

# SAR Sentinel

Oklahoma City Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



March 2016

Heading by Megan Sanford

Next dinner meeting: Monday, March 14, 6:00 dinner, 7:00 meeting, Rococo's, 122nd & N. May

## March Program: Oklahoma Veterans Affairs

### Major General Rita Aragon



Major General Rita Aragon, retired USAF, who now serves as Oklahoma's Secretary of Veterans Affairs will be addressing our March dinner meeting. General Aragon retired from the USAF as the Air National Guard assistant to the deputy chief of staff of Staff Manpower and Personnel at the Pentagon. Aragon was a teacher and single mother who joined the Oklahoma Air National Guard in 1979 in order to support her two children. She enlisted as an airman basic in the 219th Engineering Installation Squadron in Oklahoma City. 28 years later, she retired as a record-setting major general. "It was one of the best

decisions I ever made" General Aragon said. I gained strength from professional, physical and personal development and education that the United States Air Force offered. I found support in the men and women who serve our nation, in turn grew in ability and independence. Aragon combined a career as a teacher, counselor and principal in the Oklahoma City public schools, with a career in the military for nearly 20 years. She became the first female to hold the rank of brigadier general in the Oklahoma National Guard and the first female commander of the Oklahoma National Guard; in fact, she was the first female in the United States to command a state's Air National Guard. Among the many medals she received are the USAF Distinguished Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. Aragon was named the OKC Chamber of Commerce Excellent Educator of the Year in 1980. Oklahoma City Principal of the Year in 1992, Oklahoma Woman Veteran of the Year in 1999 and Journal Record Woman of the Year in 2008. She was inducted into the Oklahoma Women's Hall of fame in 2007 and received the Freedom Foundation of Valley Forge. General Aragon serves as a member of the White House Commission on Military Leadership Diversity.

## Chapter President's Message



Greetings fellow Compatriots.

I trust everyone has sent their 2016 annual dues to Sec/Treasurer George Thompson. Thank you very much.

This month's dinner meeting program is honored to have Major General Rita Aragon, Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the State of Oklahoma. Thank you General Aragon for your service to our country. Someone once said "Service is the rent we pay to be living. It is the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time".

Also, please remember to bring Basic Needs to our dinner meeting for our local and state Veterans. With Pride in the Past & Faith in the Future. Hope to see you Monday evening.

In Patriotism,

Patrick Cowan

Membership Roster inquiries, contact Secretary George Thompson. (405) 722-1286; [gdt40@cox.net](mailto:gdt40@cox.net)

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OKC/SAR Website: <http://okssar.comujo.com>;  
Questions, please contact Glenn Lee (405)216-3388

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**OKC-SAR Color Guard Commander Henry Baer III, reports** Next event: 45th Infantry Museum, Memorial Day. For more information, contact Commander Baer at 405-720-2909.

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OKC/SAR on Facebook: [facebook.com/okcsar](https://www.facebook.com/okcsar); for more information: Michael Sanford @ (405) 445-9415

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Articles, suggestions & news for the OKC/SAR *Sentinel* are encouraged & may be submitted to Patrick Cowan, Editor; (405)755-7200, or email: [pcowan@cox.net](mailto:pcowan@cox.net)



***New member Compatriot Kenneth Wainner, Jr., (right) is sworn in during the February dinner meeting. Joining him during the induction ceremony is his wife, Kathleen and OKC/SAR Registrar Bob Thomas. Compatriot Wainner's Patriot Ancestor is Timothy Matlack (PA).***

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***Chapter Registrar Bob Thomas reports we have 137 members with 2 applications at National waiting approval.***

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***Colonial Days at the Oklahoma State Capitol; OKC/SAR Color Guard members participating from left to right are Howard Ferrell, CD director Jan Morris, Al Lankford, Bob Thomas, Wayne Nash, & CD Asst. director Jessica Brandon. Many thanks and appreciation to all members of our outstanding and highly recognized OKC/SAR Color Guard.***

***Fellow Compatriot Leonard Lipps recently met with the VA Medical Center Voluntary Services, to discuss the "visitation" portion of our basic needs for our local Veterans program & will have a few comments to share during the dinner meeting next Monday night.***

***HELP YOUR CHAPTER GROW: Do you have a son, grandson, brother or male family member or friend who may be interested in making application for membership in SAR? Contact Robert Thomas, Chapter Registrar (405-737-6181) [rbjthomas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rbjthomas@sbcglobal.net); and Wayne Nash (405-844-4740) [pnwnash@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pnwnash@sbcglobal.net), who are available to assist in the genealogy, research and locating necessary documents.***

