

The Sugar Land chapter of SAR is named for Alexander Hodge, a revolutionary war hero buried in Ft. Bend County



Sugar Land's Sons of the American Revolution

Remembering the Honor, Service, and Commitment that Helped Form Our Nation

Written by Julie Battelle

There's a lot of talk about America these days, most of it negative or controversial. But in the midst of all this, it's a breeze of fresh air to find an organization dedicated to honoring, exemplifying and teaching the simple, basic tenets of American freedom and the hard-fought fight that brought independence to all of us.

SEEDS OF REVOLUTION

Founded in 1876, The Sons of the American Revolution began as a group of direct descendents of American Freedom fighters of the Revolutionary war. The Alexander Hodge Chapter of Sugar Land (named for the revolutionary war patriot buried here in Fort Bend County, just past Hodges Bend) is a focused group of approximately fifty-four active members whose mission is to further the American concept of true patriotism, the flag, and true citizenship.

SAR member Tom Green does flag presentations at local schools



Becoming a member of Sons of the American Revolution can be a lengthy, arduous process, requiring countless hours of research and detailed documentation that must be verified, ratified and approved.

The organization has a team of skilled and experienced genealogists who help potential members trace their lineage back to find a straight link to a revolutionary patriot. This vital link, if found, is the only way to become a “Son of the Revolution”. With over 26,000 members in 420 chapters around the world in the United States, Canada, France, Great Britain and even Germany, the Sons of the Revolution keep alive the sacrifice of brave, sometimes unheralded heroes who fought to free this country from the tyranny of British rule.

FERTILIZING FUTURE GENERATIONS

Beyond acknowledging their patriotic ancestry, The Sons of the American Revolution spend many hours in volunteerism educating future generations about the rich, bittersweet history of America’s split from England. Hodge Chapter SAR member, Tom Green has an encyclopedic knowledge of the history of the American Flag, and an impressive collection of replicas to go with it. Tom generously donates his time to teaching others about this subject. SAR President, Marshall Whichard explains the importance of Green’s visits to the younger generation of Americans. “These days a lot of our history has fallen right out of the books in our schools. Kids don’t know—and they’re not taught—how much it took for us to earn the freedom that we enjoy.”

The flag presentations given by Green to area elementary schools not only give kids a chance to see the flags of American history, but also teach children how to properly fold a flag, when the flag should (and should not) be flown and emphasizes the respect due to our American symbol, which shouldn’t be burned, abused or used in a commercially irresponsible context. An impressive color guard illustrates the pomp and circumstance that our American flag presentation deserves.

HONORING PAST GENERATIONS

Along with teaching the children about America’s past, Ft. Bend SAR also honors the contributions of today’s patriots and veterans. The organization regularly visits the VA hospital and personally delivers care packages to the infirmed or wounded veterans. “We raise funds for these veterans through personal donations, but the real reason we do it is to show them the honor they deserve for the sacrifice they gave to America. That’s why we always go personally to deliver the packages and spend time with each person, letting them know how much we appreciate them,” says Whichard.

SAR also honors those who make outstanding contributions to the American way with a flag recognition ceremony, complete with their impressive color guard. A recent recipient of this recognition was 84-yr old veteran, Lee Southerland. You can find Lee every morning just before dawn at the Ft. Bend YMCA, hoisting the flag into the breaking daylight. At dusk, Mr. Southerland returns to bring down the flag, fold it gingerly, store it away, and get ready for the next morning. The SAR proudly recognizes this type of commitment to honor the American flag. SLM

JULIE BATTELLE, a Sugar Land native, is a freelance writer and single mom extraordinaire to her two awesome daughters, Bailey and Allie.

Lance Salge presents Naail Bhai, a student at Brazos Bend Elementary, with a first place award for a poster contest



A life of distinction
deserves celebration.

We are independently owned and locally operated, an alternative to large chain or corporate-owned funeral homes.

We welcome people of all faiths, denominations, lifestyles and cultures.

We honor pre-arrangements from other funeral homes.

We offer an elegant full-service, in-house dining and reception center for families to host their guests prior to or following services.

© 2005 Sugar Land Magazine

SL
Sugar Land
MORTUARY
(281) 277-1818

1818 Eldridge Rd. Sugar Land, TX 77478 SLMortuary.com