



General Philemon Thomas Chapter Louisiana Society SAR *RED STICK PATRIOT*

Volume XXXVI Issue 1

Thursday, January 1, 2026

January Meeting Date Change!

Friday, January 9, 2026

At Drusilla's Seafood Restaurant
Arrive at 11:30am for socializing & ordering lunch
Meeting begins at 12:00 Noon

Speaker: GPT Historian Eddie Vaughn

Topic: Henry Knox & The Nobel Train of Artillery

See Page 3

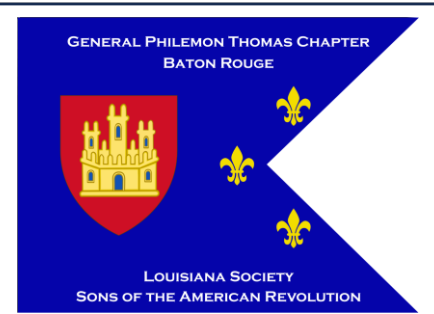
**2026 GPTSAR Chapter Officers
Inducted at the December Business
Meeting by LASSAR President Billy
LeJeune (Pages 4 & 5)**

1776



2026

**Happy
New Year!**



2026 Chapter Officers

President-Jim Moffatt
jmoffatt@charter.net

1st VP – Jeff Truax
jefftruax@cox.net

2nd VP – Tiger Smith
pes3tiger@gmail.com

3rd VP –Bobby Stewart
robert.stewart@cox.net

Treasurer – Norm Bacon
zodiacnfb@aol.com

Secretary – Paul Bledsoe
hpbledsoe@gmail.com

Registrar – Dr. Derrick Spell
derrickspell@cox.net

NOTE: All photos of the December 18th meeting were taken by Compatriot Andrew Navarre, who agreed to fill in for Greg Lindsly. Thanks for a terrific job, Andrew!



2026 Board of Directors

President	Jim Moffatt		Genealogist	Brendon Swanson
1 st Vice President	Jeff Truax		Registrar	Derrick Spell MD
2 nd Vice President	Tiger Smith		Chaplain	Mitch Pratt
3 rd Vice President	Bobby Stewart		Sargent-at-Arms	Brad Richard
Treasurer	Norm Bacon		Board Member-at-Large	Neil Hohmann
Secretary	Paul Bledsoe		Board Member-at-Large	Gary Stansbury
Chancellor	Chuck Morgan		Board Member-at-Large	Bill Taylor
Historian	Eddie Vaughn		Board Member-at-Large	Jason Creech

NON-SAR EVENTS

**Dedication of La Marcha
de Gálvez Painting**
Livingston Parish
Courthouse, hosted by
Halimah DAR Chapter, Sat.,
Jan. 17, 2026, 10:00 am

**DAR Baton Rouge
Chapter Centennial
Celebration Luncheon**
\$45

City Club, Baton Rouge, LA
Sat., Jan. 17, 2026, 11:00 am

**DAR John James
Audubon Chapter
Patriotic Luncheon**
\$35

Mike Anderson's Seafood
Restaurant, 1031 W. Lee Dr
Mon., Jan. 19, 2026, 11:00 am

**DAR (Alexander Stirling
Chapter) Marker
Dedication, "Pointe
Coupee Militia at
Thompson's Creek"**
Julius Freyhand School, St.
Francisville, LA
Sat., Feb. 21, 2026, 11:00am

2027 Congress Challenge Coin is Unique!

The Louisiana Society Sons of the American Revolution is selling this Congress Coin to help fund the NSSAR National Congress in 2027 that will be held in New Orleans. The coin is \$15.00 for SAR members & \$20.00 for non-members.

For information on shipping, please email Bradley Hayes at bthayesesq@gmail.com



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Newsletter Contributions

Send articles and photos to: Paul Bledsoe
EMAIL: hpbledsoe@gmail.com

Our Speaker for the January 9th Meeting: Eddie Vaughn!

“The Noble Train of Artillery”



Here comes another powerful story of the American Revolution from our venerable Chapter Historian and “Bell-Ringer Extraordinaire”, Eddie Vaughn!

