

REMARKS OF
JUDGE EDWARD F. BUTLER, SR., 106TH PRESIDENT GENERAL
NATIONAL SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS CROWN PRINCE FELIPE DE BORBON
AT THE ROYAL AUDIENCE IN THE ROYAL PALACE IN MADRID

May 14, 2010

Your Royal Highness, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

When I was inducted as the President General of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution last July, I delivered a short acceptance speech. In that speech I stated that the theme of my administration would be to honor Spain for its assistance to our revolutionary fathers, which enabled us to become free.

This year I have spent dozens of hours researching the relationship between Virginia Militia General George Rogers Clark; General Bernardo de Galvez Spanish Governor of Louisiana; and Fernando de Leyba, Governor of North Louisiana. General Clark was the senior American military officer west of the Allegheny Mountains. After the war he credited his success to the wonderful assistance he received from Spain in the war, including arms, ammunition, money, food and supplies. He described in detail the time and effort expended by Governors Galvez and De Leyba. King Carlos, III, promoted both, and granted a coat of arms to Galvez, with the motto “Yo Solo” for his personal victory at the siege of Pensacola.

In the first three editions of the *SAR Magazine* this year there have been four feature articles about Spain’s assistance to the colonists during the American Revolutionary War. Hopefully, next year, I will submit another article for publication in the *SAR Magazine*.

It was decided this year that on the middle week-end of June, 2014, the Topic for the **SAR Conference on the American Revolutionary War**, will be “Spain’s Assistance during the American Revolutionary War”. Ten history scholars will present their respective professional papers in historic San Antonio, Texas – my home. Once fully vetted, the SAR will publish a book each year with copies of each of these papers, with perhaps others.

With the helpful assistance of one of our SAR members in Madrid, and the hard work of one of our DAR ladies here, I will be allowed to present a charter to the Spain SAR Society, and I understand that the Duke of Seville has agreed to serve as the charter president of the society.

The SAR Spain Charter Ceremony will be on May 17, 2010 at 4:15 p.m. at Iglesia St. Jorge’s. Your Royal Highness, since you will be a charter member of this new society, and if your busy

schedule would permit, we would be extremely honored and delighted to entertain you and your family at that ceremony.

The thirty-one SAR members and wives from the U.S. are here to pay honor to the wisdom and courage of your ancestor, Carlos, III, who provided money, arms, ammunition, tents, uniforms and supplies to the American colonists. "But for" the support of Spain, the English flag might still be flying over our nation today. To honor Carlos, III, we are placing a wreath at his tomb in El Escorial yesterday.

On behalf of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution it is my pleasure and honor to present to you the **SAR INTERNATIONAL MEDAL** with an accompanying certificate. Thank you for your very honorable public service and your support of the efforts of our SAR Society.

Now, Secretary General, J. David Sympson, the uncontested nominee for President General, 2010-2011 would like to make a present to you of, the **TEXAS GOLD GALVEZ MEDAL**, from our Texas SAR Society, of which both Mr. Sympson and I are members.

Next, Historian General Lindsay Brock, upon behalf of the Florida SAR Society will present to you **THE LAST NAVAL BATTLE MEDAL**.

If I may, I would also like to present you with one of my personal **SAR Recognition Coins**, to express my personal best wishes to you, the Royal Family, and the citizens of Spain.

We wish your father, King Juan Carlos, a speedy recovery and would like to leave with you similar awards for him.

Thank you very much for this audience.