



LONE STAR DISPATCH

NEWSLETTER OF

THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS—TEXAS SOCIETY

2024, Winter Edition

Volume 6, Issue 3



COMMANDER'S CORNER

by George W. Williamson

As we begin our new year, 2024, let us start with anticipation of a fabulous and successful year for the Texas Society of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars. In the last six months, since my term began as Commander, we have added 17 new members and they are all listed in this publication. I would like to congratulate the Lt. Colonel Andrew Jackson Nicholson Chapter #318 of Temple and Commander Michael Gonzales for leading the way with 5 new members! As each chapter is focused on new members, I anticipate this will be one our best years for chapter growth.

I would like to thank new Adjutant Robert Stevens Melton for the outstanding, conscientious job he's doing for the TX Society. He has developed an analysis summery of each chapter that we will be sharing with you at the Executive Council Meeting in March.

As chapters grow to be even more successful we will become stronger because remember—success breeds success.

It is indeed an honor for a person to be a member of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars because we are descendants of the leaders and officers that made up the Confederate States of America.

God bless the MOS&B,
George W. Williamson, Commander
Texas Society Military Order of the Stars and Bars



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Be sure to go online to our Texas Society website:

<http://txmosb.org>

and preregister for the Annual General Convention and the TX Society Convention



Cancellation!

We regret to announce that the event scheduled for April 20, 2024, at the Mexia Confederate Reunion Grounds State Historic Site has been canceled.



Our thanks go out to Commander Michael Gonzales and Guy Kirby for a first class effort to arrange this event. We wish all the success for Guy Kirby as he has relocated because of his job.

UPCOMING EVENTS

GEC SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING

March 14-17, 2024
The Lodge at Pickwick Landing
120 Playground Loop
Counce, Tennessee 38326

TEXAS SOCIETY SEC MEETING

March 23, 2024
Hilton College Station & Conference Center
801 University Drive East
College Station, TX 77840

2024 87TH ANNUAL GENERAL CONVENTION

May 16-19, 2024
Doubletree by Hilton Hotel
2431 North Glenstone Avenue
Springfield, MO 65803

TEXAS SOCIETY MOS&B CONVENTION

June 21—22, 2024
Hilton College Station & Conference Center
801 University Drive East
College Station, TX 77840



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TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE STARS AND BARS



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CHAPLAIN'S COMMENTS

by Raymond Holder

THE NOBILITY OF WHO WE ARE



Since our founding as the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Military Order of the Stars & Bars, being the decedents of the Confederate army and navy, the greatest common challenge in each of our lives, in my opinion, has been the content and quality of our spiritual life, hence, our individual souls. I believe that we in the SCV and the MOS&Bare, above average in this. This is an underlying reason that propels us to unite as fellow souls to honor our Confederate ancestors.

Although our ancestors lost their and our war for southern independence, the character of our forefathers continues to shine brightly in us, as evidenced in our giving honor to our Confederate ancestors. One of my favorite Bible verses which reflects our nobility of cause is Matthew 7: 13-14, "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it". In a well-known devotional by Oswald Chambers, named, All Noble Things Are Difficult, he writes;

"If we are going to live as disciples of Jesus, we have to remember that all noble things are difficult. The Christian life is gloriously difficult, but the difficulty of it does not make us faint and cave in, it rouses us up to overcome, do we so appreciate the marvelous salvation of Jesus Christ that we are our utmost for His highest?"

God saves men by His sovereign grace through the Atonement of Jesus; He works in us to will and do of His good pleasure; but we have to work out that salvation in practical living. If once we start on the basis of His redemption to do what He commands, we find that we can do it. If we fail, it is because we have not practiced. The crisis will reveal whether we have been practicing or not. If we obey the Spirit of God and practice in our physical life what God has put in us by His Spirit, then when the crisis comes, we shall find that our own nature as well as the grace of God will stand by us.

Thank God He does give us difficult things to do! His salvation is a glad thing, but it is also a heroic, holy thing. It tests us for all we are worth. Jesus is bringing many "sons" unto glory, and God will not shield us from the requirements of a son. God's grace turns out men and women with a strong family likeness to Jesus Christ, not milk sops. It takes tremendous amount of discipline to live the noble life of a disciple of Jesus in actual things. It is always necessary to make an effort to be noble."

