

## Hispanic Patriots Recognized on Monument

On March 15, 2009, the Texas Society, DAR, dedicated a monument in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin, Texas, in honor of those men who served the cause of the American Revolution and who died in Texas. While the majority of the names represent men who came to Texas in the early 1800s during its colonization period, led by Stephen F. Austin, the contributions of Hispanic patriots who lived in Texas when it was part of Spain were also recognized. Thirty-two names appear on the obelisk of red granite quarried in Fredericksburg, Texas, and five of these names are Hispanic: Jose Antonio Curbello, Vicente Flores, Patricio Antonio Rodriguez, Francisco Manual Salinas, and Pedro Xavier Salinas. All lived in around San Antonio in the 1780s and represent cattle drovers, soldiers who guarded the herd, and an owner of a rancho. A tombstone for soldier Patricio Antonio Rodriguez was placed by the Colonel Dashiell Chapter DAR in the San Fernando Cemetery No. 2 in San Antonio, Texas, on March 11 of 2009. For more information on these Hispanic patriots, contact the Texas Society DAR.



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### About the Author

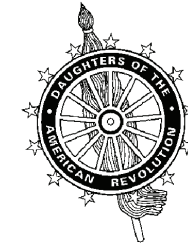
Nancy Reynolds Tiner is a native Texan who has had an avid interest in history since childhood. She became intrigued with the story of Galvez, and feels that he should be recognized for his role in the American Revolution.



Mrs. Tiner has encouraged the study of history in Texas and has given historical programs for various organizations. In the Daughters of the American Revolution she has served as State Regent, National Vice President General, Recording Secretary General, and National Chairman of the DAR Magazine. She was awarded the National Society DAR History Award Medal for her work on Galvez. Nancy has encouraged ladies to join DAR on their ancestors who led the cattle drives from Texas to Galvez's troops. She currently is an Honorary State Regent of Texas and is a member of the NSDAR Spanish Task Force.

This brochure is printed through the generosity of the Texas Society, Daughters of the American Revolution. One hundred thousand (100,000) brochures have been distributed to Texas Schools by the Texas DAR Chapters since 1987.

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## Bernardo de Galvez "Unsung Hero"

by Nancy Reynolds Tiner



ILLUSTRATIONS BY CASSENDREA TINER HAGER

# Bernardo de Galvez

## “Unsung Hero”

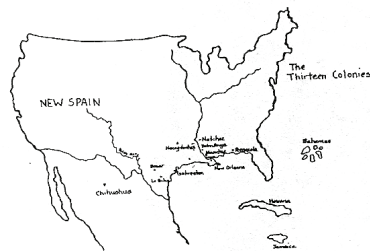
by Nancy Reynolds Tiner

**Bernardo de Galvez** was born July 23, 1746 in the village of Macharaviaya, Malaga, Spain. He was part of a noble family that distinguished itself in service to Spain, and he chose a military career.



In 1765 Galvez arrived in **Mexico**, which was then called New Spain, and in 1769 he was made **commandant of Nueva Vizcaya**. It was his duty to subdue the Apache Indians in the area that included Texas.

The first expedition he led contained about 135 men and took him all the way to the Pecos River in Texas. By the time the Indians were located, it was November and the weather was very cold and the soldiers were tired and hungry. Bernardo urged the men to follow him as he plunged his horse into the cold river. They followed his courageous charge and killed and captured a great number of the Indians.



Galvez conducted other campaigns against the Apache and during one of these he was badly wounded while fighting five Indians by himself. He returned to Spain to recover, and in 1776 he was sent to New Orleans and soon made **governor**.

### Aid to the American Colonies

Galvez gave aid to the American colonies during their fight for independence by keeping open the **Mississippi River** for navigation. Ammunition, guns, clothing, and other supplies were sent to George Rogers Clark in the northwest. Galvez and an Ameri-

can named Oliver Pollock were responsible for furnishing these provisions to Clark's troops. Pollock financed the purchase of the supplies and Galvez kept the British from capturing the American ships.

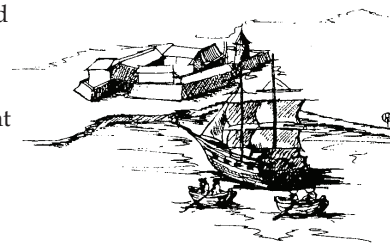
Spain formally declared war on **Great Britain** on May 8, 1779, but Galvez did not receive the news until August, at which time he was instructed to begin hostilities against the British forts along the Gulf Coast. His first expedition, started on August 27, was to Fort Bute at Manchac in Louisiana, 90 miles upriver from New Orleans. He easily took Fort Bute and marched on to the fort at Baton Rouge. He took the fort and demanded that the British commander also surrender Fort Panmure at Natchez, which he did. Galvez was rewarded for the capture of these forts with a promotion to **brigadier general**.

The new General began planning a campaign to take Fort Charlotte in Mobile and began the attack on February 29, 1780. The British surrendered on March 13 and Galvez was promoted to **field marshal** and was given command of all Spanish operations in America.

Pensacola was the next objective, but a hurricane scattered the first fleet and it was not until March 9, 1781, that the second fleet arrived off the Florida coast to start the siege. The Spanish admiral was reluctant to try to take the fleet across the sand bar for fear of running around. Galvez decided to go in alone on his ship the **“Galveztown,”** accompanied by two launches and a sloop that were under his personal command.

### “YO SOLO” — I alone.

They sailed across the sandbar and anchored safely, and the remainder of the fleet arrived the following day. Additional reinforcements arrived and on May 10 the British surrendered. King Carlos III made Bernardo a **count** and promoted him to **lieutenant general**. The king also gave him permission to put the **“Galveztown”** on the crest of his coat of arms with the motto **“YO SOLO” — I alone**.



Following the victory at Pensacola, the Bahama Islands were taken and Galvez was planning a campaign to take Jamaica when word was received that the hostilities had ceased.

In August of 1779, when Galvez first received word of Spain's declaration of war, he sent a request to the governor in San Antonio, Texas, for **Texas longhorn cattle** to be driven to Louisiana to aid his campaign. During the time he was fighting the British, approximately 10,000 head of these cattle were delivered to Galvez.



The cattle belonged to the Spanish missions in San Antonio and Goliad and to Spanish landowners. They were assembled at the presidio La Bahia, near Goliad, and driven to Nacogdoches, Texas, and then to Galvez. The use of these longhorns gives Texas a connection with the American Revolution.

### Bernardo de Galvez — Patriot

Bernardo de Galvez deserves recognition for his part in helping the American cause and should be remembered as a patriot. He was, in fact, commended by the **Continental Congress** and received letters from Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson thanking him for his services to the United States.

Galvez was a brave, chivalrous and compassionate man who was very popular with the people. He was an able administrator and following the war he was appointed Viceroy of New Spain and was given more jurisdiction than any of his predecessors. He arrived in Mexico City in 1784 to begin governing his new territory which was virtually all of Spanish North America. In the fall of 1786, Bernardo was stricken with a fever during an epidemic and on November 30, he died and was buried in Mexico City.

Galveston, Texas, and Galveston Bay are named for him, and Texans are proud that because of him, Texas made a contribution to the American Revolution.