



*Independence, Brutus, Liberty, Invincible, Potomac, Zavala, San Jacinto,
San Antonio, San Bernard, Louisville, Austin, Archer*



Texas Navy Association



Sept 1, 2021

Newsletter



Charles E. Hawkins Squadron
Galveston, Texas



Mirabeau B. Lamar Squadron
Shoreacres, Texas



Chester W. Nimitz Squadron
Dallas-Fort Worth



Samuel May Williams Squadron
San Antonio, Texas



The Tom Toby Squadron
Houston, Texas



E. W. Moore Squadron
Austin Texas



Sam Houston Squadron
Seabrook, Texas



Table of Contents:

- ★ **Officers and Board Members**
- ★ **A Word from Our President**
- ★ **News from the Texas Navy Association**
- ★ **News & Upcoming Events from Our Squadrons**
- ★ **Book Recommendations**
- ★ **Texas Navy History Brief**
- ★ **New Members**
- ★ **In Memoriam**
- ★ **Items from The Ship's Store**
- ★ **Other Historical Organizations**
- ★ **Calendar of Events**

The Texas Navy Association salutes, preserves and presents the fabulous history of the officers and men who so gallantly served to free and protect The Republic of Texas. Their story is amazing and is truly a story worth telling. Without the contributions of the Texas Navy, there would most likely never been a Republic of Texas, continuing to improve its financial well being, and always invites and is most thankful for your generous contributions. Please be a part of our wonderful organization.

<https://texasnavy.org>



Image by by Bruce Marshall.



Texas Navy Association Board & Squadron Commanders



Governor's Appointee to the Board
Jerry Patterson

2021 Officers

President: *James Tyson* - admtyson@texasnavy.com
Vice President: *David F. Wetzel* - dfwetzel@rocketmail.com
Treasurer: *Mike Dehart* - mikede@msn.com
Secretary: *Paula Morris* - tnapaulamorris@gmail.com

Past President: *Richard Dempsey*

2021 Elected Directors

Andy Hall
Chester Barnes
David F. Wetzel
Derek Beck
Gordon Blocker
James Tyson
Mariann Laughlin
Peter Rindlisbacher
Richard Dempsey



Image by Bruce Marshall.

Squadron Commanders

C. E. Hawkins Commander - Chester Barnes
Squadron Representative - Paula Morris

Chester W. Nimitz Commander - Tim Weiland
Squadron Representative - Nicholas Gilliam

Edwin Moore Commander - Wayne Courrages
Squadron Representative -

Mirabeau B. Lamar Commander - Robert Williams
Squadron Representative - Dave Haglund



Sam Houston Commander - Pam Arnold
Squadron Representative - Mike DeHart

Samuel May Williams Commander - Richard Hatch
Squadron Representative - Richard Weitzel

Tom Toby Commander - John Martin
Squadron Representative - Bill Turner



★ Word from Our President ★

Admiral James S. Tyson
President
Texas Navy Association



Yes folks, the rumors are true. I found a woman crazy enough to say "I do". Allow me to introduce you to Debbie Tyson, and to the third quarter of 2021. Both have been awesome!

We as an organization have come out from the covers, and squadrons all over the state are having in-person meetings. Additionally, we just finished our July board meeting in person and in Austin at the Military Forces Museum, and are at hull speed heading for our Texian Navy Day event, coming

up September 18th. It will be a spectacular presentation by our Committee Chair Kathy Howell, and our primary speaker and author Gordon Blocker. I wouldn't miss it for the world!

Last but not least, we are looking forward to a banner 4th quarter with Past President Hatch chairing the Annual Meeting followed by Dinner Dance at Houston Yacht Club on November 13th. It will be spectacular!

I look forward to seeing you all there!

Jim Tyson





★ Texas Navy Association News: ★

Quarterly Board of Director Meeting Camp Mabry, Austin TX



Admiral Jerry Patterson reads and presents Admiral Rick Dempsey with a Proclamation by Texas Governor Gregg Abbott honoring his significant service and many contributions to the State of Texas during his long devoted membership and outstanding tenure as President of the Texas Navy Association.



James Bernsen was recognized with a Commission as an Admiral in the Texas Navy.

Texas Navy Association's most recent, in-person, Quarterly Board of Director's Meeting (first in quite a while), was held at Camp Mabry, Austin, TX., on June 17, 2021. There was a considerable amount of members, family and friends in attendance. The Board of Directors were quite grateful for the participation of so many devoted advocates of Texas History.

During this Meeting, two very significant members were recognized; Admiral Rick Dempsey for his unwavering service as President of the Texas Navy Association and James Bernsen who was Commission an Admiral in the Texas Navy.



Texas Navy Association President Admiral Jim Tyson congratulations Admiral Richard Dempsey



Texas Navy Association News: ★



THE STATE OF TEXAS GOVERNOR

*To all to whom these presents shall come,
Greetings: Know ye that this official recognition is presented to:*
Captain Richard M. Dempsey, USN (Ret.)

As Governor of Texas, it is my pleasure to commend you for your years of service with the Texas Navy Association Executive Committee.

The courage and devotion of the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces allow us all to hold steadfast to our inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. For over two decades, you served the United States as a part of the U.S. Navy, culminating with your time as the Deputy Commander for Military Readiness and Staff Civil Engineer at the U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command, and helped ensure the strength and security of our country. Following your naval career, you served as the President of the Texas Navy Association before becoming a full-time member of the board.

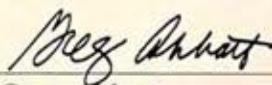
Your many contributions and unwavering commitment to the Lone Star State are also highlighted by your years of dedicated service in various management positions, including your time as the Associate Vice President of Business Affairs for Facility Management at the University of Texas (UT) at Dallas and as the Assistant Vice President for Facilities Management at the University of Texas Permian Basin. Under your supervision, UT Dallas experienced a transformation that saw the addition of four million square feet of academic, research, and auxiliary space to accommodate the rise in student enrollment and increased numbers of faculty and staff. Your work has helped forge a space for students to learn and grow as they prepare to become our next generation of leaders, wherever their interests and goals may lead.

Your commitment to the state of Texas, as well as your advocacy for the preservation of our state's history, represents the best of the Lone Star State, and you are owed a tremendous debt of gratitude for your service to our state and nation. Today, I join my fellow Texans in commending you for your years of commitment and hard work.

First Lady Cecilia Abbott joins me in commending you for your service to our state and nation and sending best wishes for the future.



In testimony whereof, I have signed my name and caused the Seal of the State of Texas to be affixed at the City of Austin, this the 15th day of July, 2021.


Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas



Texas Navy Association News: ★

Paying Tribute to the 185th Anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto



Texas Navy Leadership Attends the Event sponsored by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, San Jacinto Chapter and San Jacinto Descendants



Texas Navy Association News: ★

Paying Tribute to the 185th Anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto

Confident of his superior force, Santa Anna had no lookouts in place. During siesta, when all was quiet on the Mexican side, Houston ordered his battle formation and wheeled the Twin Sisters into position. Then, when Houston sensed the alignment of the stars was right, he gave the order to advance. Legend has it that he had seen a raven flying over the field that morning, winging toward the Mexican position, and perhaps he saw this as an omen. His volunteers, muddy, bearded, ragged and fierce-looking from forty days in the field, charged from the trees and over the rise into the Mexican encampment yelling "Remember the Alamo!" and "Remember Goliad!" It was a complete surprise. The Texans all fired together into the Mexicans, the Twin Sisters firing deadly scrap iron into the enemy barricade. The Texans stormed into Santa Anna's position, a savage assault with pistols, clubs and knives. It was a rout, a slaughter. General Houston tried to stop the killing, but the enraged Texans, like the Mexicans at the Alamo and Goliad, showed no mercy. Almost as quickly as it had begun, the Mexican forces surrendered and the battle was over. In all, the battle lasted merely eighteen minutes.

When Santa Anna was captured he was hiding in a swamp, barefoot and disguised in the uniform of a common soldier. The two soldiers who captured the General believed he[™] flashed them the Masonic sign for distress. Since both soldiers were also Freemasons, it has been suggested that the signal saved the General's life. He was taken to Sam Houston who had been severely wounded in the battle. The two generals were formally introduced by Colonel Juan Almonte who had been captured by the Texans several days before. They talked for some two hours beneath the oak tree where Sam lay, Houston showing the Mexican the courtesy due his rank.

Santa Anna was taken to Velasco in Williams' ubiquitous steamer *Yellow Stone*, where he signed the peace treaty promising an end to hostilities in return for his free passage back to Mexico.

On June 3rd, Santa Anna was taken aboard the Texas Navy schooner *Invincible* – one of the schooners Sam Williams had provided for the Texas Navy – in preparation for his return to Vera Cruz. But before the *Invincible* could sail, the steamship *Ocean* arrived from New Orleans. Aboard was Sam Williams and a force of U.S. soldiers he had recruited for the war against Mexico, recruits enraged by the stories of Goliad and the Alamo. They stormed the *Invincible* and took Santa Anna prisoner. Their plan was to have him tried and then shot.