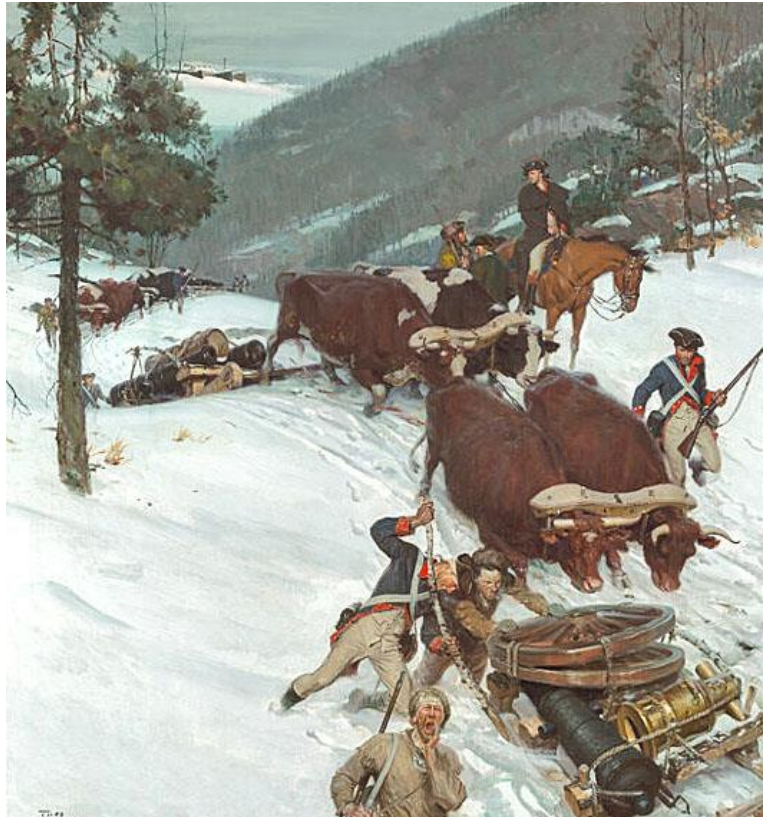


Figure 1 “The Noble Train of Artillery” painting by American artist Tom Lovell, courtesy of Heritage Auctions

Eddie is going to tell the story of how Henry Knox accomplished one of the greatest logistical feats in American military history, resulting in the first strategic victory for the Continental Army in its War for Independence. Knox’s Noble Train became deservedly famous given its instrumental role in ending the British occupation of Boston and giving Washington his first victory of the war.



Figure 2 Henry Knox



Board of Directors Induction performed by State President

Bledsoe Hands the Gavel to President Jim Moffatt

Attendees of the December 15th meeting witnessed the swearing-in of the new Board of Directors for 2026 at Drusilla's Restaurant. State President Billy LeJeune drove from DeRidder that morning just to attend our annual Christmas and Awards Meeting. His main purpose, though, was to perform the induction of new officers and Board of Directors for the General Philemon Thomas Chapter for 2026. Sorry, we do not have a group photo of the new Board. The room was so full, there was no room for a group photo! The members of the new Board are listed on page 2 at top. Before the general induction, the Presidential transition took place. Past President Paul Bledsoe placed the President's Sash/Medal around the neck of new President Jim Moffatt. Moffatt, a very active SAR member since 2023, retired from Emergency Medical Services of EBR Parish and immediately began his involvement with the GPT chapter. Bledsoe also handed Jim the Presidential Gavel and a copy of Robert's Rules of Order, 10th edition, stating he hoped Moffatt would follow those rules better than he did!

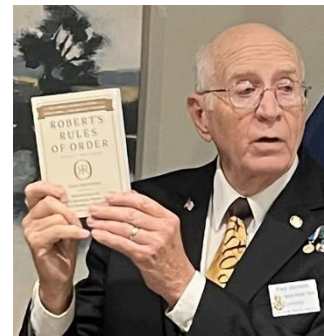


Figure 3 Past President Bledsoe (r) passes the gavel and Robert's Rules of Order to new President, Jim Moffatt (l).

Editor's Note: All photos of the December 18th GPT Chapter meeting by Andrew Navarre



Figure 4 LASSAR President Billy LeJeune is flanked by (l-r) Jim Moffatt and Paul Bledsoe

December Meeting Featured Two New Members, Four Supplemental Certificates, & Many Special Awards

Attendees were introduced to two new GPTSAR Compatriots: **Boatner Howell** and **Maury Bishop**. Their certificates had still not arrived by meeting time, so swearing-in and photos will be posted later. Supplemental Certificates were presented to **Paul Bergeron** for his Patriot, Antonio Y'Barbo, **Bill Taylor** for his Patriot, Jose Vasquez Vahamonde (we recently marked his grave with a new gravestone as well – featured in the Nov. 2025 *Red Stick*), **Dr. Derrick Spell** for his Patriot George Milliman, and Mitch Pratt for his Patriot John Jacob Pee. Paul Bergeron noted that he can prepare a presentation of Antonio Gil Y'Barbo for a future business meeting! Dr. Spell said the same for his Patriot, George Milliman and some notable descendants.

