

# PELICAN PATRIOT

A Semi-annual publication of the Louisiana Society Sons of the American Revolution Vol. I, No. 2—2014

## A message from your President

Compatriots,

I look forward meeting you at our Annual Meeting in West Monroe on April the 11th & 12th. I hope all will be pleased with the agenda. Beginning on the evening of Friday the 11th, a reception will be held from 6:00 - 8:00 pm at The Chennault Aviation & Military Museum located at 701 Kansas Lane in Monroe for the unveiling of a new exhibit at 7:00 pm honoring LASSAR and featuring the work being done by the men of the Oliver Pollock Chapter and their "Avenue of Flags" displayed at the Orange Grove Cemetery in Lake Charles. Since 1984, the Oliver Pollock Chapter has been collecting casket flags donated by families of veterans and flying these flags on memorial day. Chapter President and State Assistant Secretary Jerry Haynes told me they have close to 1000 flags. I was fortunate to be able to participate in the ceremony last year with our Louisiana Color Guard. It was a moving experience to see that many flags flying at one location and to know there is personal history behind each of these flags. To give you an idea about the size of the event, if the flags were laid out like a blanket, the area would cover over an acre. This is a truly amazing site to behold.

Saturday the 12th will begin at the Hilton Gardens and Inn located at 400 Mane Street in West Monroe where we will hold a working breakfast and host our Southern District's meeting with compatriots from Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee in attendance. Our own Annual Meeting will follow, and NSSAR Genealogist General, Larry P. Cornwell, will be in attendance and will present his "Genealogy Seminar – Recruiting and Qualifying the Prospective Member". We will also be awarding our youth educational outreach winners.

After the conclusion of our Annual Meeting, all are invited to attend a patriot grave marking for one of our local patriots, Benjamin Tennille, who is our Monroe Chapter's namesake. Chapter President Fred Huenefeld and his wife Jean have graciously invited all to his home for a reception afterwards. Saturday evening, we will be back at the Hilton Gardens and Inn in West Monroe for our Banquet, where our speaker for the evening will be Genealogist General Cornwell and his wife Leanne and they will present; "We are General and Mrs. Richard Montgomery" and we will also be swearing in of our new Officers.

I am looking forward to participating in upcoming events in our Society and I want to thank all of you for your hard work you are doing to make LASSAR recognized in Louisiana. **This is Louisiana, so expect some Lagniappe!**

Sincerely,

*Stephen "Steve" K. Ray, LASSAR President*

**COME SEE THE NEW LASSAR WEBSITE AT : [www.lassar.org](http://www.lassar.org)**



**Below are proposed changes to the Bylaws that will be voted on during our**

**Annual meeting on April 12th in West Monroe**

*Proposed Amendments to LASSAR Bylaws*

The following changes are proposed to the Bylaws of the Louisiana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, as amended through April 18, 2009. Strike text indicated by strikethrough (—) and insert text indicated by underline (   ):

**Proposed Amendment #1**

*This amendment codifies the vote of the LASSAR Board (September 2012) to exempt NSSAR Emeritus members from the payment of LASSAR dues. Emeritus members are those who NSSAR has determined to have had 50 years of regular paid membership.*

**Article II  
Membership**

Section 8. The annual dues of the Louisiana Society shall be Twelve Dollars (\$12.00) per member, except for ~~Emeritus members (as recognized by NSSAR), LASSAR Life Members, and those members under the age of 18 all of whom~~ who are exempt from the payment of LASSAR dues.

The amended section will read:

Section 8. The annual dues of the Louisiana Society shall be Twelve Dollars (\$12.00) per member, except for Emeritus members (as recognized by NSSAR), LASSAR Life Members, and those members under the age of 18 all of whom are exempt from the payment of LASSAR dues.

**Proposed Amendment #2**

*This amendment makes the language used in Article VI consistent with the language used in Article III. Article III, Section 1 states, "The officers of the Society shall be a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Third Vice-President, a Chaplain, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Treasurer, a Chancellor, a Surgeon, a Registrar, a Historian, a Genealogist and eight (8) Directors." This amendment does not change the composition of the Board.*

**Article VI  
Board of Directors**

Section 1. The Officers, ~~Members-at-large of the Board enumerated in Article III, Section 1,~~ the Presidents of the Chapters, and the immediate five (5) living Past Presidents of the Society shall constitute the Board of Directors.

The amended section will read:

Section 1. The Officers enumerated in Article III, Section 1, the Presidents of the Chapters, and the immediate five (5) living Past Presidents of the Society shall constitute the Board of Directors.