Continued Next Page



★ Texas Navy Association News: ★

Paying Tribute to the 185th Anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto

It is reported that Sam Williams took Santa Anna across the river to his house in Quintana where he was protected until Sam Houston's aid came to take charge of the prisoner. The general was then taken up the Brazos River to a plantation owned by Dr. James Phelps, one of Austin's original "Old Three Hundred" colonists and a man well known to Williams. While there, several attempts were made to assassinate the prisoner by those who believed he should be punished for his crimes. However, Sam Houston snatched the prisoner away from his potential assassins, carried him away by horseback. They made their way to the Mississippi River where they traveled north by steamboat eventually reaching Washington for a visit with President Andrew Jackson.

It is clear that only through the intercession of Samuel May Williams was the Mexican General saved from the mob.



Texas Navy Association
San Jacinto Day 2021 Ceremony
April 21st 2021
185th Anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto



News From Our Squadrons:



Charles E. Hawkins Squadron meeting was held at the Texas A&M Campus - Pelican Island, Galveston, Texas on July 8th, 2021. An informative and enlightening presentation by Admiral Andy Hall titled "Marines of the Texian Republic," included amazing images, artifacts, uniforms and rare stories on the Marines of the Texas Navy. It also focused on the organization, engagements and notable individuals of this often overlooked branch of the Texas Navy.



Admiral Chester F. Barnes, II
Commander
Charles E. Hawkins/Galveston
BOD Texas Navy Association

During this meeting, a drawing for an 1836 Texas Navy Ensign and an autographed copy of "Forsaken Patriot: The Strange Life and Times of Samuel May Williams," generously donated by one of the authors, Admiral Gordon Blocker.

Admiral Gordon Blocker participates in a day long virtual event called Rocks-Digital 2021 on June 30th, 2021. The conference from Dallas, Texas focuses on learning the most recent search engine optimization techniques and many tips and tricks to bring effective and positive website promotion and design techniques.



Admiral Gordon Blocker

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News From Our Squadrons:



Commissioning of Terry Miller



Commissioning of Doyle Neuwiller

Hawkins Squadron Presents Commission to Admiral Victor Viser, Add Training Ship *KENNEDY* to Hawkins Fleet



Admiral Victor J. Viser, Texas A&M University at Galveston

On Sunday, August 1, 2021, the Charles E. Hawkins Squadron held a ceremony to present Victor J. Viser, PhD, with his commission as an Admiral in the Texas Navy. Dr. Viser is an Instructional Associate Professor at Texas A&M University at Galveston (TAMUG) where he teaches classes in communication, advertising, and tourism and economic development. Dr. Viser is Past Chairman of the Galveston Park Board of Trustees, and has served on numerous boards and committees that are working to shape the future of Galveston Island.

The Squadron also presented Captain Sean McNeice, TAMUG staff member and current Master of the Training Ship *KENNEDY*, with a plaque designating *KENNEDY* as part of the Hawkins Fleet.

Continued next page



News From Our Squadrons:



Hawkins Squadron Presents Commission to Admiral Victor Viser, Add Training Ship *KENNEDY* to Hawkins Fleet



Admirals Gordon Blocker, Paula Morris, and Victor J. Viser



Special thanks to Adm. Paula Morris for her invaluable assistance in helping to organize this event. Photos courtesy Adm. Gordon Blocker

Over the last few years, Hawkins Squadron has made an effort to enroll notable ships visiting Galveston as honorary members of the Hawkins Fleet. Earlier this spring, the Hawkins Squadron made a similar presentation to the officers of the Spanish Nao *SANTA MARIA* during its visit to Galveston. *KENNEDY* is part of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, but in on temporary loan to Texas A&M University at Galveston for use during TAMUG's 2021 Summer Cruise. Gig'em, Sea Aggies!



Continued next page

Hawkins Fleet presentation to Captain Sean McNeice, Master of the Training Ship *KENNEDY*



News From Our Squadrons:



Upcoming Events



Please make plans to join us on Thursday evening, September 9, at Texas A&M University at Galveston for our next Hawkins Squadron meeting. Dinner will begin at 1800, with the meeting and program at 1900. The meeting will be held in the Executive Dining Room in the Northern Student Center (Building 3004), adjacent to the Captain's Landing Dining Hall. Arrive early, because serving ends at 1830. More details about dinner and parking arrangements will follow soon. Admirals, friends of the Squadron, and the public is invited to attend.

Our program will be presented by one of the Texas Navy's newest Admirals, Victor Viser. Dr. Viser is an Instructional Associate Professor at Texas A&M University at Galveston, is Past Chairman of the Galveston Park Board of Trustees, and has served on numerous boards and committees that are working to shape the future of our island. Dr. Viser will be speaking on American magazine advertising from 1940 to 1950 (pre-war, wartime, post-war), and its tie-ins with both military and cultural aspects of American history. It's an unusual topic, and one we look forward to learning more about.



★ News From Our Squadrons: ★

E. W. Moore Squadron



Saltgrass Steak House 12613 Galleria Circle Bee Cave, TX 78738

We were blessed that 24 of us could come together for fellowship and to listen to Professor Gene Allen Smith share his "The War That Wasn't: Thomas ap Catesby Jones and the First Implementation of the Monroe Doctrine!" He was a wonderful speaker and we enjoyed his presentation greatly.

Professor Gene Allen Smith became Admiral Gene Allen Smith after his presentation and it was a long time in coming. His Admiral of the Texas Navy certificate was signed in 2019 by Governor Rick Abbott.....talk about patience! We are grateful to Admirals John Williams and John Knox for making his appearance possible.

Admiral Gene donated a book he co-authored entitled "In Harm's Way A History of the American Military Experience" to our Squadron for which we are very grateful!

Continued Next Page



News From Our Squadrons:



E. W. Moore Squadron

Saltgrass Steak House 12613 Galleria Circle Bee Cave, TX 78738



*Commander Wayne Courrages and
Professor Gene Allen Smith*

Also Admiral Gaylon Finklea Hecker shared that her book "Growing Up In The Lone Star State Notable Texans Remember Their Childhoods" is now available.

We were very honored to have Texas Navy Association Executive Committee Member Jerry Patterson and

David Wetzel, Board of Director Member Mariann Laughlin along with Command Officer Scott Dick with us Sunday. TNA Squadron Representative Admiral Kathy Howell requested that we support the upcoming Wreaths Across America event by donating money to purchase wreaths to lay on veteran gravesites. If you wish to donate to this most worthy cause, please contact her: kackeroo@yahoo.com

The 50th Anniversary of the Texas Navy Association is next year and a committee is already being formed to begin planning for it. If you would like to be a member of this committee, please let Admirals Mitch Fuller and Gaylon Finklea Hecker know: gaylonfh@yahoo.com

Some sad and good news, Admiral Tom Hauser and his wife Yellow Rose Suzanne are moving to Corpus Christi. The good news is that Admiral Tom is going to form a Corpus Christi squadron. A true loss for the E. W. Moore Squadron, but a big win for Corpus Christi and the Texas Navy Association! Our next Quarterly E. W. Moore Squadron Meeting is October 17th beginning at 1300 hours at our new Home Port:

Continued Next Page



News From Our Squadrons:



E. W. Moore Squadron

New Port



Saltgrass Steak House
12613 Galleria Circle
Bee Cave, TX 78738



Admiral Gaylon Finklea Hecker shared that her book "Growing Up In The Lone Star State Notable Texans Remember Their Childhoods" is now available.

Yellow Rose Ali James, Curator of the Texas Capitol and Director of Visitors Services, is our honored speaker. It is always a delight to listen to her stories and tell the secrets of the Texas Capitol. Please put October 17th on your calendar because you will not want to miss her! We will also conduct our "Change of Command Ceremony" that will take place at the end of our meeting. Admiral Mitch Fuller will become our Command Officer for 2021-2023 and along with his outstanding Command Staff will lead the E. W. Moore Squadron into the future!





News From Our Squadrons:



Samuel May Williams Squadron



We hope you can join us on Friday, September 17th at our Third Quarter Samuel May Williams Squadron meeting.

Admiral Amy Jo Baker has arranged for an outstanding program on the twentieth Anniversary of 9-11.

This will be a very interesting and timely presentation a Program to Honor the Events and People of 9/11/01 & First Responders, on the Occasion of the 20th Anniversary

Program: "September 11th, 20 Years Later," Presented by William (Bill) Groneman III, Fire Captain of Engine Company 308, City of New York Fire Department, Retired after 25 years of service and eyewitness of the events of 9/11; author of September 11: A Memoir (Author of several Texas History books available for purchase).

