



General Philemon Thomas Chapter Louisiana Society SAR

RED STICK PATRIOT

Volume XXXV Issue 7

Sunday, July 6, 2025

Annual Summer Social, Saturday, July 12th

CHAPTER EVENTS

Summer Social
Hilltop Arboretum
Sat., July 12, 2025; 5:00-
7:30pm

**Constitution Week
Banquet**
Baton Rouge Country Club
26 Sept. 2025, 6:00pm

**Battle of Baton Rouge
Remembrance**
Galvez Plaza, Baton Rouge
27 Sep. 2025, 8:00am

Fall LASSAR Board Mtg.
Downtown Public Library,
2nd Floor ; 27 Sept. 2025,
9:30am

**The Annual GPT Summer
Social is this Saturday, 5:00**

– 7:30pm at the Hilltop
Arboretum! The event is
free to all GPT Compatriots
and their families. There
will be food and fun for all!

Mitch Pratt and Jim
Moffatt are cooking up some
incredibly delicious main
courses to select. Dress is
casual for the hot weather.

**RSVP's REQUESTED but
not necessary; Send RSVP to
Paul Bledsoe
hpbledsoe@gmail.com !!**



Chapter Officers

President-Paul Bledsoe
hpbledsoe@gmail.com

1st VP – Gary Stansbury
gpstansbury@yahoo.com

2nd VP – Jim Moffatt
JMoffatt@charter.net

3rd VP – Steve Kubicek
steve@stevekubicek.com

Treasurer – Norm Bacon
zodiacnfb@aol.com

Secretary – Jeff Truax
jefftruax@cox.net

Registrar – Dr. Derrick Spell
derrickspell@cox.net

Newsletter Editor

Send articles and photos to:
TBD



Scene from the 2024 Summer Social at Hilltop Arboretum



August Meeting Speaker to Discuss 1775 Events of the American Revolution

Compatriot and Chapter Historian Eddie Vaughn will present **“1775 Events of the American Revolution, Part Two”** at the August Chapter Meeting, Friday, August 1, 2025. This is Eddie’s continuation of the famous battles and events of 250 years ago.

GPT/LASSAR UPCOMING MEETINGS

July Board Meeting
Drusilla's Seafood Restaurant
Thu., July 17, 2025; 11:30am

August Chapter Meeting
Drusilla's Seafood Restaurant
Fri., Aug. 1, 2025, Noon
Arrive at 11:30am to socialize!

August Board Meeting
Drusilla's Seafood Restaurant
Thu., Aug. 21, 2025; 11:30am

Sept. Chapter Meeting
Drusilla's Seafood Restaurant
Fri., Sept. 5, 2025, Noon
Arrive at 11:30am to socialize!

Sept. Board Meeting
Drusilla's Seafood Restaurant
Thu., Sept. 18, 2025; 11:30am

Fall LASSAR Board Mtg.
Downtown Public Library, 2nd Floor; 27 Sept. 2025, 9:30am

October Chapter Meeting
Drusilla's Seafood Restaurant
Fri., Oct. 3, 2025, Noon
Arrive at 11:30am to socialize!



NON-SAR EVENTS

DAR, Canary Islands Chapter Plaque Dedication America 250
Highland Cemetery
Sat., Aug. 23, 2025; 10:00am
GPT-SAR Color Guard!

DAR-SAR Working Together for First Fort Bute Location Marker

Ina Navarre of the Baton Rouge Chapter of DAR and our President, Paul Bledsoe, have banded together to apply for a

state historical marker near the site of the British Fort Bute, which was captured by General Galvez and his men on September 7, 1779.





GPT Charity Fund Donations

• Spanish LA Soldier Uniform for SAR Museum	\$500.00
• Compatriot Norman Umholtz Housefire	\$250.00
• Dr. Joseph Warren Documentary by NSSAR	\$250.00

Thank You and So Long to a Very Special Compatriot

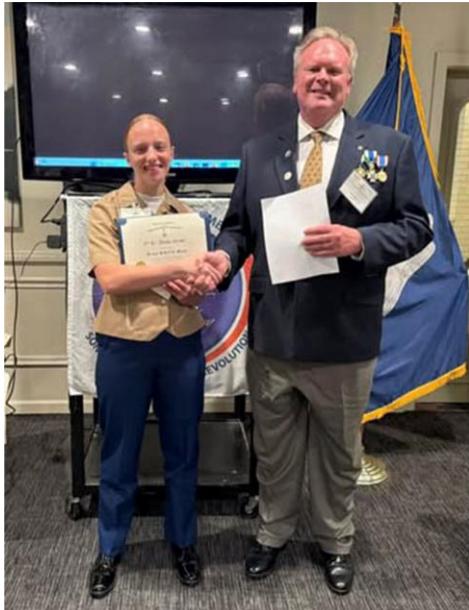
At the June Chapter Meeting, we said thank you to U.S. Navy Commander Shawn Michael Cloud. Just a few years ago, Shawn was inducted into SAR through our chapter. In spite of his full-time as U.S. Navy ROTC Commander and Instructor at Southern University for LSU and Southern Cadets, Shawn found the time to serve the community by routinely participating in chapter events and meetings. He was always ready to lend a hand where needed and we always knew he was having a great time doing so. Since Shawn is active duty, it was more difficult to acquire the SAR War Service Medal for his service on active war fronts. But Registrar Dr. Derrick Spell got it done and we were able to award him the medal at the June Chapter Meeting. Shawn has since moved his family out of Louisiana due to another assignment. He will be sorely missed by all in GPT-SAR Chapter. We wish him every success and know we will hear of him again, as he joins another SAR chapter and resumes his contributions. Thank you, Shawn, for your service to this Nation and to SAR!



