

Volume 5, Number 7 August 2013

Officer's Call



Sesquicentennial Series Article #34 Wartime Embalming

By Gary M. Loudermilk

The science of embalming was in its infancy in the 19th century, but the outbreak of the Civil War and the great distances between Southern battlefields and the homes of individual soldiers precipitated significant improvements in the process. Prior to the outbreak of war, methods used to delay body decomposition consisted pri-

marily of ice-cooling bodies or encasing them in air-tight receptacles. The embalming techniques that did exist required the use of poisonous fluids and compounds. But by the outbreak of the war, Columbia University-trained surgeon Thomas Holmes - considered the father of modern embalming, had developed a new, poison-free method involving fluid he sold for \$3 per gallon.

As casualties mounted, demand for embalming grew, since it allowed for the possibility that deceased soldiers could be returned to their families for a more traditional burial. One firm of surgeon-embalmers even tried unsuccessfully to have legislation passed that would give them a monopoly on embalming Union casualties. Many embalmers, including Holmes, would follow soldiers from battlefield to battlefield to ply their trade. With a fee of up to \$80, which some even paid in advance, typically only officers and well-to-do enlisted men could afford the process. Most soldiers were buried near where they fell, and many were never identified. Dr. Richard Burr, believed to be from Philadelphia, is credited with developing the basic structure of modern arterial embalming, although he was criticized for price -gouging and other unprofessional behavior. While early methods had involved filling the abdominal cavity, Burr developed a process for pumping compounds through the deceased's veins from an incision under the arm. This less invasive process was also significantly faster and easier. At the end of the war, demand for embalming fell dramatically, but the process was widely accepted in American society and morticians had gained professional status.









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The MOS&B *Officer's Call*, a leader among heritage magazines, is published monthly by the Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

The members of the MOS&B are descendants of the Confederate Officer Corps and elected government officials. We are dedicated to the preservation and education of the memory of our ancestors and the traditional values of our Southern Heritage.

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MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Military Order of the Stars and Bars is in the midst of an unprecedented membership drive. We have identified certain members from other heritage organizations who are qualified to become MOS&B members. In fact, nearly 2,000 prospective members have been identified. To date, we have already contacted half of these prospects through our direct mailings.

Our letters are generating considerable interest from these prospects. I have received letters, emails, phone calls and even applications from a number of prospective members. In many cases, these individuals need help to submit an application that is acceptable to our genealogists. As a result, we strongly urge each State Society to appoint one or more *Membership Expeditors* to get the job done. These individuals should make the initial contact with a prospective member and then help him through the application process.

The scope of this project is massive. Some State Societies will eventually have a contact list containing the names of over 200 prospective members. This information will be released to the Societies in increments of 25%. At this point, every State Society should now have two lists covering the first and second mailings. And, there will still be two more mailings!

The demographics of today's society are a clear threat to all heritage organizations. We have an aging population and a much smaller population of younger people who typically join organizations such as ours. That is why it is so important to take advantage of our membership drive. I'm counting on each one of our State Societies to follow-up on this opportunity. With a concerted effort we should be able to generate over 200 new members for our efforts.

Our membership drive gives us a unique opportunity for positive change. We can actually increase our total membership during a time when the rosters of other organizations grow smaller. This will assure our financial health moving forward. I'm counting on all of our State Societies to get behind the membership drive to make it a resounding success. Together, we can make a difference. *Deo Vindice*.

Lt. Cdr. Gen. Wm. Howard Jones

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Douglas Southall Freeman History Award Presentation

AOT Commander David Denard & AOT Councilor David Floyd presented the Douglas Southall Freeman History Award to Dr. Maurice Melton for the book titled: The Best Station of Them All: The Savannah Squadron. This presentation was made at the Confederate Naval Museum in Columbus, GA.

The Chaplain General's Thoughts A Day of Prayer

Many of us believe that the high tide of the Confederate States of America and its armies was the spring of 1863. Robert E. Lee, the commander of the Army of Northern Virginia had won for the Confederacy a short string of victories on the battlefields. Then came the epic battles of Gettysburg and Vicksburg. Had God forsaken us, was in the hearts of many of our confederate ancestors.