**Samuel May Williams Squadron, Texas Navy Association Agenda
September 17, 2021- San Antonio Petroleum Club**

11:00-11:30 Registration/Meet and Greet; 11:30 Lunch followed by Program



News From Our Squadrons:



Samuel May Williams Squadron



- Welcome and Introduction of Guests-Admiral Richard Hatch, Commander and Past President, Texas Navy Association
- Invocation & Flag Salute- Admiral Jimmy Peet, Chaplain
- Introduction of Speaker- Admiral Amy Jo Baker, Deputy Commander

Program: **"September 11th, 20 Years Later,"**

Presented by: William (Bill) Groneman III, Fire Captain of Engine Company 308, City of New York Fire Department, retired after 25 years of service and eyewitness of the events of 9/11; author of September 11: A Memoir followed by presentation to Speaker: Admiral Dr Amy Jo Baker, Deputy Commander

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Texas Navy Association Special Event Saturday, September 18, 2021 to mark the grave of Samuel May Williams in Galveston with keynote speaker Gordon Blocker followed by lunch at the Artillery Club (oldest private club west of the Mississippi)
- Winter Quarterly Meeting-Friday, December 3- San Antonio Petroleum Club Honoring Korean War Veterans and "Korea: The Forgotten War" presentation by Rudy Purificato, Randolph Air Force Base on the occasion of the on-going three year 70th Anniversary of the Korean War (1950-1953/2020-2023)



★ News From Our Squadrons: ★

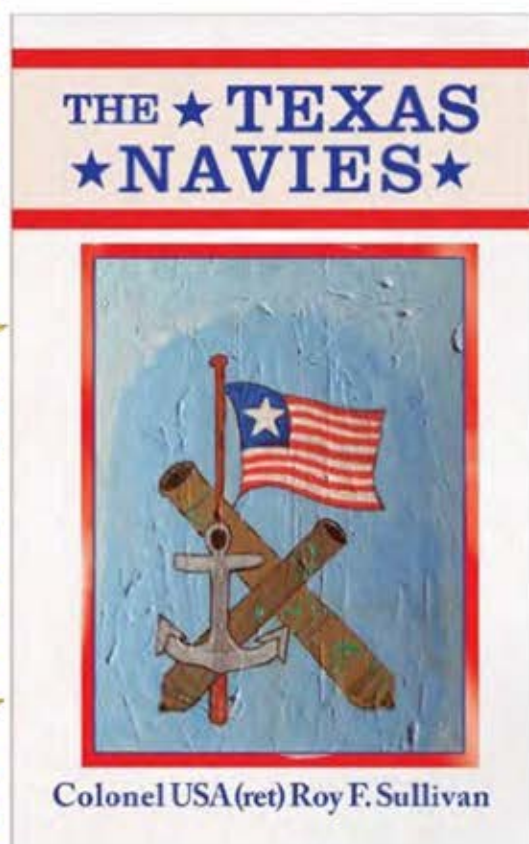
Sam Houston Squadron

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our Fall 2021 meeting of the Sam Houston Squadron will be at 11:30 AM on Saturday, Sept. 11 at Lakewood Yacht Club.

During the meeting, we will present commissions to our new Admirals, hear a presentation by Texas Ranger James Wilkins on the history of the Texas Rangers with an emphasis on their role of the Rangers during the Republic, and announce up-coming events.

★ Book Recommendations: ★



Undeterred by the Mexicans' heavier cannon, both Texas warships sailed into the interval between the enemy steamships and their sailing ships. The steamers were on the Texans' port side and were given five broadsides by the Austin and the Wharton without appreciable damage to the Mexican steamers. Then the Texans turned their attention to the more vulnerable enemy sailing ships firing at them from their starboard "They (the steamers) don't intend to let us get any closer to them", Commodore Moore observed caustically. "They are paddling off stern foremost, faster than we can come up to them. Keep her away a little so our broadside can bear". Then Moore ordered, in true Farragut style, "Damn them! Give it to them"!

To purchase The Texas Navies by Roy Sullivan
click on this link:

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Texas-Navies-Col-Sullivan/dp/1449052584>



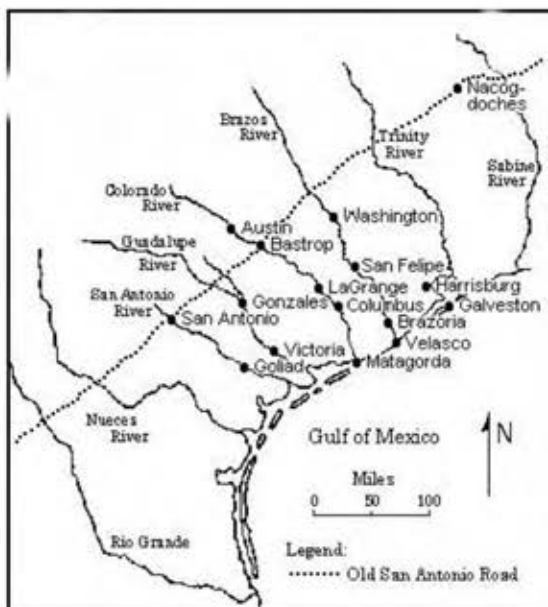
★ Texas Navy History Brief: ★

A Tale of Three "Witches" [Serving the Early Texas Navy]

Captain Lewis M. Smith, USN (Retired)
Admiral, Texas Navy

It was a desperate time for Texians as the new year dawned in 1836. Determined to fight for their independence from Mexico, the struggle had already heated up the previous October. Volunteers had held their ground in Gonzales, then successfully evicted Mexican forces from their garrisons in Goliad and San Antonio where they recaptured the Alamo along with a thousand defenders.

Despite those successes, it appeared they would be strongly challenged, and soon. General Santa Anna was on the march from Mexico City leading 6,000 troops determined to take back the Alamo and Texas from the rebels. Very aware of the threat, the Texians were hard at work organizing under their newly selected Commander-in-Chief Sam Houston and taking steps to control the coastline which was wide open to Mexican troop movements and supply operations.



Texas did not possess a single fighting vessel and funds to establish a navy were almost non-existent. To deal with the problem as best they could, the provisional government on November 16th determined their best course of action was to issue Letters of Marque and Reprisal to permit privateers to "harass the enemy..."¹ When few requests for letters materialized, the Committee on Naval Affairs, at the urging of Gov. Henry Smith, recommended the "creation of a Navy owned and controlled by Texas" on November 18th. Both measures were enacted by the Provisional Council and signed by the governor on November 25th.²

One of the first privateering commissions was granted December 5th to Ira R. Lewis and other owners of the schooner *William Robbins* which had already been at work supporting the Texians.³ In the preceding month, the schooner responded to pleas of Matagorda's citizens to drive off Mexico's *Montezuma*



★ Texas Navy History Brief: ★

and *General Bravo*, and assisted the recently armed schooner *San Felipe*, which had gone aground near Cavallo Pass, the main channel into Matagorda Bay.

With *San Felipe* wrecked, the Matagorda Committee of Safety's fears were amplified until the General Council provided help by authorizing the purchase the *William Robbins* as a navy vessel at its offer price of \$3,500. ⁴ William Hurd, former commander of the *San Felipe*, was appointed Captain.

William Robbins' first and only mission under Captain Hurd was to come to the aid of the merchant schooner *Hannah Elizabeth* which had been driven aground at Cavallo Pass November 19th by the marauding Mexican schooner *Bravo*. Heavy seas had forced *Bravo* to remain off the coast, giving Capt. Hurd the opportunity to free the stranded prisoners and cargo from an 11-man prize crew.



Texas schooner of war *Liberty*

artist: Emil Bunjes (1902 - 1974)

Hurd and his crew accomplished the task with the help of Captain S. Rhoads Fisher and 20 volunteers from his Matagorda company. They captured the Mexican force with little resistance. ⁵ Subsequent miscommunications and misinterpretations regarding the sale of *Hannah Elizabeth's* cargo, however, cost Captain Hurd his post and placed Captain Fisher under a cloud. Both were later fully exonerated and promoted: Hurd to command the impressive Texas Schooner *Brutus* in March and Fisher was appointed Secretary of the Navy in October.

Following the *Hannah Elizabeth* episode, the *Robbins* underwent a much needed refit at Velasco under her new commander Jeremiah Brown. Once ready for sea, she set sail for New Orleans December 26th with several representatives of the Republic to undergo a further refit and conversion to a schooner of war. As the Matagorda transaction wasn't found to be acceptable in the Republic's eyes, *William Robbins* was finally purchased in behalf of the provisional government by underwriters McKinley and Williams at the Matagorda offer price. Soon renamed *Liberty*, there's no doubt it was something of a bargain at \$3,500 – amounting to \$100 less than the “annual wage” of one of her first commanders under the Texas flag, William S. Brown (Jeremiah Brown's brother). ⁶

Soon after completion of the refit and recruiting a crew, *Liberty* set sail from New



★ Texas Navy History Brief: ★

convoying four merchant vessels with cargos of munitions, equipment and provisions to Velasco for Gen. Houston's army.

Arriving there at about the same time was the 130-ton schooner of war *Invincible* which soon became the 2nd vessel to join the Texas Navy. Jeremiah Brown was named her first commander, while his brother William was appointed commander of the *William Robbins/Liberty*, effective February 1st.