As the great apostle Paul writes in Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel", neither am I ashamed of who we are as descendants of the Confederate Officer Corp, but proud of who we are as Christian citizens of our beloved country. The key component of our ongoing lives and the best activity each one of us can do is to pray for each other, the MOS&B members, our families, and our country

CHAPLAIN'S COMMENTS cont...

Recently, I looked into the face of a dying 100 year old saint of the Lord, and asked her what the secret to her long life is? She answered, I prayed for others. Let us do likewise.

Raymond Holder, B.S., M.Div., B.C.C.
Chaplain
Military Orders of the Stars & Bars



AWARDS CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

by Joe Reynolds

As you many or not know, I have taken over as Chairman of the Texas Society Awards Chairman for 2024. I have just finished the new Texas Society Awards Manual and placed it on-line in the handbooks section of our website. The direct link where you can view or download the manual is: http://rxmosb.org/handbooks/tx_awards_program.pdf

We have three new awards that we will be giving out this year, the Bronze, Silver and Gold Star for Meritorious Service. We also have the recently approved Lone Star Award that is given to no more than 3 member per year. These, along with our Certificates of Appreciation, Certificate of Recognition, and the Keep Her Flying Award, rounds out our individual awards for the Society.

We also issue top Chapter award for the Best Newsletter, Website/Social Media and Overall Best Chapter of the Year. We also give out 100% Retention Awards and the new Gold Star Chapter Award.

There is some items that are still being looked at and I need final approval from the Society Executive Committee, but I wanted to get this out to you so you can be working on it for this years Annual Convention. Another thing that I am going to be asking for at the SEC meeting in March, is that each chapter appoint one individual to serve on the Awards Committee, so please consider this and let your Chapter Representative know prior to the meeting on March 23, 2024

Deo Vindice,

Joe Reynolds
PSC,DCS Past Society Commander/
Awards Chairman



Edwin Ray Sellards	Houston, Texas, Chapter #5
David Coy Hamaker	Houston, Texas, Chapter #5
Buddy Wallace Gurganus	Houston, Texas, Chapter #5
J. Mark Hall	Houston, Texas, Chapter #5 (Sponsored by Chpt #318, Temple, Tx)
Rex William Shaddox	Lawrence Sullivan Ross, San Antonio, Texas, Chapter #184
Samuel Joseph Cavalier	Lawrence Sullivan Ross, San Antonio, Texas, Chapter #184
Christopher Michael Clarke	Lawrence Sullivan Ross, San Antonio, Texas, Chapter # 184
Randall Jay Saxton	Col. Richard B. Hubbard, Tyler, Texas, Chapter #261
Robert Levi Craig	Col. Richard B. Hubbard, Tyler, Texas, Chapter #261
Dean Gale Chesney	Col. W. H. Parsons, Ennis, Texas, Chapter #273
James Paul Kerbow	Major Benjamin F. Ficklin, San Angelo, Texas, Chapter #310
James Russell Roster	Major Benjamin F. Ficklin, San Angelo, Texas, Chapter #310
Bobby Ray Deiss	Col. Brisco Gerard Baldwin, Jr, Bryan, Texas, Chapter #312
Camden Loch McCulloch	Lt. Col. Andrew Jackson Nicholson, Temple, Texas, Chapter #318
Timothy Ellis McDonald	Lt. Col. Andrew Jackson Nicholson, Temple, Texas, Chapter #318
Mark Brandon Griffin	Lt. Col. Andrew Jackson Nicholson, Temple, Texas, Chapter #318
Scott Cameron Webb	Lt. Col. Andrew Jackson Nicholson, Temple, Texas, Chapter #318

***1st Place Lt. Col. Andrew Jackson, Nicholson, Temple, TX, Chapter #318
5 New Members***

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, San Antonio, Texas, Chapter #184	3 New Members
Houston, Chapter #5	3 New Members
Major Benjamin F. Ficklin, San Angelo, Texas, Chapter #310	2 New Members
Col. Richard B. Hubbard, Tyler, Texas, Chapter #261	2 New Members
Col. W. H. Parsons, Ennis, Texas, Chapter #273	1 New Member
Col. Brisco Gerard Baldwin, Jr, Bryan, Texas, Chapter #312	1 New Member