Ever since the beginnings of the war, the fervent spirit of revival had spread throughout the armies of the confederacy, and many of the Faith were wondering, where is God? Another examination of our history is that the Union Army thought God was on their side also. What side was God on anyway?

The summer of 1863 was the Confederacy's summer of questioning and discontent, especially after the first week of July of that year with the losses of Gettysburg and Vicksburg. President Jefferson Davis became very aware of this disheartenment among the soldiers through his generals, including above all, Robert E. Lee. President Davis, in response to this I believe, through God's providence by way of the Holy Spirit, issued a Proclamation for 21st August, 1863 as a day of prayer and fasting. Robert E. Lee gave the following order in response to President Davis's request.

The President of the Confederate States has, in the name of the people, appointed the 21st day of August as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer. A strict observance of the day is enjoined upon the officers and soldiers of this army. All military duties, except those as absolutely necessary, will be suspended...Soldiers! We have sinned against Almighty God. We have forgotten His signal mercies and have cultivated a revengeful, haughty, and boastful spirit. We have not remembered that the defenders of a just cause should be pure in His eyes; that "our times are in His hands, "and we have relied too much on our own arms for the achievement of our independence. God is our only refuge and our strength. Let us humble ourselves before Him. Let us confess our many sins, and beseech Him to give us a higher courage, a purer patriotism and more determined will; that He will convert the hearts of our enemies; that He will hasten the time that when war with its sorrows and sufferings, shall cease, and that He will give us a name and place among the nations of the earth. Robert E. Lee

The Godly influence of the Christian Faith of Robert E. Lee very deeply affected not only the Army of Northern Virginia, but throughout the Confederate Armies of the Confederacy. Our history informs us that this day was voluntarily strictly observed. Also reported by chaplains throughout the length and breadth of the Confederate Armies, fervent spirit-filled revivals were continuing to be experienced. In last month's chaplain's article I wrote about the faith of our southern ancestors. This faith came back to the cities, villages and farms across our southland and I strongly believe this God's Holy Spirit reverberates strongly today as an integral part of our spiritual DNA as descendants of our ancestors.

I would like to propose for the entire Military Order of the Stars and Bars organization a Day of Prayer for our fraternal order, our individual faiths, our families, our beloved country, and above all, God's peace throughout the world. One day of fervent prayer observed throughout our order can be a strong reminder of God's providence in our individual lives and His will be done. The particular day I would for us to set aside for a day of prayer is September 11th. The date is easy to remember and I believe the events of September 11th, 2001 are the last time our country came together for a common cause. Also, 911 is the number we dial for trouble.

Second Chronicles 7:14 says "If My people who are called by My name shall humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their ways, then will I hear from heaven will forgive their sin and will heal their land". Our prayer to God is based on His promises to us based upon His Holy Word. James 5:16 Says that "the fervent prayers of righteous people can accomplish much". There are of course, many more scriptures to encourage us. This is my request as the Chaplain General of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars for one specifically dedicated day of prayer for our beloved nation.

Respectfully,

Raymond Holder

MOS&B Chaplain General

Army of Tennessee Lecture Series Presentation Inquiry

The Department of the Army of Tennessee is looking at having a lecture series in which members of the Florida Society, Georgia Society, and the Alabama Society could meet in a agreed upon location such as Dothan, AL or Valdosta, GA to participate in a lecture presentation; as well as, fellowship with members from these three societies.

If you have a particular location that would be a good meeting location or would like to provide input on what the lecture presentation should be about, please contact Compatriot David Denard at denardodian@bellsouth.net.

New MOS&B Email System

We have switched over to a new system for sending out email to the MOS&B email list. There are several features that make this a major improvement over our previous system - the main one being that the system is self-maintaining. Each email you receive will include two links at the bottom of the page that let you control your email settings. You can unsubscribe or you can change your email address at any time.

If you did not receive the email of **August 10** that announced the new system, then we do not have your current email address. If you would like to be added to the email list, you can add yourself to the list by going to the web site and clicking the "Subscribe" menu item or going directly to the subscribe page at http://www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.org/subscribe/.