Enter Water Witch #1

No record exists for the exact date a ship's boat named *Water Witch* was impressed and taken aboard the *Liberty* by Captain William Brown. Sworn documents, however, placed the occasion as "some time in February."⁷

Although *Water Witch*, at the time it was impressed, was in the possession of Matagorda area pilot William Nye, later proofs showed it was actually owned by Robert O. W. McManus who lived at Moss Bluff, near the town of Liberty on the Trinity River. While his boat was assisting the Texians at sea, McManus was serving with distinction in Gen. Houston's army with Erastus "Deaf" Smith's spy company.

Described as "an 8-oared, small sailing vessel,"⁸ *Water Witch* fit the description of a boat that would be ideal to support needs of the *Liberty*, including carrying crew and provisions from anchorage to shore or between other vessels. With limited deck space aboard, *Water Witch* was most likely attached to stern davits. She remained in the service of *Liberty* until after Captain Brown left the ship in May, when *Liberty* also left the service of the Republic.⁹



According to estimates requested from Captain Nye, *Liberty* Boatswain John Jefferys and *Liberty* Purser Henry Fisher, the value of *Water Witch* was placed at \$100 and the Republic paid Robert McManus that amount in May 1839.¹⁰

Water Witch's service would prove crucial during *Liberty*'s next enemy engagement as the schooner sailed southwest from Matagorda Bay February 13th seeking Mexican warships. On March 3rd, she approached the Mexican port of Sisal at the tip of the Yucatan Peninsula, spotting Mexican vessels in its offshore anchorage.

That night, *Liberty* crewmen and marines boarded and captured the Mexican three-gun schooner *Pelicano* during a brief, but vigorous battle. In all probability they were conveyed from the *Liberty* to the *Pelicano* by *Water Witch* along with another small boat forcibly pressed into service from a nearby American



★ Texas Navy History Brief: ★



schooner. It was an all the more risky action in that it took place within point-blank range of Sisal's garrison. Even though the Mexicans had anticipated an attack and taken elaborate precautions to prevent the *Pelicano* from being sailed away, the *Liberty's* prize crew soon had her underway, headed homeward to Matagorda Bay.¹¹

Reaching Cavallo Pass on March 20th and guided by pilot Captain William

Chase, the *Liberty* had a safe passage into the bay, but *Pelicano*, following behind, strayed out of the channel and was wrecked.

To handle this challenge, Captain Brown put Able Seaman Caleb Jefferys and 10 other crewmen ashore to manage the wreck and salvage as much of the cargo as possible. Most of the goods consisted of 600 barrels of flour, 460 of which were saved from the wreckage. A large portion of the barrels were later found to conceal 280 smaller kegs of gun powder – a valuable prize that was later commended in a proclamation by Gen. Houston.¹²

Enter "Water Witch" #2

During the Jan. 25 - Feb, 13th period when *Liberty* was refitting at Velasco and capturing the *Pelicano*, still another *Water Witch* appeared in Matagorda Bay.

As was the case with Robert McManus' *Water Witch* (described as an 8-oared small sailing vessel), *Water Witch* #2 was also in the possession of Captain William Nye when pressed into government service. No question, though, the "Witches" were very dissimilar. Sworn documents describe #2 as the "lighter *Water Witch*" or simply "lighter" (A lighter usually being a wide, flat-bottom, barge-type sailing vessel designed to carry bulky cargos).

According to Captain Nye's \$336 claim against the Republic for use of his lighter and his own services between January 20 and February 18, he transported Thomas Stewart, Captain of the Matagorda Company of Volunteers along with some of his men, 62 kegs of powder and 27 boxes of lead to Lavaca and returned to Matagorda with part of the ammunition and some families; loads appropriate for a lighter, but not of a small, 8-oared sailing vessel which could be taken aboard *Liberty*.

In his statement regarding ownership of the lighter "Water Witch," Captain Nye said (referring to the January - February 1836 period) "it is his own property and



★ Texas Navy History Brief: ★

actually at the present time belongs and appertains to himself alone. That he has not sold or transferred the same to any person or persons whatsoever." Nye was later paid his \$336 claim for use of his lighter and himself.¹³

...and Water Witch # 3

The main element setting *Water Witch* #3 apart from #1 and #2 is that Captain William Nye's name is not mentioned in any documents or claims associated with her. Rather, the claims for #3 were submitted by Captain William Chase, another Matagorda Bay pilot (who had recently guided *Liberty* over the bar at Cavallo Pass on returning with the prize schooner *Pelicano*).

Chase's claim was also linked to *Liberty* and Captain Brown who impressed the vessel described variously as "the lighter *Water Witch*" and "the sloop *Water Witch*."¹⁴ The terms describe two very different types of vessels, but those most familiar with the vessel used the term "lighter" which more accurately fit the nature of the cargos and tasks she was assigned.

The reason for her being pressed by Brown was to carry items salvaged from the *Pelicano*¹⁵ along with some residents of Matagorda from Cox's Point in Matagorda Bay to Galveston.



A lighter (barge) under full sail

Captain Brown placed Caleb Jefferys in command of the *Water Witch* for the voyage which turned out to be very short-lived, not getting beyond the shoals of Matagorda Bay peninsula. Captain Chase valued the loss of his *Water Witch* at \$750 – an amount verified by Jefferys and James Scott who were appointed for the purpose by an auditor, and certified by *Liberty*'s Purser Henry Fisher as well as Captain Brown.¹⁶

The possibility that Captains Nye and Chase submitted claims for the same "lighter *Water Witch*" could be raised in that their impressed errands occurred at different times: February (Nye) and March (Chase). However, sworn statements remain in the record to argue against joint or separate ownership. Most persuasive is the statement signed by Nye in his \$336 claim file on January 16, 1838 vowing that "his lighter *Water Witch*....is his own property...." A \$750 claim for the complete loss of the lighter *Water Witch* submitted September 26, 1836 in the name of Captain Chase seems contradictory at best.



★ Texas Navy History Brief: ★

Unlike the "Water Witch" claims of McManus and Nye, there are no documents in archived claim records indicating Captain Chase was compensated for his claim. There is also no record of Captain Nye having filed for the complete loss of his *Water Witch* while in government service.

Final days of *Liberty* and the *Pelicano* prize

Amid the wreckage and adventures of the three "witches," there remained the final dispositions of the *Pelicano* prize they had a role in capturing and transporting, and the fate of their "mother ship" *Liberty*.

The heroics and exertions of *Liberty*'s officers and crewmen capturing the *Pelicano* and later saving its cargo entitled them under Texas law to half the value of the prize vessel and cargo.¹⁷ However, this was all dependent upon a hearing in Admiralty Court with the jury finding in their favor.

The case was heard April 12, 1838 in the District Court of Brazoria Co., which was serving as the Court of Admiralty for the Republic of Texas. Having heard testimony concerning the capture of *Pelicano*, the nature and value of the prize, the jury found for the crew and awarded it \$3,972.02 - half the total value of the goods remaining after it was wrecked.¹⁸ However, that amount was reduced by half again as the result of an unexplained ruling of an "Auditorial Court". This meant that under the laws of Texas governing prize distributions, Captain Brown wound up with an award of just \$284.40 and his Lieutenant, Charles O'Connor, who led the assault on *Pelicano*, merely received \$189.60.¹⁹

As for the last days of the *Liberty*, Captain Brown was relieved of his command by Commodore Charles Edward Hawkins and replaced by Captain George W. Wheelwright on May 8, 1936.²⁰ This action is attributed to an incident when the Commodore, who was commanding the Texas Navy, came aboard *Liberty* a short time before. He and Brown had a heated disagreement concerning the flag being flown by *Liberty* (the "1824" banner with Mexican tri-color),²¹ rather than the newer Flag of the Texas Navy which had been approved by Governor David G. Burnet on April 9th.²² It also did not help matters when Captain Brown refused to acknowledge the Commodore's authority over *Liberty*.²³



"1824" refers to the date the Mexican Constitution established Tejas as a federal republic

For *Liberty*'s final voyage, she had the honor of escorting the merchant schooner *Flora* carrying General Sam Houston from Galveston to New Orleans for treatment of wounds he received during the battle of San Jacinto. They reached the city May 22nd.



★ Texas Navy History Brief: ★



The Texas Naval flag

There Captain Wheelwright placed the *Liberty* in dry dock for refitting, but when repairs were finished, the Republic of Texas could not pay the bill, and in July the ship was sold to satisfy the claims against her.²⁴

Concluding the tale of the Three Witches are these thoughts from the journal of *Liberty* Able Seaman Samuel W. Cushing.²⁵ He had served aboard Texas' first warship the entire time she was in commission. On the day he refers to, Cushing was commanding a small boat accompanying *Liberty* at the beginning of its final voyage from Matagorda Bay to Galveston and on to New Orleans escorting the *Flora* with Gen. Sam Houston aboard.