Presented by Dr. Spell with the 2025 Veteran Medal were **Brian Bordelon** and **Jason Creech**. State President LeJeune presented LASSAR Certificates of Patriotism to **Stephen Estopinal**, **Scott Jones**, and **Bill Taylor**. LASSAR Certificates of Patriotism will be presented, by President Moffatt at another time, when present, to: **Ken Higginbotham** and **Greg Lindsly**.

GPT CHAPTER UPCOMING MEETINGS

NOTE: An RSVP is required for the Chapter meetings. Respond to Norm Bacon's email sent a few days before the meeting

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Jan. 2026 Chapter Meeting

Drusilla's Seafood Restaurant

Thu., **Jan. 9**, 2026; Noon

Arrive at 11:30am to socialize!

Jan. Board Mtg.

Drusilla's Seafood Restaurant

Thur., **Jan 22**, 2026, 11:30am

Feb. 2026 Chapter Meeting

Drusilla's Seafood Restaurant

Thu., Feb 6, 2026; Noon

Arrive at 11:30am to socialize!

Feb. Board Mtg.

Drusilla's Seafood Restaurant

Thur., Feb 19, 2026, 11:30am

Mar. 2026 Chapter Meeting

Drusilla's Seafood Restaurant

Thu., Mar 5, 2026; Noon

Arrive at 11:30am to socialize!

Mar. Board Mtg.

Drusilla's Seafood Restaurant

Thur., Mar. 19, 2026, 11:30am

America 250 Gold Medals were presented to Compatriots **Brad Richard** and **Bill Taylor**. Silver 250 medals were presented to **Abner Hammond** and **Bobby Stewart**. A Bronze America 250 Medal was presented to **Natalie Truax**, wife of Compatriot Jeff Truax.

Dr. Spell presented the coveted Patriot Grave Marking Medal to Past President and State Secretary **Steve Kubicek**.

Paul Bledsoe presented numerous medals recognizing an incredibly successful year (2025) for GPT. That success included: the Annual Constitution Week Banquet, which was enhanced with the attendance of the President General, Michael Elston; the annual Battle of Baton Rouge Commemoration, enlarged with participation from SAR Color Guard members from seven (7) states; the Tea Tasting coinciding with the premier of the Ken Burns film, *The American Revolution*, and four (4) great grave markings.

At-Large Board Members, **Ray Spruill**, **Carey Holliday**, and **Pon Hardy**; and Genealogist **Brendan Swanson**: Chapter Challenge Coin.

Chapter Roger Sherman Medal: **Bill Taylor**, Board Member At-Large; **Brad Richard**, Sargent-at-Arms; **Neil Hohmann**, Chaplain; **Chuck Morgan**, Chancellor; **Jeff Truax**, Secretary; **Gary Stansbury**, 1st Vice President; **Jim Moffatt**, 2nd Vice President; **Paul Bergeron**, Color Guard Commander; and **Mitch Pratt**, Past President.

Chapter Henry Knox Medal: **Eddie Vaughn**, Historian, for his many contributions in 2026, including oration at the Ascension Parish Library, Flag Day, and Battle of Baton rouge Seminar; and **Norm Bacon**, Treasurer, for his incredible leadership to make the Constitution Week Banquet a resounding success.

Chapter Meritorious Service Medal: **Chris Achee**, Past President, for his speaking at several events, Color Guard service, and Chapter Contributor to the SAR Color Guardsman magazine; and **Dr. Derrick Spell**, Registrar, for numerous contributions as event planner and Emcee, Patriotism Committee, Battle of Baton Rouge Ceremony, and development of several grave markings, not to mention his recruitment and assistance to several new members this year.

Chapter Distinguished Service Medal: **Steve Kubicek**, 3rd Vice President. The role of State Secretary added to Steve's SAR duties at mid-year, but he still managed to continue to participate in most chapter meetings and events, especially Tea Tasting planning and Emcee duties, and development of the Charters of Freedom project to be dedicated on July 8, 2026, at the national Reading of the Declaration of Independence.

Photos of the above awards are on the next seven (7) pages. [Editor's note: I removed or blotted out as many images of yours truly as I had time to do! Ha!]