Navy ROTC Commander Shawn Cloud received the SAR War Service Medal from Registrar Dr. Derrick Spell

137TH ANNUAL CONGRESS - 2027
New Orleans, Louisiana
July 9 - 15, 2027

Will be hosted by the Southern District:
Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee



Navy ROTC Commander Shawn Cloud received the SAR War Service Medal from Registrar Dr. Derrick Spell

Outstanding Cadet Earns Medal

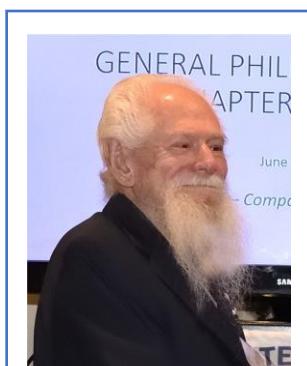
Cadet 2ndLt Alisha Grant was awarded the SAR JROTC Bronze Medal for her leadership in JROTC at Walker High School where she was recently selected as Outstanding Cadet of Walker HS JROTC. Alisha has excelled in scholastic and Marine Corps JROTC studies. She will be the Cadet Leader of the Walker HS JROTC next year as a senior. She received the medal and a \$500 prize from GPT-SAR at the June Chapter Meeting

Four New Members Inducted

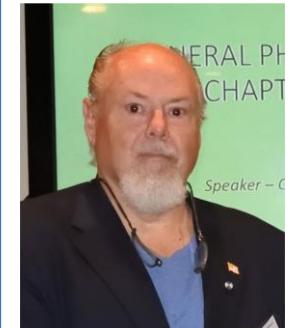
The June Chapter Meeting was the setting for the induction of four new members of SAR. Introduce yourself at the next opportunity! Sanders' son, Ethan, is also a new member.



Thomas Sanders



Lynn David Lyons



Lance David Lyons



Albert Allen Ward III

First Annual Flag Day Celebration Held

The GPT Chapter put together a moving ceremony to observe **Flag Day** on June 14th. The event was held at the Old State Capitol in the Legislature Hall. The beauty and splendor of the historic Old Capitol was a fitting backdrop for the gathering, which featured our Color Guard presenting/retiring the Colors, Eddie Vaughn giving a fact-filled history of our Flag, Norm Bacon provided additional anecdotal facts and stories about the history of Flag Day. President Bledsoe read a proclamation from Baton Rouge Mayor-President Sid Edwards, and Sgt. Matt Strong of the LSU Army ROTC Cadre spoke on the 250th Anniversary of the U. S. Army and respect for the Flag.



Pres. Bledsoe presents certificate of appreciation to Ashley Shoptaugh, Director of the Old Capitol Registrar Dr. Derrick Spell



GPT-SAR Color Guard Presentation of Colors at Flag Day Ceremony



Compatriots and Color Guard pose after the ceremony.



GPT Color Guard entering the Legislative Hall

GPT Color Guard Shines at George Washington Ball, Lafayette

The awesome General Philemon Thomas Chapter of Baton Rouge, La Society SAR Color Guard had three members serving to present the Colors in the George Washington Ball on Saturday night, June 14th in Lafayette. Great job guys!



The Louisiana State SAR Color Guard, represented by (l-r): Chris Achee, Jeff Truax, Ted Brode (James Huey Chapter, W. Monroe), and Paul Bergeron pose at the George Washington Ball, hosted by the Attakapas Chapter (Lafayette).

The Mission of the SAR

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our country.

‘Charters Of Freedom’ Exhibit in Development

An Outdoor Display of Our Founding Documents

To be located at Capitol Park Museum Grounds

Due to the initiating efforts of LASSAR, arrangements are now underway with Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser and Foundation Forward, Inc. for the installation of a permanent outdoor display of America’s Charters of Freedom. The attractive granite exhibit will contain bronze replicas of our nation’s founding documents displayed similarly to the National Archives exhibit in Washington D.C.

The outdoor exhibit will contain life-size bronze depictions of the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. These three founding documents are known as: The Charters of Freedom. An additional pedestal will display the nation’s Civil Rights Amendments. There will also be a vault for a time capsule, as well as a donors’ pedestal



honoring those who contribute meaningfully to the installation of the exhibit. Although the display is a gift of Foundation Forward, Inc., an educational, nonprofit organization that builds Charters of Freedom settings in communities across the country, there will be a **fundraising campaign** in support of the foundation’s mission and to help **pay it forward for Louisiana’s second display**, potentially in the Lake Charles area. Our thanks to Steve Kubicek, 3rd VP, Past Chapter President, and current LASSAR State Secretary for his work with the various groups and for this article.

These photos are artistic renderings of the planned display for the Capitol Park Museum grounds. The photo to the right shows the Capitol Park Museum in the background.





Challenge Coins for Sale

In 2025, the General Philemon Thomas Chapter has begun several initiatives to raise funds for the general fund, the new Chapter Charity Fund, and the 2027 NSSAR National Congress to be held in New Orleans. Many more sources of revenue for the chapter are being discussed.

Below are the new challenge coins for our chapter and a special one in honor of General Bernardo de Gálvez and the Battle of Baton Rouge in 1779. Contact Dr. Derrick Spell to buy the coins. His email address is derrickspell@cox.net. You can pay by check, cash, or Venmo. (Please see Venmo code below) The coins can even be shipped/mailed to you for a small fee!

Battle of Baton Rouge | Coins



\$15 each, OR
2 for \$25

General Philemon Thomas Chapter Coins



\$15 each, OR
2 for \$20



venmo