"Everything being in readiness for sailing, the news was revealed that the independence of the country had been declared and a flag was placed in my hands with directions to fasten it to the haliards and hoist it. This was done [with] a salute of three times three from all hands greeting the first unfolding of the flag to the breeze. This was the first Texan flag that had been hoisted on board any of our national vessels and differed somewhat from the one afterwards adopted. It was said to have been the one used at the siege of San Antonio de Bexar the December previous - a blue field and in the tipper corner a single star of five points over which was stretched a blood red arm and hand holding a naked sword the rest red and white stripes alternately. The centre white stripe contained the word Independence in large letters reaching its whole length.²⁶ At the close of this ceremony another in which I was more intimately concerned came off. Through the hands of my sweet friend I received from Capt (William) Brown the present of a beautiful dirk with belt etc accompanied with many gracious words from the young lady by permission of the discretionary power delegated by the commander on the occasion. I was now ordered to proceed on my voyage and in a short time in company with the *Liberty* and *Durango* we had passed the bar and gaining a good offing shaped our course for Galveston."



Capt. William Brown's flag





★ Texas Navy History Brief: ★

APPENDIX

Following are selected primary source documents, with “translations” of the original handwriting, referred to in the article: A Tale of Three “Witches” [Serving the Early Texas Navy]

- *Liberty* Captain William Brown pay statement
- *Liberty* Boatswain John Jefferys statement re McManus “Water Witch”
- Capt. William Nye claim statement for use of his Lighter “Water Witch”
- Capt. William Chase “Water Witch” claim statements
- Jury verdict in Admiralty Court Trial: Republic of Texas (crew of Schooner *Liberty*) v. Mexican Schooner *Pelicano* - April 12, 1838



★ Texas Navy History Brief: ★

Liberty Captain William Brown pay statement

Austin Aug 3, 1835

Republic of Texas to
William S. Brown Sr.

To Acc. as Commander on board the
Texian Schooner Liberty from 1st February
to 9th May 1835 3 mos & 9 days at \$300 per mo. \$990.00

<i>Advancement of slops cash & sundries</i>	<i>1126.37</i>	<i>1126.37</i>
<i>Credit by cash & slops</i>	<i>152.87</i>	<i>152.87</i>
<i>Bal. due</i>	<i>973.50</i>	<i>973.50</i>

Approved (TX) *The above is correct*
A Somervell Actg.
Sec. of the Navy

P14-11

Austin Aug 3, 1836

Republic of Texas to

William S. Brown Sr

To accounting as Commander on board the
Texian Schooner Liberty from 1st February
to 9th May 1835 3 mos & 9 days at \$ 300 per mo.

\$990.00

Advancement of slops cash & sundries

136.37

1126.37

1236.37

Credit by cash & slops

152.87

152.87

Bal. due

973.50

973.50

The above _____ is correct

Approved

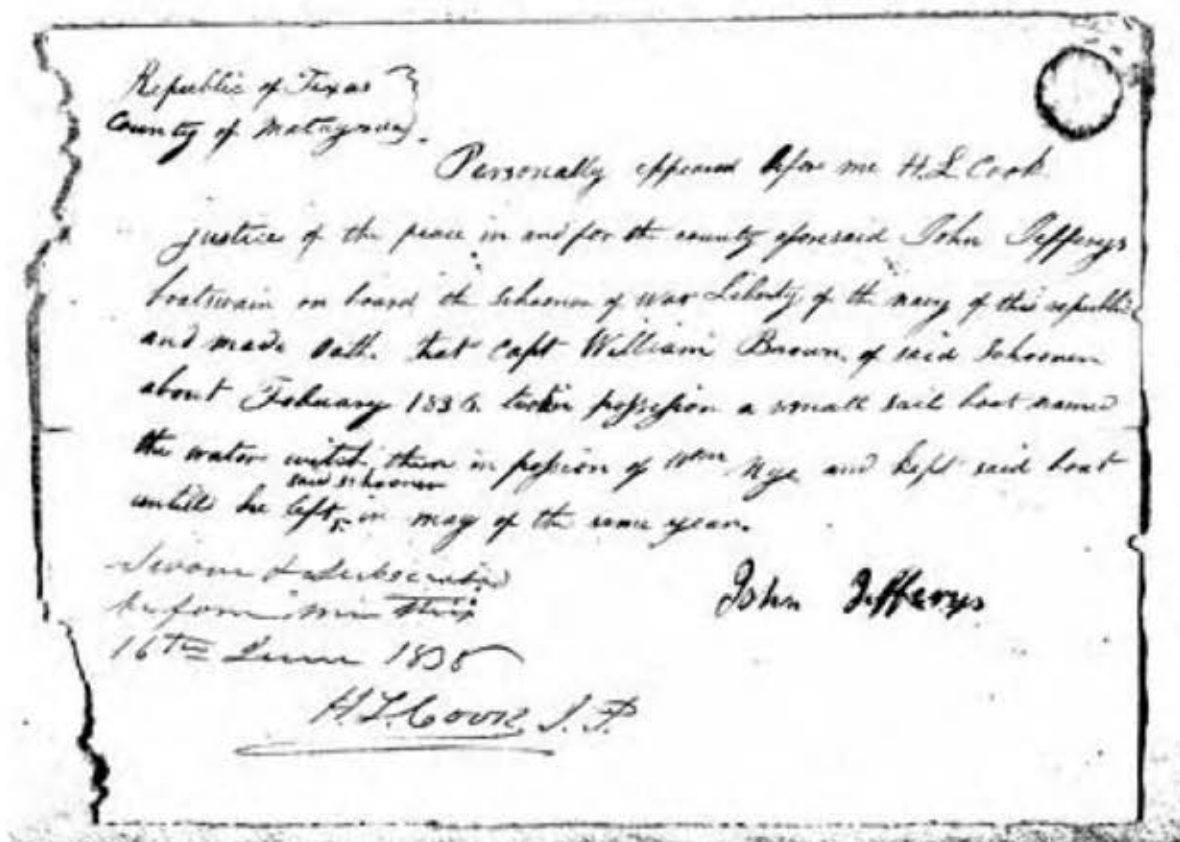
A Somervell Actg

Sec. of the Navy



★ Texas Navy History Brief: ★

Liberty Boatswain John Jefferys statement re McManus "Water Witch"



Republic of Texas
County of Matagorda

Personally appeared before me H. L. Cook
Justice of the Peace in and for the county aforesaid John Jefferys
boatswain on board the Schooner of War Liberty of the Navy of this Republic
and made oath that Capt William Brown of said Schooner
about February 1836 took possession a small sail boat named
the Water Witch then in possession of Wm Nye and kept said boat
until he left said schooner in may of the same year.

John Jefferys

Sworn & Subscribed
before me this
16th June 1838
H.L. Cook, J.P.



★ Texas Navy History Brief: ★

Captain William Nye claim statement for use of his Lighter "Water Witch"



The Provisional Government
1836 To William N. Nye for
Nov 4th 28 twenty-eight days service
commencing on the 20th day of
Jan and ending on 18 Feb of 1836

with his Lighter as per certified
of D. C. Cady aid to the governor
and Thomas Stuart Capt of the
Matagorda Volunteers...
at \$12 per day - \$336.00

Republic of Texas
County of Magagorda
William N. Nye being
duly sworn on oath declares that the above
account of three hundred and thirty six
dollars is true and correct
That the government is indebted to him the
said sum for his own services and that of
his Lighter Water Witch. That he has not
received the sums or any part thereof.
That he owes the government nothing.
That it is his own property and actually
at the present time belongs and appertains
to himself alone. That he has not sold or
transferred the same to any person or
persons whatsoever.

W N Nye

Sworn to & subscribed this
16th day of Jan 1838
Before me Seth Ingram
J. Peace



★ Texas Navy History Brief: ★

Captain William Chase "Water Witch" claim statements

Personally came before me A. Brigham Auditor Caleb H. Jefferys and says on oath that she was on board, and had command of the Lighter Water Witch at the time she was lost, by going ashore on the Peninsula near Paso Cabello, and that he was knowing to her having been impressed into the Public Service at the time she was lost. That she was then laden with public stores on the way from Coxes Point to Galveston Island and further states that sd Lighter was in the Public Service near four weeks previous to the time she was lost. Velasco Sept 26. 1836
Sworn to and signed before me
A. Brigham Auditor } Caleb H. Jefferys

Personally came before me A. Brigham Auditor W. Chase and says on oath the annexed instruments are just, true, and original, and that he is not indebted to Govt. - also acknowledges to have received a draft in his favour from the Treasurer for Nine Hundred and Eighty six Dollars, in full for this amt. -
Sworn to and signed before me
A. Brigham Auditor } (TX) William Chase

748-123

Personally came before me
A. Brigham Auditor, Caleb H. Jefferys and says on oath that he was on board, and had command of the Lighter Water Witch at the time she was lost by going ashore on the Peninsula near Paso Cabello, and that he was knowing to her having been impressed into the Public service (by W.S. Brown) at the time she was lost. That she was then laden with public stores on the way from Coxes Point to Galveston Island and further notes that sd Lighter was in the Public Service near four weeks previous to the time she was lost.
Velasco Sept 26. 1836

Sworn to and signed before)
A Brigham Auditor) Caleb H. Jefferys

Personally came before me A. Brigham Auditor W. Chase and says on oath the annexed instruments are just, true and original and that he is not indebted to Govt - also acknowledges to have secured a draft in his favour from the Treasurer for Nine Hundred and Eighty six Dollars in full for this amt.

