Navarro Cenotaph To Be Unveiled in State Cemetery

On February 27, 2015 at 11 am a cenotaph to honor José Antonio Navarro will be unveiled at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin on his 220th Birthday. His monument will rest among other state heroes close to his friend and confidant in life, Stephen F. Austin. Like Austin, Navarro endured prison under the dictator Santa Anna, but through all his torment remained loyal to Texas. As Robert E. Lee regarded Virginia, Navarro had the same feeling for Texas. At the base of Navarro’s cenotaph, his words show his regard for his Texas, “I have sworn to be a free Texan, I shall not forswear.”

He is one of only two native Texan signers of the Declaration of Independence from Mexico and the only native Texan who worked on the draft of the first Texas Constitution. Navarro’s life spanned Texas under five of its six flags: Spain, Mexico, The Republic of Texas, the United States and the Confederate States of America. Like many Texans of his day and ours, his cattle brand was part of his identity and is emblazoned on the cenotaph. (See enlarged portion of the cattle brand below.)

It constitutes a wonderful honor to be included in the Texas State Cemetery. Only the most prominent of Texans can be honored there.

Senator Leticia Van de Putte who insured that Navarro’s site would be fitting to his role in our Texas history—will be one of the speakers at his ceremony. A reception will follow the unveiling. The monument will serve as a teaching tool to the thousands of visitors and Texas school children who visit the cemetery yearly.

The bronze bust carved by Gilbert Beall of Austin tops the cenotaph where Navarro’s many accomplishments are engraved on the base. You can be a part of this living tribute to Navarro by contributing funds—see last page for information.

Below Sandy Salinas, Co-President and Rosemary Geyer. Two very dedicated Friends of Casa Navarro.

Sylvia Tillotson, a Navarro descendant, chaired the cenotaph project.
On Saturday, November 1 from 1 to 3 pm, Friends of Casa Navarro attended their annual meeting chaired by Rey Salinas at the Casa Navarro Home site.

A treasurer’s report was given by Troy Salinas. A report on the Cenotaph to be unveiled on José Antonio Navarro’s birthday at the State Cemetery in Austin. Texas was given by Sylvia Tillotson. Discussion followed on the events of that unveiling. The annual meeting took place in a restored room once occupied by José Antonio Navarro and full of generations of family portraits of the Navarro and related families. See photo below where a member points at a picture of herself from an earlier assemblage of Navarro’s at the home.
Friends of Casa Navarro Participate in King William Parade

Isabella and Hayden Salinas, all decked out in white for the King William Parade. They are the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Troy Salinas and the granddaughters of Rey and Sandy Salinas. Below Sandy Salinas, Rosemary Geyer, Jerry Geyer, Judge Nelson Wolf, and Rey Salinas
For donations to the cenotaph, mail to:

Friends of Casa Navarro

PO Box 790187

San Antonio, Texas 78279

**Merry Christmas and Thanks to all our donors**

Some Members of Friends of Casa Navarro Pictured Below

Friends of Casa Navarro Helen Garza and Ester Silva

Friends of Casa Navarro Dolores Tamez and Dorothy Perez