political organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and promoting education to our future generations.

Our "Center" consists of our Headquarters, the SAR Genealogical Research Library, and the SAR Education Center and Museum.

For more information about the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution visit <https://www.sar.org/>.