



# The Duty Roster

Wayne Courreges Editor

## General Society of the War of 1812

### Texas Society

#### **President James Edward Heath Tribute**



Dr. James Edward Heath, 82, of Buchanan Dam, Texas passed away June 27, 2017. He received his PhD in zoology from UCLA. Most of his academic career was spent at the University of Illinois, where he not only taught but did groundbreaking research in the fields of temperature adaptation and neural physiology of animals. He is listed in "Who's Who in the World." He was head of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics from 1977-82. He authored over 100 scientific papers and edited more than 50 volumes of scientific journals.

After retiring to Buchanan Dam, he became active in both community affairs and ancestral societies. He was a member of the Friends of the Lakeshore Library and taught boat and water safety classes. He served on the Lake Buchanan Citizens' Advisory Panel and the Llano County Appraisal District (2008-11). He was president of the Hill Country Bird and Wildflower Society (1998-2000). He served as president multiple times for the Bluebonnet Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and was Texas State President in 2005-06. He also served as president of the Davy Crockett Chapter of the Genealogical Society of the War of 1812 (2001-03). He was Texas State President (2006-

## 2017 Summer

08) and National Deputy President General (2009-12). He was re-elected Texas State President last year and was serving at the time of his death.

Compatriot President Jim's passing is a shock to us all. His wife, Maxine, is coping as well as can be expected. By the direction of Compatriot President William (Bill) Sekel Jr. and with the approval of the Texas Society officers, a \$500 donation was made to "The Patriots' Fund, Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution" to honor him.

### President's Message

We were all shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden passing of our President, Dr. Jim Heath on June 27. He was here at a meeting of the Ensign James Luna Chapter in Tyler just ten days earlier and it was at this meeting that I met for the first time his wife, Maxine.

Through conversation with Maxine, my wife and I found out a little about how she and Jim met, their family, and her fondness of trains. As a matter of fact they were on their way to Palestine to take a ride on a train. I am happy that I will always have this memory of our meeting.

I only knew Jim personally for a short time however, I feel like I knew Jim Heath. He was a few years younger than my own father and even though they grew up on opposite sides of the country they were part of the same generation. They grew up in a generation where men's actions spoke louder than their words.

As I sat there at his funeral service and listened to Maxine speak about Jim I slowly realized that what I thought about him was true. Strong family values, strong work ethics and a love of his country. Then one by one his daughters

walked to the front and shared a little piece of their father with us, they didn't have to as we would have certainly understood. They needed to let us know that Jim Heath was the best father in the world. I also learned that Jim had a whimsical side, he played many instruments and had a different song for all his children. One could only smile upon hearing that.

His service was well attended by members of the GSW of 1812 and SAR. A color guard from the SAR presented the colors and Compatriot Donald Stone presided. Compatriot Stone reminded us of Jim Heath's dedication to the GSW of 1812 and SAR where he served as Chapter President and State President for both. Compatriot Stone also stated that it was fitting that Jim's service was held on the 4th of July and I don't think that anybody in attendance disagreed.

Another thing I already knew about Jim Heath was that he was a Patriot. He was dedicated to the preservation of the legacy of our Patriot Ancestors. So, in that aspect I feel like I knew Jim Heath.

I was elected Vice President of the State Society last April at the meeting in Houston and with his passing I have now assumed his responsibilities. I know a lot of you have never heard of me so I will share a little of my society background with you:

I am the President-Elect of the Ensign James Luna Chapter, GSW 1812, and currently it's Secretary/Treasurer.

I am the President of the Athens Chapter, TXS SAR. I also served as Sergeant at Arms and Secretary/Treasurer.

I am the Vice President of District 10, TXS SAR.

I am Vice Chairman of the Council of Chapter Presidents, TXS SAR.

I am also a member of the Sons of the Revolution.

### **My Personal Background**

24 years active duty United States Marine Corps

10 years Law Enforcement.

In accordance with our By-Laws a nominating committee will be formed and we will elect a new President, and other officers, at our meeting in April 2018. If you have desire to serve at the State level of our Society or wish to nominate someone please let it be known.

Meanwhile, we will continue to carry out the objectives of our Society which are the collection and preservation of rolls, records, books, and other documents relating to the War of 1812; the encouragement of research and the preservation of historical data, including memorials to patriots of that era in our national history; the caring for the graves of veterans of the War of 1812; the cherishing, maintenance and extension of the institutions of American freedom; and the fostering of true patriotism and love of country as set forth by our Constitution.

I wish you all good health and happiness

*"If we desire to avoid insult, we must be able to repel it; if we desire to secure peace, one of the most powerful instruments of our rising prosperity, it must be known, that we are at all times ready for War." George Washington*

### **Now Hear This**

**Annual "Texas Genealogical College" Weekend  
October 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> 2017**

The GSW 1812 Texas Society meeting is October 28<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Dallas - Campbell Centre, 8250 N. Central Expressway in Dallas.

The phone number to make your hotel reservation is **214-691-8700**.

Room rates are \$129 for double/double and queen beds. The hotel is just across I-75 from Northpark Mall with a free shuttle service.

There is a Saturday luncheon and a "Hall of Fame Banquet" that evening planned. More information will follow as it is made known, so book your room now to ensure your reservation!

### **Did You Know**

**"The Star-Spangled Banner" was set to the tune of an English drinking song.** Following a fierce night of British bombardment, the Baltimore dawn of September 14, 1814, revealed the huge American flag still fluttering over Fort McHenry. In a burst of patriotic pride, lawyer Francis Scott Key penned four verses he dubbed "Defence of Fort McHenry." Within weeks, it was published with sheet music under a more lyrical title, "The Star-Spangled Banner." The song, which became the American national anthem in 1931, was set to the melody of an English drinking song, "To Anacreon in Heaven," and musicologists believe Key had this tune in mind when he wrote the lyrics."