Requesting Articles for the Upcoming Confederate War Journal

The theme for this year's Confederate War Journal that will be published and mailed to all MOS&B members will be on the Confederate Navy and the many adventures of the blockade runners that kept the South alive during the War Between the States. Articles about a particular ship, blockade runner vessel; as well as, their officers are the many types of articles that we are seeking for this publication. Please consider sending in your submittals. We would like to have them not later than October 20, 2013. Please send them to Compatriot Jeff Sizemore at **swampeditor@yahoo.com**.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

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Convention Listing of Awards Presented to the MOS&B Membership

Robert E. Lee Chalice

This engraved silver chalice and medal with the likeness of General Robert E. Lee is presented to a member who has served the Military Order of the Stars and Bars with long and distinguished service. The 2013 recipient of this award is Ben H. Willingham, Jr.

Gold Star Awards

This award is presented annually to one member from each department. Each of the three recipients receives a gold medal and certificate.

Year

<u>ANV</u>

AOT

<u>ATM</u>

2013

Edward M. Stack

Jeffrey L. Sizemore

W. Howard Jones

Honorary Commander General

The Commander General presents this award to members for their continual support and meritorious act for the furtherance of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

James C. Templin

David Grant Whitaker

Ben Hill Willingham, Jr.

Distinguished Commander Award

The Commander General presents this award to senior members who have demonstrated long, dedicated service to the Military Order of the Stars and Bars. Recipients may use "DCS" after their name in all correspondence and other honors to show their Distinguished Commander Status within the Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

Charles Thomas Boardman

Jeffrey Lee Sizemore

William Lee Caynor, Sr.

Edward Matthew Stack

Stephen Clay McGehee

Robert William Turk

Conway Bagwell Moncure

Max L. Waldrop, Jr. *

Sigmund Joseph Reckline, Sr.

Rodney Patrick Williams

* Second Award

Commander General's Meritorious Service Award

The Commander General presents this certificate to members for a meritorious act for the furtherance of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

Bert David Blackmon, III

John Northrup Williams

Michael Cain Griffin

Henry Heyer Knauf

David G. Holcombe

Philip Edward Isett

Edward O. Cailleteau

Raymond Weston Holder

Mark Lea 'Beau' Cantrell

Real Great Grandson

Ben Burton Block Jones, II

Frank Louis Kebelman, III

Real Great Great Grandson

Robert Wayne Epting

Rev. Peter Bennington Irvine

Luther Alan Luke, Jr.

Dr. Frederick Hilliard Cain

John Thomas Suskey

Col. John Pelham Legion of Merit Award

This award is presented for exceptional work by members in behalf of the General Society. Candidates have demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities, and personify the largess of the Confederate Officers Corp.

Zachary Pittard

James M. Gaston, Jr.

Glenn Toal*

^{*} indicates certificate only; mini-medal received with an earlier award presentation.

Maj. Gen. Patrick Cleburne Meritorious Service Award

The Commander General presents this Annual National certificate to members who have performed meritorious acts for furtherance of the National Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

Dr. Gary M. Loudermilk

David G. Whitaker

Henry Timrod Southern Culture Award

This award is given for outstanding contributions towards the understanding, appreciation, and explanation of our Southern arts and letters. In addition to MOS&B members, one non-member per year may be honored with this award. The submission may be in the form of fine art, books, learned scholarly articles, cinema, graphic art, theater, poetry, architecture, etc. Submissions must demonstrate a positive reflection, contribution and understanding of Southern culture. This year's recipient is Charles W. Ironmonger, Jr.

Lt. Charles Read

Meritorious Service Medal

This award is presented to members who have promoted the General Society at the Chapter level. Award recipients exemplify the highest work ethic and proven abilities in promoting the Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

Fr. James Parker

Jerrares R. Bailey

David L. Floyd*

Glenn Toal*

James C. Templin*

Jay Bowden

Walter A. Sinclair

Gerald Tyler

Larry Wilhoite*

P. Dwain Roberts*

Ronnie S. Roach

Ronald Lee Perdue

Charles Hawks*

Thomas B. Rhodes, III

Lawrence Alan Hellums

David W. Myers

Jerry Sircy*

The Winnie Davis Award

This award is presented to ladies who have been demonstrably supportive of the purpose and goals of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars. This is an annual award. This year's recipient is Christine McPeak.