Velasco Sept 1836 William Chase
Sworn to and signed before
A. Brigham Auditor



★ Texas Navy History Brief: ★

Jury verdict in Admiralty Court Trial: Republic of Texas (crew of Schooner Liberty)
v. Mexican Schooner Pelicano April 12, 1838

We the Jury find that the Mexican Schooner Pelicano
Bound from New Orleans to Sisal and Campeche
was Captured by the ^{Texian} Armed Schooner Liberty off the Port-
of Sisal. and that she had a Valuable Cargo on Board.
We also find that the said Schooner Pelicano
was wrecked when attempting to Cross the Bar at
Matagorda Bay. - We also find the amount of
Property Saved from the Pelicano by the ^{captives &} Salvors to
be seven thousand five hundred and Eighty four dollars
and five Cents according to the annexed Invoice -
We also find that the said Salvors are entitled to
one half of said amount - or \$3792 02 1/2 -
& the Government ~~pay~~ all other expenses ~~incurred~~
J. Van Bingham - Foreman



★ Texas Navy History Brief: ★

Footnotes

¹ Proceedings of the General Council, 13

² Ibid., 55-56

³ Alex Dienst, Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Assn., Vol. XII, No. 3 (Jan. 1909), p 180

⁴ Proceedings of the General Council, 251

⁵ Alex Dienst, *ibid.*, p 185

⁶ William S. Brown Claim #658; Republic Claims, Archives and Information Services Division, Texas State Library & Archives Commission. [See pay statement document in Appendix]

⁷ Robert O.W. McManus Claim: Republic Claims, Archives and Information Services Division, Texas State Library and Archives Commission. [See original statement regarding the McManus *Water Witch* in Appendix]

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid..

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Samuel W. Cushing, Wild Oats Sowings 1857 (Cushing served as an Able Seaman aboard Liberty during Captain Brown's period of service)

¹² Alex Dienst, Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Assn., Vol. XII, No. 4 (April 1909), p 250

¹³ William Nye claim: Republic Claims, Archives and Information Services Division, Texas State Library and Archives Commission. [See Capt. Nye claim statement documents in Appendix]

¹⁴ William Chase claim: *ibid.*

¹⁵ (2bbbs pork, 3bbbs flour, 2kegs paint) William Chase Claim #1006; Republic Claims, Archives and Information Services Division, Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

¹⁶ William Chase claim: Ibid. [See Capt. Chase claim statements in Appendix]

¹⁷ Gammel: The Laws of Texas 1822-1897, at I-1187 (Austin, Gammel Book Co. 1898).

<http://texinfo.library.unt.edu/lawsoftexas/pdf/law09011.pdf>

¹⁸ Brazoria County District Court Records, Pelicano documents courtesy of Brazoria Co. Historical Museum. [See jury verdict document in Appendix]

¹⁹ William S. Brown Claim #1641; Republic Claims, Archives and Information Services Division, Texas State Library & Archives Commission

²⁰ In July Capt Brown was given another navy commission and put in charge of the *Comanche* and the *Fanny Butler*, two captured Mexican vessels. He was later commissioned captain of the privateer *Benjamin R. Milam*, but he died in New Orleans before the ship was ready for service.

²¹ Also referred to as the "privateer flag" from an ordinance passed by the General Council Nov. 29, 1835 which reads in part: "....Sec 2. Be it further ordained and decreed.... that all vessels sailing under Licesnses, as Letters of Marque and Reprisal, which have been, or may hereafter granted by the Governor and Council... shall carry the flag of the Republic of the United States of Mexico, and shall have the figures 1, 8, 2,4 cyp[hered in large Arabics on the white ground thereof... Passed at San Felipe de Austin, Nov. 29, 1835.

²² The design is often attributed to Commodore Hawkins, however, it was displayed as early as 1834 on a Tourné & Beckwith Co. bill of lading for the schooner *Brazoria*: Alex Dienst papers, Center for American History, Univ. of Texas at Austin.

²³ Cushing, "Wild Oats Sowings"

²⁴ Alex Dienst, Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Assn., Vol. XII, No. 4 (April 1909), p 251

²⁵ Cushing, "Wild Oats Sowings"

²⁶ Known as the "Captain Brown flag", there is no record of when it was made. One story is that after Brown took part in the siege of Bexar, he took the flag to Goliad, where it was unfurled on Dec. 20, 1835 - the date the Goliad Declaration of Independence was ratified. [Charles A. Spain, Jr., "Flags of the Texas Revolution", Texas State Historical Assn.]



New Members



Levels of Membership of The Texas Navy

Admiral Annual Membership - \$50.00 (USD)

Subscription period: 1 year

No automatically recurring payments

One must hold a commission as Admiral in the Texas

Navy which is awarded by the Governor of Texas.



Commander - \$37.50 (USD)

Subscription period: 1 year

No automatically recurring payments

Must be age 26 and up



Lieutenant - \$25.00 (USD)

Subscription period: 1 year

No automatically recurring payments

Must be age 16 to 25



Associate Member - \$25.00 (USD)

Subscription period: 1 year

No automatically recurring payments

Admiral William Cole



William has a MA, and is a twice retired math teacher. Taught eight years in Beaumont ISD after moving to Texas and had a 100% pass rate on the TACS Test. Spent 15 years with USCGA Flotilla 6-11 Beaumont, TX serving as a Safe Boating instructor, Marine Dealer Visitor, Coxswain and Flotilla Comander. Patrolled the Neches and Sabin Rivers and Intercoastal Canal in support of the Coast Guard doing safety patrols and aids to navigation verification and safety zones as needed. Provided area familiarization to Coast Guard personel and patrolled shortly after 9-11 and patrolled about 2000 hours during the time after 9-11 checking on the security of the ports and refineries in the area. Received the 9-11 ribbon for my service. William is Governor of the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Texas and Registrar for Sons of the Revolution and past President and Treasurer for the Paul Revere Chapter of the Sons of the Revolution in Beaumont.



★ **New Members** ★

Admiral Diana Lovelace



Diana has been privileged to work with many charities throughout the United States and Fortune 500 companies to achieve specific goals for the past 35 years. In that time I have raised millions of dollars for charity and produced events across the United States.

Admiral Theodore Nicholson



Chaplain, Lt Col Nicholson was commissioned through the ROTC program after his graduation from the University of Texas at Austin in 1985. He served in Air Force Space Command as a Space Systems Crew Commander, then as a Reservist was assigned as a Chemical Research Officer to Air Force Logistics Command. He then had a six year break in service, when he went overseas as a Strategy Coordinator for a non-government organization in a developing country. Upon his return, he earned a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Chaplain Nicholson deployed in June 2002 in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM on the first Forward Engineering Support Team for the US Army Corps of Engineers. As a chaplain, he was deployed in 2004 and 2007 in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM to Balad AB, Iraq.

Chaplain Nicholson was one of six Air Force Reserve Command chaplains chosen for a two-year pilot program for chaplains to be assigned to high-ops tempo reserve bases on a fulltime basis. During this time, he proved the viability of the program through creation of multiple resilience and suicide prevention programs and presentations, extensive visitation, and strengthening of the Integrated Delivery System.

Mr. Nicholson, in his civilian occupation, currently serves as the Deputy Area Engineer, South Texas Area Office, US Army Corps of Engineers, JBSA Sam Houston, in San Antonio, TX. He is responsible for leading a multi-disciplined engineering team for project design and construction of instructional, administrative, and medical care facilities.

Continued Next Page



★ New Members ★

Admiral Drake Peddie



Current State President of Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.
Member - Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (Templar Knight
State Vice President - General Society of the War of 1812
Member - Order of Descendants of Pirates and Privateers, Sons and Daughters of
Pilgrims, Order of Founders of North America +++
Engineering manager for Raytheon Technologies.
Born and raised in Houston, Texas - Graduated University of Houston BSEE
Master Degree - Amberton University

Admiral Gregory Pollock



A multi-generational Christian and a 6th generation Texan, born at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, 23 July 1965.

Proud father and dad to three 7th generation Texans, all Austin born.

Served the United States Army and Texas Army National Guard for 26 years.

Forged by A Co 3/75th Army Rangers; my baptism of fire was in Panama "Operation Just Cause" ('89), other notable assignments were with the AGTX-CD (SOD) in the Texas Homeland, CJTF Fervent Archer in Bosnia ('06) and TF Deguello Afghanistan "Operation Enduring Freedom" ('09).

Awards include the Legion of Merit, Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Ranger Tab and Master Parachutist badge. National Infantry Association medal "Order of Saint Maurice" and Military Intelligence Association Knolton medal.

Served the Boy Scouts of America as an adult leader for ten years, from a den leader to the Capitol Council advisory committee and action officer for the 100 year Jubilee.

Learn to sail in the Gulf of Mexico, and would later sail competitively and teach adults sailing lesson on Lake Travis, where I help found a high school. President of class '83.