CHAPTER VISITS

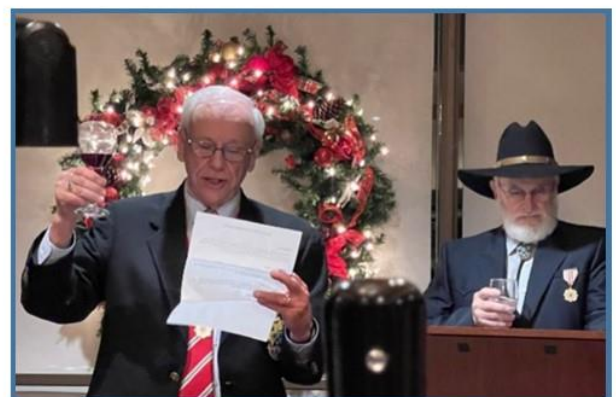
Chapter 5, Houston, Texas



Chapter 5 met on November 17, 2023, and we were honored to have Commander General Johnny Holley and his wife Norma in attendance. We inducted three new members: Ed Sellards, David Hamaker & Buddy Gurganus. Our speaker was own Marshall Brown.

Pictured above photo 1 & 2 Johnnie Holley, Ed Sellards, David Mamaker, Buddy Gurganus & George Williamson. Photo 3: George & Shelia Williamson, Norma & Johnnie Holley

Chapter 184, Lawrence Sullivan Ross San Antonio, Texas



I was honored to be invited to attend the 5th Annual Christmas Gala held at the Petroleum Club in San Antonio. This was one of the finest MOS&B Christmas Galas in the country. Absolutely first class. Due to health issues, Master of Ceremonies Yancy Swearingon was unable to attend so Commander Raymond Reeves did the honors. I had the pleasure of swearing in their newly elected officers and was asked to give the last toast of the evening to honor the Ladies of the Confederacy.

Chapter Commander Raymond Reeves, 2st Lt. Commander David Tidwill and Adjutant Rodney Seiler

CHAPTER VISITS



BATTLE of GALVESTON

**Chapter #312, Col. Briscoe Gerard Baldwin, Jr
& Chapter #5 Houston**



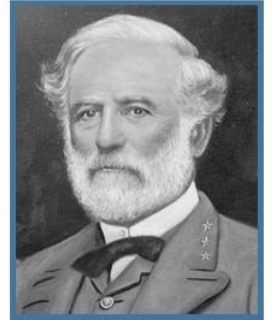
January 6, 2024, The Battle of Galveston Reenactment took place in The Old City Cemetery in Galveston.

In the battle of Galveston, Edward Lea, was serving at 1st Officer on the Union ship, The Harriet Lane, was mortally wounded. His father who was a Confederate Officer was summoned and his son died in his father's arms.

Houston Chapter 5 & Chapter 312 Col. Briscoe Gerard Baldwin Jr, College Station participated in the funeral ceremony reenactment. This was one of the few times that the Confederate Forces, the Union Forces and Masons came together for a joint ceremony. The Confederate Reenactors were under the command of Commander Lee Lance.

"RESTORATION OF PEACE & HARMONY"

After the conclusion of the War Between the States no one was revered across the nation more than Robert E. Lee. In 1925 the United States Congress ordered his home, Arlington House, be restored to its appearance before Civil War to honor him largely for his work to reunite the nation after the war. U.S. Representative Louis Cramton of Michigan (his own father a Union veteran) declared that *"it is unprecedented in history for a nation to have gone through as great a struggle as we did in the Civil War and then to become 'so absolutely reunited' "*. He felt that *"there was no man in the South who did more by his precept and example to help bring about that condition than did Robert E. Lee."*



Shortly after Arlington was set to be restored, a bridge was built over the Potomac River connecting Arlington House to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. The Arlington Memorial Bridge physically and symbolically linked the north and south as a symbol of reunion.