Supplemental Certificates & War Veterans



Figure 5 Paul Bergeron (above left) received a supplemental for his Patriot Antonio Gil Y'Barbo. Bill Taylor (above) received his supplement for Patriot Jose Vahamonde. Mitch Pratt (right) talks about his Supplemental Patriot John Jacob Pee. Dr. Spell (left) for his Patriot George Milliman.



Figure 6 Brian Bordelon (left) and Jason Creech (right) received the 2025 Military Service Medal.

America 250 Bronze and Silver Medals & Grave Marking Medal



Figure 8 Natalie Truax has attended enough America 250 events to be awarded the Bronze America 250 Medal!



Figure 7 Abner Hammond received a Silver America 250 Medal.



Figure 9 Bobby Stewart received a Silver America 250 Medal



Figure 10 The coveted Grave Marking Medal was awarded to Steve Kubicek.

America 250 Gold & Roger Sherman Medal Recipients



Figure 11 Receiving the America 250 Gold Medal and the Roger Sherman Medal were (l-r) Brad Richard and Bill Taylor.

Roger Sherman Medal Recipients



Figure 12 Roger Sherman Medal recipients (l-r) Mitch Pratt, Jim Moffatt, and Jeff Truax

Roger Sherman Medal Recipients



Figure 14 Additional recipients of the Roger Sherman Medal were (l-r) Gary Stansbury and Chuck Morgan.



Figure 13 Roger Sherman Medal recipients (l-r) Paul Bergeron and Neil Hohmann

Two Awarded the Henry Knox Medal

Treasurer **Norm Bacon** earned a Henry Knox Medal for 2025. He Norm was Committee Chairman for the Annual Constitution Week Banquet.



Eddie Vaughn, our Historian also earned the Henry Knox Medal. His effort this year always delighted – not just volunteering to speak at events but obtaining and wearing venerable citizen clothing with a hat and shoes that would make Thomas Paine proud.

2025 Meritorious Service Medals Awarded

Chris Achee was awarded the Meritorious Service Award for his frequent service to the chapter and the community. Chris was not able to attend the meeting and will be presented with his medal at another time. Chris is one of the “poster boys” on our new recruiting flyer that is in the works!



Figure 15 Photo credit: Unknown



Figure 16 Photo by Greg Lindsly



Dr. Derrick Spell was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for the immeasurable volume of hard work and participation in all-that-is-GPTSAR.

2025 Distinguished Service Medal Awarded to Steve Kubicek

Steve Kubicek was President in 2024, and he was busy all year. 2025 was no different! Steve helped incoming President, Paul Bledsoe, to assure a smooth transition and assisted Paul in every way he could. As mid-year approached and planning was at full gate for our amazing September events, Steve became LASSAR Secretary, probably the most difficult job at the state level. But Steve continued to participate, to plan, to lead, to make a difference in the quality of our chapter events and in the community. That included America 250 Louisiana Board activities, meetings with state officials about the Chapters of Freedom Project, projects to enhance our Youth Outreach, Color Guard duty, the Fall LASSAR Board Meeting plans, and so many other things. He was awarded the Grave Marking Medal at the December meeting – a feat that requires considerable work and time. Steve deserves our thanks and recognition for his efforts. Thank you, Compatriot Steve Kubicek!



Figure 17 Distinguished Service Medal



PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP

The following gentlemen have been proposed for membership in the Sons of the American Revolution:

TODD JEREMY SANDEMAN

The Board of Directors of GPT has accepted the applications and granted Provisional Membership, with a 10-day probationary period allowing comment or objection. Following the 10-day period of publication of this Notice, Provisional Membership is granted. Contact the Secretary if you have comments or objections. (see Contact Information on page 1 of this newsletter).

SELU Museum Exhibit “The 14th Colony”, sponsored by Louisiana America 250

In-coming President **Jim Moffatt** visited the exhibit at the Center for Southeast Louisiana Studies at SELU in Hammond on November 11th and sent several photos. One caught my eye – a model of what the first element of the Spanish fort named Fort San Carlos may have looked like sometime after 1800. It follows the drawing that was made of the Baton Rouge area depicted in the 1826 book “Voyage dans l’Amérique Septentrionale” by Georges-Henri-Victor Collot. The description card is a bit vague about the fact that the “fort” the British built just prior to Galvez’ victory in 1799 was merely earthen works and not stone and brick, which had to be imported, and the British soldiers had no time to wait for such deliveries. The blurry card says: “Fort San Carlos – Originally the site of Fort New Richmond, a British fortification captured by Bernardo de Galvez in his Gulf Coast campaign, the construction of Fort San Carlos was ordered on the same site to increase defenses to a vital West Florida location, Baton rouge.” – P. Bledsoe