^{*} indicates certificate only; mini-medal received with an earlier award presentation

Varina Howell Davis Award

This award is presented to ladies for having demonstrated significant support of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars. This medal and certificate is a onetime award.

Yvonne L. Brown

Cathy Jones

Jessica Ann Stack

Dinah Wallace Whitaker

Erika Marie Willingham

Pamela Sue Wilhoite

Mattie Clyburn Rice

Virginia Parks Jones

Starlett B. Austin

Col. Walter H. Taylor Award (Best Society Newsletter)

This award is presented annually to the State Society regularly publishing a newsletter judged to be the most outstanding in the Order.

First Place - TX Society - 'Clarion Call'; Bob G. Davidson, Editor

Second Place - AL Society - 'The Yellow Hammer'; James Simms, Editor

Colonel Walter Hopkins Award (Distinguished Chapter)

Presented annually to the Chapters judged to be the best in the Military Order of the Stars and Bars. The annual report must be submitted. Chapters are graded on growth, retention, meetings, special meetings, memorial services, newsletter, national participation, special events, and chapter organization. Chapters are nominated by Society Commanders, Department Commanders, or GEC members. This year's distinguished chapter is Alabama Chapter 271 (BG St. John Richardson Liddell).

Captain John Morton Award (Best Chapter Newsletter)

This award is presented annually to the Chapter publishing the newsletter selected as the outstanding Chapter publication of those submitted for judging.

First Place - VA Society Chapter 249 – Southside Sentinel; Col. Greg Eanes, Editor

Second Place - NC Society Chapter 67 - The Grey Line; Ronald Lee Perdue, Editor

Third Place - VA Society Chapter 258 - The Prince's Dispatch; Christopher H. Ezelle, Editor

T. J. Fakes Award

(Best Chapter Scrapbook)

This award is presented to the Chapter judged to have the overall best scrapbook that documents the activities of the Chapter in the fulfillment of the goals and objective of the Order. Scrapbooks must be submitted by the annual deadline. This year's recipient is TX Society Chapter 273- Glenn Toal, Editor.

Lt. Gen. Simon Buchner Award

(Membership Retention)

This award is presented only to active Chapters that can document 100% of paid membership from the last convention until the present convention. This is determined by State Society Commanders or Adjutants and submitted by them for confirmation by IHQ. This year's recipient is the AL Society, BGen. St. John Richardson Liddell Chapter 271.

General Thomas Jackson Award

This award program was created by PCG Joe Gay, III, DCS and administered by the General Thomas Jackson Medal Committee. This award is presented for having maintained a Confederate Officer's grave for two years or more and having provided the Confederate Cross of Honor and a suitable plaque to mark the officer's grave. Proof of maintenance including photo documentation must be submitted to the committee. This year's recipient is Larry David Johnson.

Judah P. Benjamin Award

This award is presented for exceptional service in the promotion of Southern heritage in a non-member capacity. This is the highest award that can be awarded to a non-member of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

Charles W. Ironmonger, Jr.

Dennis Cook

Cassy L. Gray

Steve Tobelman

Marvin Nash Worthy

Lois Davidson

Laska Bourgeois

Kathy Stocks

Ira Tilley

James Simms

Kathy Price

Rebel Club (Recruit Three or more New Members)

This award recognizes individual members who have recruited the most members over the past year. Medals and certificates are awarded as follows: three or more members - certificate; Five members - bronze medal; Seven members - silver medal; Over 10 members - gold medal.

Toni Turk (gold medal & certificate)

Steve Wolfe (certificate)

David W. Myers (certificate)

Literary Awards

The Military Order of the Stars and Bars recognizes and rewards those who communicate the true history of the war through printed media with various literary awards. These awards are as follows:

- 1. The Douglas Southall Freeman History Award awards an engraved trophy and a \$1000 check paid directly to the author of a published book of high merit in the field of Southern history beginning with the colonial period to the present. Winner: *The Best Station of Them All: The Savannah Squadron, 1861-1865*, Maurice Melton, University of Alabama Press
- 2. The General Basil W. Duke Award recognizes the publisher of a re-printed volume that accurately represents the War for Southern Independence. The publisher will receive an engraved trophy and a \$1000 check. Winner: *The Letters of Gen. Richard S. Ewell: Stonewall's Successor*, Donald C. Pfanz, Editor, University of Tennessee Press
- **3.** The John Esten Cooke Fiction Award is given to encourage writers of fiction to portray characters and events dealing with the War Between the States, Confederate heritage, or Southern history in a historically accurate fashion. This award shall be in the amount of \$1000 paid directly to the author. Winner: *A Beautiful Glittering Lie*, Julie Hawkins, (Self-Published)

Southern Cross of Military Service (Formerly known as the War Service Medal)

This medal is presented to members of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars who have served honorably in combat with our nation's military services. Service must have been for at least ninety (90) days during the periods described by the American Legion.

Kenneth Duane Roach Michael Joe Harris William Andrew Dennison, Jr.

Raymond M. Hatfield James Edward Wilkinson

Military Service Medal

This Medal is presented to an active member of the Military Order of Stars and Bars who has served honorably in our nation's military without participating in combat. Applicants must be approved by the MOS&B War Service Committee. Application and costs are available on the National MOS&B web site. This year's recipient is William Samuel Poulton.

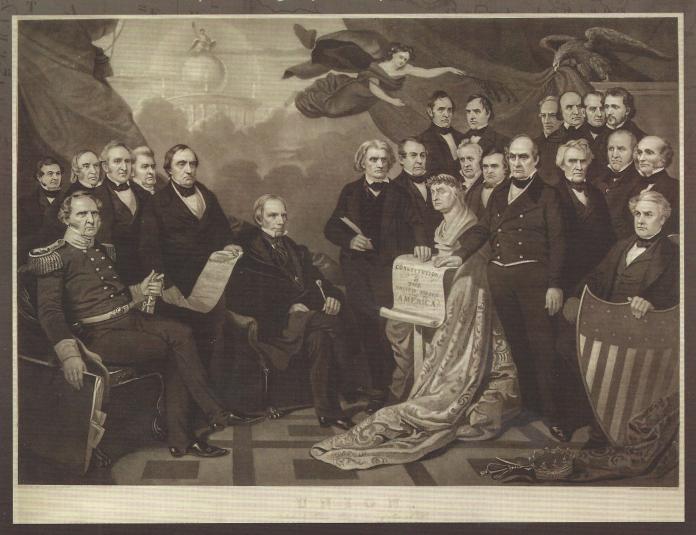
Scholarship Awards

The Military Order of the Stars and Bars awarded five college scholarships of \$1000 each this year. The requirements are the submission of a personal letter of application describing his/her academic and career aspirations; genealogical proof of Confederate ancestor; completed and signed application; and three (3) letters of recommendation attesting to the applicant's character, ability, dependability, and integrity. The applicant must be accepted or be enrolled in an accredited junior college or four year college/university which is a degree-granting institution.

The recipients for 2013 are: Katherine M. Bryan (Manhattan Beach, CA) - Bowdoin College; Jenna Aspen Dornquast (Saharita, AZ) - Pima Community College; Ross Leone, III (Sequin, TX) - Texas State University, San Marcos; Anna-Laura Catherine Luttrell (Hoover, AL) - Auburn University; and Laura Kasten (Cape Girardeau, MO), University of Missouri, Columbia.

UNION.

Mezzotint by Henry S. Sadd, 1852 after a painting by Tompkins H. Matteson



A symbolic group portrait eulogizing recent legislative efforts, notably the Compromise of 1850, to preserve the Union. The work is in some respects a memorial to the triumvirate of senior American legislators: Henry Clay, John Calhoun, and Daniel Webster, who appear in the center of the group. All three were deceased by the end of 1852. Among those depicted are John C. Fremont, Winfield Scott, Sam Houston, Lewis Cass, and Stephen A. Douglas..

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"Traveller moved as if proud of the burden he bore . . .

The horse was beautiful and majestic . . .

I was impressed with the greatness and beauty and power . . . of the man He was every inch a king."

Written by a student at General Lee's College in 1869.

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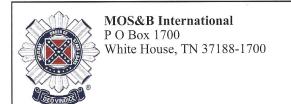
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