

THE SONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

The Sons of the Republic of Texas ("SRT") is a perpetually chartered Texas non-profit corporation recognized by the IRS as a charitable 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. The SRT has in excess of four thousand members and is governed by an executive committee comprised of elected volunteer officers. Currently, there are 58 chartered chapters situated throughout Texas. One chapter is located in Santa Fe, New Mexico, once a part of the Republic of Texas. SRT's headquarters is located at 1717 8th Street Bay City, Texas 77414 phone 979.245.6644. Website: [Http://www.srttexas.org](http://www.srttexas.org)

History

The *first* Sons of the Republic of Texas was formed on April 21, 1893, at Richmond, Texas, by several sons and grandsons of veterans of the Texas Revolution. Their main purpose was to accompany the Texas Veterans Association members to their annual reunions. The Texas Veterans Association ceased to exist when its last member, Alphonso Steele, died in 1911. With the demise of the Texas Veterans Association, the Sons of the Republic of Texas slowly became inactive.

On March 2, 1922, the ideals of the Texas Veterans Association adopted by the first Sons of the Republic of Texas once again inspired the formation of a new organization. Its revitalization was due in a large part by the realization that Texas heritage would not be remembered without constant reminders to the community. Membership requirements for the SRT were broadened to include any male being a direct descendant of a resident of the Republic of Texas. The San Jacinto Chapter, located in Houston, Texas, received the first charter. On October 20, 1934, the SRT was incorporated under the laws of Texas as a non-profit corporation.

The SRT has been an active leader in preserving Texas' rich heritage. In 1936, the SRT was instrumental in the design and construction of the San Jacinto Monument and the founding of the Museum. In 1957, the SRT influenced the Texas legislature to

appropriate funds for the construction of the Texas State Library and Archive Building. In 2003, the SRT and other historical organizations worked with the Texas legislature to designate March as Texas History Month. In 2005, the SRT led the movement for the Texas legislature to designate the third Saturday in September of each year as Texian Navy Day.

Purpose, Goals and Mission

The purpose of the SRT shall be to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved the independence of Texas, set the young Republic upon its high course among the nations of the world, and finally secured its admission as a state of the United States.

The SRT's overall mission includes: encouraging research and publication of historical records and documents prior to and during the Republic of Texas; fostering the preservation of historic documents and artifacts prior to February 19, 1846; participating in community activities which remind the public of its Republic of Texas heritage; and organizing, promoting, publicizing and commemorating the observance of the following historical dates of the Republic of Texas.

Texas Independence Day	March 2
Fall of the Alamo	March 6
Goliad	March 27
San Jacinto Day	April 21
Texian Navy Day	3 rd Saturday in September
Battle of Gonzales	October 2
Stephen F. Austin's Birthday	November 3

Goals of the SRT include organizing and promoting of public recognition of dates and places of historical significance to the Republic of Texas with monuments and other appropriate signage or events.

Academic and Literary Scholarships and Awards

Annually, the SRT administers and awards monetary gifts, and presents medals and certificates for the purpose of fostering and encouraging Republic of Texas history scholarship and literary works.

Presidio La Bahia Award

A literary award for an outstanding published book or paper dealing with the Spanish Colonial period of Texas. Winners receive a special medal, a cash award and certificate.

Texas History Essay Contest Award

Monetary awards, medals and certificates are given annually to three graduating seniors of a public, private or home school submitting an outstanding essay on a selected Republic of Texas history topic.

Educator of the Year Award

Monetary award, medal and certificate are bestowed upon a teacher or administrator of a public or private school that has, by exceptional and outstanding efforts or activities, promoted the study of the history and heritage of the Republic of Texas.

Summerfield G. Roberts Award

Monetary award, medal and certificate are bestowed upon an author of a book, paper or other literary work best exemplifying and demonstrating historical events and personages during the Republic of Texas.

Archives and Special Collections

The SRT's *Kathryn Stoner O'Connor Spanish-Mexican Manuscript, Document and Book Collection* is a rare collection of Spanish Colonial documents and manuscripts. A thirty-five year effort has culminated in the indexing of the 5,400-piece collection. The collection is on loan to the University of Texas at San Antonio and is available for historical research.

Approved: J. Richard Reese, KSJ, President General,
The Sons of the Republic of Texas April 21, 2007