Figure 18 Model of Fort San Carlos at SELU Exhibit “The 14th Colony”. Photo: Jim Moffatt

Wreaths Across America Events in Baton Rouge Region

Several members of GPTSAR visited and participated in wreath laying ceremonies on Saturday, December 13th. Many paired with their spouses to contribute their time. Bob and Zora Olsson (Past DAR National VP General & currently BR Chapter Registrar) spent their time at Louisiana National Cemeteries at Port Hudson and sent some photos. There was a large crowd who gathered for the laying work and to listen to the speeches. The event at Baton Rouge National Cemetery, hosted by the Blue Star Mothers, was very large, and regal according to Jeff Bruan, who attended with his wife, Natalie, a Blue Star mom. The [Blue Star Mothers BR Chapter Facebook](#) page contains more than 150 truly amazing photos of this event!



Figure 19 Baton Rouge Chapter and other area chapters of DAR attended at Louisiana National Cemetery, Port Hudson.
Photo: Bob Olsson



Figure 20 At the Baton Rouge National Cemetery, all 5,000+ graves received a wreath, including that of General Philemon Thomas! Photo: Blue Star Mothers Facebook page. At right is Jeff Truax with a Blue Star Mother. Photo: Jeff Truax via Facebook

John James Audobon Chapter of DAR Hosted WAA Ceremony at State Capitol

The State Capitol Rotunda was the scene for a small ceremony honoring veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice on Monday, December 8, 2025. Compatriots Neil Hohmann and Greg Lindsly participated. The event was hosted by the John James Audobon Chapter of DAR of which Denise Lindsly is a member. Similar ceremonies were held in nearly every state capitol in the United States on the same day, in honor of all branches of the military.



Figure 22 Gentlemen and Ladies - all veterans. All Photos by Greg Lindsly



Figure 21 Katie & Neil Hohmann



Figure 23 John James Audobon Chapter Louisiana Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Alisa Janney (light blue coat) is Regent.



Figure 24 Denise & Greg Lindsly



Sunday, February 15, 2026, 2:30 p.m.

Veterans Memorial Park

At the George Washington Bust Statue, near The Old Arsenal

Hosted by

General Philemon Thomas Chapter

Louisiana Society

Sons of the American Revolution

In association with

the Baton Rouge Area Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution

and the Ann Fairfax Society of the Children of the American Revolution.

Presentation of the Colors by Louisiana SAR Color Guard & Wreath-Laying

Patriotic cupcakes donated by Ambrosia Bakery!



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



Flag Display Certificate

If you know an individual, family, non-governmental, or small business, who consistently displays the United States flag correctly, let us know and, once verified, you can be part of presenting them with a Flag Certificate, recognizing their patriotism!

Are You an Oliver Pollock Fan?



The 2027 SAR Annual Congress will be held in New Orleans. In support of this event, a lapel pin (\$25) and a medal (\$45) have been minted and are for sale by the Southern District of SAR. Make your check payable to "Southern District SAR" and mail it to:

Tony L. Vets
504 Oak St.
Colfax, LA 71417

Please add \$5.00 for postage & handling



SAR National Event 250th Anniversary of the



Declaration of Independence Philadelphia, PA *America's Birthplace – "Ring It On"* July 2-6, 2026

Make your hotel reservations today

Philadelphia Marriott Downtown

<https://book.passkey.com/go/SONSOFTHEAMREVOLUTION2026>

Thursday July 2, 2026	Friday July 3, 2026	Saturday July 4, 2026	Sunday July 5, 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading of the Declaration SAR Public Event • Independence Hall Tour • SAR Evening Reception 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salute to Independence Parade • "Ring It On" SAR Public Event • SAR Gala Dinner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAR 250 Celebration Public Event • SAR 250 Bench Dedication • Philadelphia 250 Events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grave Marking for 5 Signers of the Declaration • Museum of the American Revolution Tour • Social Dinner at Glory Beer Bar



Challenge Coins for Sale

In 2025, the General Philemon Thomas Chapter began 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 QR 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



venmo

General Philemon Thomas Chapter Coins



\$15 each, OR
2 for \$20



This QR code directs you to our PayPal account. You can pay with your **credit card** or through your own PayPal account. You may **purchase** any item we sell or donate to any event, such as a grave marking. You may also **donate** to the GPT Chapter Charity Fund. Specify your selection in the “**Write a note**” section.



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.