In 1955, Arlington House was made a permanent memorial to Robert E. Lee because he *"... attained world renown as a military genius, and after Appomattox fervently devoted himself to peace, to the reuniting of the Nation, and to the advancement of youth education and the welfare and progress of mankind..."*

Historians thought the Amnesty Oath that Lee submitted in October 1865 was lost. However, the oath paperwork was re-discovered in the National Archives in 1970. Lee never officially regained his American citizenship during his life. In 1975, the United States Congress voted to restore Robert E. Lee's citizenship as *"this entire Nation has long recognized the outstanding virtues of courage, patriotism, and selfless devotion to duty of General R. E. Lee, and has recognized the contribution of General Lee in healing the wounds of the War Between the States."* President Gerald R. Ford officially posthumously restored Robert E. Lee's citizenship at a ceremony on the portico at Arlington House.



Most historians agree that Lee's efforts to promote peace following the American Civil War were essential in the reunification of the nation. Douglas Southall Freeman wrote that *"the Confederates came to consider it as much the course of patriotism to emulate General Lee in peace as it had been to follow him in war. More than any other American, General Lee kept the tragedy of the war from being a continuing national calamity."*

Even Lee's more critical biographers came to this same conclusion. Elizabeth Brown Pryor noted that Lee came closest to greatness in his *"enlightened decisions he took to foster peace and rebuild the South in the early aftermath of the war. This was his grand visionary moment."* She further notes that *"the dignified relinquishment of command is among the most ennobling of American traditions . . . Robert E. Lee's actions just after the Civil War are a proud example of that tradition. His courageous military restraint in 1865 and his early words of reconciliation were more than a face-saving final bow from the stage. They offered a model for a great and proud army that felt itself humiliated; a salve for a devastated citizenry; a running start towards reconciliation. Some may be disappointed that Lee was not perfectly noble in every word and deed during the postwar period. Yet his tremendous forbearance under pressure of prosecution, public criticism, and personal ostracism is notable."*


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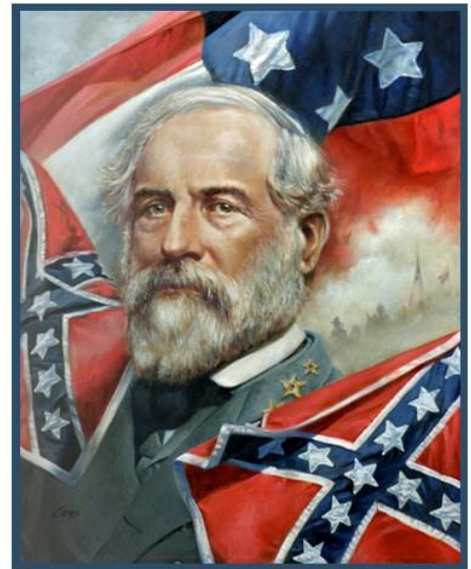
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“Do your duty in all things.
You cannot do more, you
should never wish to do
less.”

Robert E. Lee

**ASSOCIATE GENEALOGIST
CHARLES C. HAND**



Dalton & Chuck Hand

A special Thank You goes out to Charles (Chuck) Hand for the fabulous job he is doing as the Associate Genealogist for the Texas Society. Not only does the Thank You come from me, but from the Commanders and many of our new members for the hours and work he has spent in helping the Society grow. How proud our new members are of finding an officer in their Confederate ancestry. The young man with him in the picture is his son, Dalton, who is the Color Sargent for Chapter #184, Lawrence Sullivan Ross, San Antonio. Dalton is 13 years of age and the youngest ever Color Sargent for their chapter. At six feet and three inches tall and can certainly get the job done.

If you have a person who would like to become a member of our organization and they can't find a officer in their lineage, please contact Charles C. Hand at:

chuck.hand4@yahoo.com

and he will help them.



“Shake off those gloomy feelings. Drive them away. Fix your mind and pleasures upon what is before you. All is bright if you will think it so. All is happy if you will make it so. Do not dream. It is too ideal, too imaginary. Dreaming by day, I mean. Live in the world you inhabit. Look upon things as they are. Take them as you find them. Make the best of them. Turn them to your advantage.”

— Robert E. Lee