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ATTAKAPAS CHAPTER TO RECOGNIZE ALL MEN OF THE ATTAKAPAS MILITIA  
WHO SERVICED IN THE GALVEZ EXPEDITION**

Plans are underway to erect memorial to commemorate the service Attakapas Militia in St. Martinville. The monument is to be located on the grounds of the Veteran's Memorial across from the historic Evangeline Oak . Congratulations to John Francois and Michael O'Brien of the Attakapas Chapter for planning this memorial. **For more info contact: [jfrancois1@earthlink.net](mailto:jfrancois1@earthlink.net)**

**In remembrance of our fallen brothers**

Dr. Francis C McMains - Gen Philemon Thomas Chapter

Glenn Morgan Mason - Galvez Chapter

Richard Arlen Arnaud - Attakapas

Marcus Clyde Williams, Jr. -Galvez Chapter

William Woodroe Wellmon - Pierre Georges Rousseau

Charles Evans Hughes - Galvez Chapter

William Andrew McBride Jr - Galvez Chapter

Roy K Lanier , Sr. - LASSAR

Dr. Lionel Louis de la Houssaye - Oliver Pollock Chapter



## Canary Island Patriots of Louisiana

By: Clifford J. Normand [Clifford.Normand@att.net](mailto:Clifford.Normand@att.net)

Bernardo de Gálvez was appointed Spanish Governor of Louisiana on 1 January 1777. A short time later in May the British seized several Spanish boats on Lake Pontchartrain. Gálvez retaliated by capturing eleven British ships or floating warehouses engaged in illicit trade on the Mississippi. The British then dispatched a warship to New Orleans to demand the return of their property and threatened the city's destruction if the Spaniards did not comply. The Spanish Crown now faced greater danger from West Florida as the British poured in more troops. As a result the Spanish Crown started a slow buildup of soldiers, artillery, and munitions in Louisiana.



The Spanish Crown by royal order of 15 August 1777 commanded the governor and commandant general of the Canary Islands to enlist seven hundred men for service to Louisiana. Matías de Gálvez, the king's lieutenant in the Canary Islands, brother of José and father of Bernardo, received the charge to recruit the soldiers and families. The government expected to recruit and transport the volunteers within a short period of time. The volunteers needed to be between 17 and 36 years of age, at least 5 feet ½ inch tall, robust, and without noticeable imperfections or vices. Mulattos, gypsies, executioners, and butchers could not enlist. Although not stated explicitly, the Crown expected the Canarian families to remain in Louisiana permanently.

Three months after enlistment of the Isleños began the first ship with immigrants sailed from the Canaries for Louisiana. The packet boat Santísimo Sacramento departed on 10 July 1778, carrying 125 recruits, of whom 53 had families, for a total of 264 passengers. Additional ships followed shortly. Governor Gálvez was dismayed when the first Canary Islanders arrived. He was expecting more soldiers than dependents. He quickly decided to employ all the immigrant-recruits as settlers only, requiring the men to join the local militia units.

The Isleños with families were settled at locations to primarily to provide protection to New Orleans. The locations were Gálveztown at the junction of Bayou Manchac and the Amite River, Valenzuela along Bayou Lafourche, St. Bernard and Barataria. The locations of Barataria and Galveztown were short lived due to the flooding.

All of the soldiers were originally recruited for the Fixed Regiment of Louisiana thus permitting their descendants to qualify for the Sons of the American Revolution or the Daughters of the American Revolution.

For additional information see Gilbert C. Din, *The Canary Islanders of Louisiana*.

LASSAR'S Pelican Patriot  
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### LASSAR Happenings 2014

- Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> George Washington Banquet, Monroe, Benjamin Tennille Chapter  
For more information contact Fred Huenefeld at : [fhuenefe@bellsouth.net](mailto:fhuenefe@bellsouth.net)
- Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> Wreath Laying Ceremony at George Washington bust, Baton Rouge  
Capital Grounds, General Philemon Thomas  
For more information contact Henry Grace at: [hgrace@louisianafire.com](mailto:hgrace@louisianafire.com)
- Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> George Washington Ball, Lafayette, Attakapas Chapter  
For more information contact Bob Hess at: [robert.hess@lustfiber.net](mailto:robert.hess@lustfiber.net)
- Apr. 11-12 LASSAR State Conference, West Monroe, LA  
For more information contact Steve Ray at: [kermitt1141@aol.com](mailto:kermitt1141@aol.com)
- May 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue of Flags, Lake Charles Oliver Pollock Chapter  
For more information contact Jerry Haynes at: [jerrhayn@yahoo.com](mailto:jerrhayn@yahoo.com)

If you have an event coming up, please let us know so we can include it in the next issue