★ New Members ★

Admiral Daniel Small



As a prosecutor with the US Organized Crime Strike Force, Daniel worked closely with the Texas Rangers to prosecute a very violent group. Continued as a prosecutor for many years, then went into private practice, now based in Miami, doing a mix of internal and external investigations, white collar criminal defense, civil litigation, and witness preparation (wrote the ABA's manual Preparing Witnesses (Fifth Edition, 2020)). Married 33 years with three great kids.

Admiral Ben Warren



Ben worked in the hospitality industry for approximately 30 years, including owning his own business during this time. He then worked in the gas and oil industry for approximately 10 years. At this point Ben decided to go to college and attended San Antonio College and is graduating with an Information Assurance and Cyber-Security along with Network Administrator Associate Degrees in the fall of 2019.

Ben is an 8th generation Texan. Having a relative that fought in the Battle of San Jacinto by the name of James W. Winters who served under Captain William Ware's Company at San Jacinto. Interesting side note is that on June 3, 1901, at the age of eighty-four, Mr. Winters visited the San Jacinto battlefield as a representative of the Texas Veterans Association and identified important locations which were later permanently marked by the San Jacinto Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. While in Houston, Mr. Winters gave an account of the Battle of San Jacinto as he remembered it. This was published in the Quarterly of the Texas Historical Association in October 1902.

Ben has been a member of The Sons of the Republic of Texas with the Sam Houston Chapter #38, Katy, TX since 2013. Following in his father's footsteps who was also a member of the SRT and a Knights of San Jacinto, Ben is a past President of the chapter and has helped to promote the education and preservation of The Republic of Texas history.

Ben has also promoted a gathering of Texas descendants to come together for the past five years in attending a Houston Astros baseball game. This has grown from not only including the SRT organization but also including the Texas Navy Association as well. Each year the event expands, and more seats are added to the event. This enables like descendants the opportunity to invite family and friends and invite them to join our organizations, as well as discuss history and events during the game.

Ben has a wife, Candy, and four children Logan, Samantha, Barbara and Ben along with two grandchildren, Logan Jr. and Desmond.

Continued Next Page



★ New Members ★

Commander James Blythe



Born in Texas, Graduate UT, Austin. US Navy 1967 to 1970, VA 163 and HC-1. Radio talk show host, KRLD Dallas 1994 - 1997. Alliance4theBrave KBDT radio Dallas 1160AM, Alliance4theBrave.com. Author, Planning to Change, The Challenges of Change. Certified Senior Advisor, national award winner 2015. Member and Board of Navy League, Dallas.

Commander George Borden



George grew up in Texas (Houston) and loved the water. He went to Undergrad and Graduate school in New Orleans (Tulane University) . George furthered his love of sailing whilst living in New Orleans. He currently runs and owns a small oil and gas company with assets mainly in Southern California..

Commander Samuel Cummings



Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of a local title insurance agency, and Vice Commodore of a local yacht club. Master Mason in Palestine Lodge No. 357 of Detroit, Michigan.

Commander J. D. Hill, Jr.



Native Texan. Current defender of the Texas Navy Cup, proud US Navy brat, avid reader of O'Brian, Haley, Forester and Stockwin. Skipper of the sweetest sloop to ever grace the blessed shores of Texas – Second Star.

Commander Kenneth Humphries



Having grown up racing Lightnings, Hobie 16's and PHRF boats on lakes and on the Gulf Ocean Racing Circuit, Ken joined HYC in 1991. Ken and his wife, Joanne, are long time regulars on the Bay. Ken is currently the Rear Commodore of the Houston Yacht Club. Outside of HYC, Ken serves as a director and Chairman of the PHRF – Galveston Bay Executive Committee.



★ New Members ★

Commander Felton Lynn Joseph, Jr.



Felton graduated from Ball High School and Texas A&M University. He was a member of the Corps of Cadets and the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band. He served five years in the Texas Army National Guard. Felton is currently a LT in US Navy Reserve. He is currently a supervisor in the United States Secret Service. Felton protected President Bush while in office and as a former President. He has a graduate degree from the Metropolitan College of New York, where I currently serve as an Adjunct Professor. Felton has been married for 15 years and I have three children.

Commander Andrew Paley



Rabbi Andrew Marc Paley has been the Senior Rabbi and Spiritual Leader of Temple Shalom, a Reform congregation, in Dallas, Texas since 2004. Ordained in 1995, Rabbi Paley holds a Masters Degree in Hebrew Letters from The Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion and a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from The Ohio State University and is a Prepare/Enrich Certified marital and premarital counselor.

In the city of Dallas, Rabbi Paley is a Dallas Police Chaplain, Chair of Faith Forward Dallas@thanksgiving Square - a multi-faith clergy association; Chair of the Dallas Police Department's Multi-faith Advisory Committee; a member of the Dallas Morning News Faith Advisory Committee and a regular opinion contributor; a board member of The Senior Source; was a member of the Mayor's Task Force on Poverty, and is a member of the Muslim/Jewish Advisory Council of the Dallas Chapter of The American Jewish Committee.

Rabbi Paley currently serves as the National Secretary of Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity and has served as a mentor for rabbinic colleagues in congregations around the country as well as to rabbinical students in seminary. Rabbi Paley has edited two prayer books, one for the Sabbath and one for families for the High Holy days.

Rabbi Paley is married to Deborah Niederman, the Past President of the Association of Reform Jewish Educators, and is the father of Molly, and Samuel.



★ **New Members** ★

Commander Billy Richnow



Member of Houston Yacht Club for 21 years and have served on the Board of Trustees and 3 time Fleet Captain

Commander Dinesh Subhash Sabnis PhD



Dinesh is a Lt.Gen CSLI. professor and doctor and a current resident of India. He works as Senior Education Leader and Sports Mentor for Group of Schools. Recently Dinesh has been involved in the International NGOs to work on various projects related with Sustainable Development Goals in Quality Education & Peace.

Commander June Shaw



Began racing sailboats along the Texas gulf and coast since 1978. I have raced to Vera Cruz, Port Isabel, LYC harvest moon(20+), various offshore race weeks, active racer Galveston bay and have cruised from st croix to Panama, west coast of Florida. Raced to Halifax,Bermuda & St. John's from Marblehead. Raced the bay view mackinaw for 18+ years.

Commander Brian Suttton



Brian is a Kentucky Colonel and works in a grocery store in his hometown.

Lieutenant Jacob Parr



Jacob is an undergraduate history student at the University of Texas.He grew up in Rockport, Texas, where he discovered his love of history, Texas history in particular, in Bobby Jackson's 7th Grade Texas History class. Since then, Jacob has dedicated his studies to history, especially naval history. Jacob is currently researching for his honors thesis on the Sloop Austin and the Battle of Campeche.



★ New Members ★

Associate Colton De Los Santos

Colton De Los Santos is currently a Policy Analyst at the Institute of Youth at Policy along as a student at Dripping Springs High School. He is active member within advocacy and historical societies such as the Sons of the American Revolution, Royal Society of St. George, Young Americans for Freedom, American Numismatic Association and the Federalist Society. He holds certifications in subjects ranging from history to western philosophy.

Associate Linda Fisher

Linda is a 7th generation Texan with memberships in DRT and DAR. She has taught Texas History and American History for over twenty-five years.





In Memoriam

ROBERT LEE NORRIS

July 4, 1923 - July 7, 2021



RL Norris, 98, of Clute, left this life on Wednesday, July 7, 2021. The family will receive friends at the Lakewood Funeral Home at 12 p.m. followed by funeral services at 1 p.m. on July 9, 2021, with Jim Belcher officiating. Interment will be held at Restwood Cemetery in Clute, TX.

RL was born on July 4, 1923 in Eustace, TX to Annie Lee Smith Norris and Raphael Norris. RL grew up in Athens, TX. He served our country in the United States Navy from Sept. 1942 to the end of WWII in 1945. On Feb. 15, 1945, while on shore leave, RL married his bride Irene (Monk) Norris of 76 years. The couple had 3 daughters Gloria Jean Perry, Vickie Lynn Haish and Wanda Jo Coker.

RL and Irene have been long time members of the Clute Church of Christ since moving here in the 1950's. RL was a member of the Clute Volunteer Fire Department in from 1954 to 1972. RL was awarded the honor of Admiral of the Texas Navy from Gov. Mark White in 1986. He helped start the boy's baseball Pony League for Clute, followed later by the first Clute girls' softball team and the Clute Girl Scouts. RL worked at the Dow Chemical Co. plant in Freeport for 33 years as an operator.

During his retirement, RL served as the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science curator of Mineralogy. For many years, RL met with fellow veterans and contributed to the National Destroyer Escort Association. He also volunteered at Sea Wolf Park in Galveston.

RL is survived by wife Irene, daughters Vickie Lynn (Freddie) Haish and Wanda Jo (Steven) Coker; grandchildren: Becky (Robbie) Duke, Robert (Laura) Perry, Eddie (Amanda) Haish, Kim (Rowdy) Webb, Crystal (Chris) Nunn, Courtney Hammond (Mack Coleman), Stephanie Coker (Kyle Palmer) and Ken Scott.



★ In Memoriam ★

VINCENT LOUIS MORVILLO, JR.

July 2, 1945- May 16, 2021



Vincent Louis Morvillo, Jr., of League City, passed away on Sunday, May 16, 2021 in Webster, Texas at the age of 75. He was born on July 2, 1945 in Alexandria, Louisiana to Vincent Sr. and Ruth Morvillo.

Vince, What, do I say about him? He was blind since birth, but never let that stop him from doing as he pleased. He was a world class sailor, always the captain, winning so many sailing races I cannot count them all. He donated a lot of money to the Yacht Clubs so they could enjoy racing as much as he did. He was an inspiration to so many people, so he started a motivation speaking business that lasted several years. He also freely gave his money, time, and energy to help others

such as helping the poor, the ill, and disabled children. He also belonged to the Yacht Brokers Association, being on their board of directors. He was an Admiral in the Texas Navy. He belonged to Saint Mary's Catholic Church, in League City, Texas. He so loved the church and all our church family. He volunteered for anything or everything he could with the church. His calling was working with the youth group helping them to follow the Lord. He helped with moving chairs, tables, cleaning, and being a lead teacher in RCIA. He was also on the ACTS (Adoration, Community, Theology and Service) board team, as well as the retreat team. With his sailing he was inducted into the Ensign Hall of Fame, a great honor. And above all other things, he was the BEST husband anyone could ask for. Kind, caring, loving, the last 17 years were no way long enough to be married to this amazing man.

Vince is survived by his wife Margaretta, daughters Kathleen Colditz and husband Brooke, Christine Lusk and husband Tom, stepdaughters Charlotte Johnson, and fiancé Ray Bush, Crystal Wilkerson and husband Jeremy, brother John Morvillo and wife Kelli, grandchildren Caroline Colditz, Max Colditz, Marit Lusk, Granger Lusk, Mallory Wilkerson, Trevor Wilkerson.



★ In Memoriam ★

J. RICHARD REESE

May 20, 1946 - March 22, 2021



VJ. Richard (Dick, JR) Reese, of Houston, Texas, passed away on March 22, 2021 at the age of 74. He was born on May 20, 1946.

Dick graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance in 1968 and from the University of Houston Law Center with his Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1975. He focused his law practice in the areas of Real Estate Law, Ad Valorem Taxation, Title Curative Issues and General Business Law.

Dick served 6 years in the Texas Army National Guard's 36th Airborne Brigade where he made 50 jumps as a paratrooper.

He was a life member of the Sons of Republic of Texas ("SRT") and served in the SRT's San Jacinto Chapter #1 in all offices including President from 1998-2000. He was the District Representative of the San Jacinto District from 1999-2000. In 1999, Dick was commissioned an Admiral in the Texas Navy. He served on the Executive Committee as Committeeman, Historical-general, Second Vice President General, and the First Vice President General.

Dick was an avid speaker to schools on Texas History topics. He gave over 80 talks on San Jacinto to Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, and the Kiwanis as well as other historical groups. He was the featured speaker at the Summerfield G. Roberts Luncheon in 1999. He participated in the SRT Stephen F. Austin tree planting at many courthouses throughout Texas to perpetuate the memory of the Father of Texas.

He was also charter member of the Black Powder Brigade and participated in many statewide ceremonies and parades. He was an owner and cannoneer of "Rolling-Thunder." As an example of some of his diverse firing missions, Dick and crew once fired volleys for the Texas A&M Orchestra to the 1812 Overture on Independence Day.

Continued Next Page



★ **In Memoriam** ★

J. RICHARD REESE

May 20, 1946 - March 22, 2021



Dick served as Treasurer, Vice President, and President of the San Jacinto Foundation. He served as Treasurer of the San Jacinto Battleground Association, which acquired more land for the park and funds for the ongoing archaeological dig. In 2005, Dick became President General of the national organization of the SRT. During his term as President General, he was instrumental in helping coordinate the establishment of the Lone Star Chapter in Montgomery County. He was a member of the Lone Star Chapter for 8 years.

He was named to the President General's List in 1998-1999 and received the Sons of the Republic

of Texas Distinguished Service Award in 2003. Dick donated legal services to the SRT to trademark the SRT name and logo as well as the name "The Knights of the Order of San Jacinto."

In 2006, Dick received the highest honor bestowed on members of the Sons of the Republic of Texas when he was knighted as a Knight of the Order of San Jacinto, a mark of honor originated and established by General Sam Houston.

In 2018, Dick received the Curtis Osborne San Jacinto Star Medal for his outstanding service to the San Jacinto Chapter over the years.

Dick was a major contributor to the successful effort to name March the "Texas History Month." His efforts as Chairman of the Hospitality Committee of the SRT at quarterly and annual meetings provided a special time for all attendees to socialize and network.

He served as Director and President of the Harris County Forest Landowner's Association and was Landowner of the Year in 1999. Dick was appointed to the



★ In Memoriam ★

J. RICHARD REESE

May 20, 1946 - March 22, 2021



Harris County Agriculture Advisory Board as Timber Landowner Representative. He was President of the Texas Gulf Coast Figure Skating Club, volunteered at the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, and was a life member of the 100 Club of Houston. He enjoyed gourmet cooking, actively working on his timber farm, speaking on Texas History, and firing the cannon "Rolling Thunder" while participating in Republic of Texas Era reenactments as "Sam Houston" and other Texas heroes at educational, commemorative, or charitable events.

Dick was smart, funny, caring, and never knew a stranger. He could talk to anyone about anything. He was always true to himself and loved his

family more than anything. He would light up when talking about his grandchildren who lovingly referred to him as "Pops."

He is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Teena Knight Reese; his three daughters, Kimberly Reese Slade and husband, Jeff, of Dallas, Texas, Amanda Reese Reiersen and husband, Jeffrey, of Edina, Minnesota, and Emily Reese Vitek and husband, Michael, of Missouri City, Texas; his seven grandchildren, James, Jackson, and Charlotte Slade, Kate, Caroline and Elliot Reiersen, and Lane Vitek; his brothers, Charles W. Reese, Jr. and J. William Reese; his sister, Mary Ann Richie; and their families. Dick was preceded in death by his father, Charles Woodrow Reese; mother, Mary Ruth Reese; and brother, Robert E. Reese.

A memorial service celebrating Mr. Reese's life is to be conducted at nine thirty in the morning on Saturday, the 15th of May, at the Flag Plaza at Walden On Lake Conroe Yacht Club, 13101 Melville Drive, Montgomery, Texas 77356. The service will be hosted by the Sons of the Republic of Texas and will include a firing of the cannon, the playing of Taps, and a color guard in honor of Mr. Reese's life.



★ In Memoriam ★

K. R. WOODS



Kenneth R Wood has passed away as of Saturday morning 08/14/21. Please disregard emails that went out this morning at 7am as they were scheduled a week in advance when KR Wood was still actively aiming to get back on the trail.

In the whirlwind of this weekend it did not get pulled and corrected. Continue to check Facebook for celebration of his life, further information, and look for future emails with further details.

As always thank you for all your support and prayers.
<https://www.facebook.com/CampCookie>

KR Wood was an Admiral in the Texas Navy. KR, a well known Austin musician and friend of Willie, very generously entertained us with his guitar and songs at the 2016 Texian Navy Day luncheon in Galveston.

K R wrote a song about the Texas Navy.



★ **From Our Ship's Store** ★

<https://texasnavy.org/ShipsStore>

SORRY
TEMPORARILY
CLOSED FOR
MAINTENANCE



RE-OPENING SOON



★ Other Historical Organizations ★

The Sons of the Republic of Texas



Every Texas Family Has A Hero
For The Republic & State of Texas Was Built By Heroes

Find Yours Today, by joining The Sons of The Republic of Texas

If your family was in Texas prior to **February 19, 1846** and you have a love of Texas History, the Sons of The Republic of Texas is the organization to be a part of. The goal of the SRT is to promote, preserve and protect the history of the Great State of Texas. During these times while history is under siege men who love this state need to step forward and help protect it's history. We need you, Texas needs you.

Download & Fill out your Application at
<http://www.srttexas.org>

or Contact your Local Chapter, info listed below
Honor Your Ancestors, Honor Texas!



★ Other Historical Organizations ★



DO YOU LIVE IN THE SAN ANTONIO AREA & HAVE A LINEAL ANCESTOR WHO POSSIBLY FOUGHT IN THE WAR OF 1812?

MAYBE UNDER THE COMMAND OF MAJ. GENERAL SAMUAL SMITH AT THE SIEGE OF FORT MCHENRY, AS NAVY SAILOR AT THE BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE, OR HELD THE LINE WITH GEN ANDREW JACKSON AT THE DECISIVE BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS. IF SO, HONOR HIS MEMORY BY JOINING THE DAVID CROCKETT CHAPTER OF GENERAL SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812 IN SAN ANTONIO. APPROVED SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED TO PROVE LINEAGE.

PLEASE CONTACT DUSTIN WHITTENBURG AT

210-826-1900





Calendar



July

August

September

October

November

December

Texian Navy Day
18 Sep 2021

TEXAS
NAVY

