



THE SOJOURNER

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Proudly serving the cause of Patriotism.

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PURPOSES

The Purposes of National Sojourners shall be to organize Commissioned Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers of the uniformed forces (past and present) of the United States, and Honorary Members, who are Master Masons, into Chapters, for the promotion of good fellowship among its members, for assisting such as may be overtaken by adversity or affliction, for cultivating Masonic ideals, for supporting all patriotic aims and activities in Masonry, for developing true Patriotism and Americanism throughout the Nation, for bringing together representatives of the uniformed forces of the United States (past and present) in a united effort to further the military need of national defense, and for opposing any influence whatsoever calculated to weaken the national security.

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COVER PICTURE

PETER M. RASMUSSEN #510, Mr. Ward R. Williamson, Secretary, Turkisweg 15, D69181 Leimen, Baden, Germany. On June 7, 2012 Cadet Captain Remsik who attends Patch High School, Patch Barracks, Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany, was selected for the National Sojourners ROTC award for both her outstanding academic and Junior ROTC military record. The award was presented by SFC George, JROTC Instructor at Patch High School. Col Paul Bailey of Peter M. Rasmussen #510 in Germany provided the medal for the presentation on behalf of the Chapter.

L-r: SFC George, presents the National Sojourner ROTC medal to Cadet Captain Veronica Remsik.

PUBLICATIONS SUBMITTAL

Resolution 2012-3 (N.R. 9.1.2) was approved at the recent Annual Convention. Upon submittal of your publication, please clearly mark if it is a "Newsletter" or a "Bulletin". Deadline for submittal is NLT 31 December to the National Secretary. Let's see more publications than in recent pass.

OMAHA GOES FISHING


Despite the terribly hot dry and windy weather our longstanding special "Annual Fishing Day" for the Nebraska Masonic Eastern Star Children's Home was a rousing success! 28 youngsters (aged from 12 to 17) in groups of 5 or more fished in the 4 major lakes of the Fremont Rod and Gun Club. They were guided by chapter, Club, Fremont Lodge #15 members who were familiar with the water, conditions and probable fish locations. One group, to the delight of all, caught over 60 fish. A great picnic followed.



**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS INTO THE NEXT SOJOURNER IS
OCTOBER 20, 2012.**

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Brother Sojourners,

How many of you are familiar with the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge and our Youth Leadership Conference that goes on there each year? I attended the conference in July 2012 and the youth that attended are the future of this country. They all participated in the various activities presented to them and were very much in tune with what goes on in our world. There were, however, some who did not know that they were being sponsored by Masons. Therefore, I would ask that chapters who are sending the students to Valley Forge make sure that they know that the National Sojourners are first and foremost Masons. Advise them of what Masons stand for and that the program is about Americanism and Patriotism. Also, tell them that if they are in an ROTC unit to bring along their uniform. They established a flag detail which held two ceremonies. One ceremony retired the flag in the evening and another raised the flag in the morning. Those that brought their uniforms wore them proudly and were quite distinguished in them. It made for a great flag detail. They participated in discussions of the *Declaration of Independence* and in a ceremony they all signed a copy. Afterward, the staff gave each of them a copy of what they had signed. Americanism and Patriotism are the corner stones of our organization and these Youth Leadership Conferences, be they Freedom Foundation or the Military Order of the World Wars, Youth Leadership Conferences, are the pathway for our youth to be better informed of our country and what it stands for. I would like to encourage each Chapter to try and send, at least one, student to Valley Forge. We need more participation as there were only 54 students that attended this year. Make contact with your local Demolay Chapter, Order of Rainbow Girls and Jobs Daughter and help drum up some business for the National Sojourners at our Valley Force Conference. Some Chapters send multiple students along with chaperones. You too can be a chaperone and take advantage of the conference along with the students. Those that attended this past session had a great time as did Pat and I. Also, get involved with the other Americanism programs that your Chapter participates in, such as flag programs, whether it be the building of the flag, or historic, and presentations to lodges and other organizations. How about the essay contest. Does your Chapter participate? Maybe you should try tying your ROTC program with the essay contest to encourage more participation. Use the Essay contest tri-fold that you can download on the web site and get the information to the schools and organizations in your area. Learn the *Toast to the Flag* and offer to present it at functions that you attend. You would be surprised at the response that you will get when finished with your presentation. A great way to showcase the National Sojourners and what we stand for. I am sure that I am probably preaching to the choir, but a friendly reminder is not all bad when one considers the return on your efforts. Be proactive and help us continue "Onward and Upward".

S & F
Bob

SOJOURNER NOTES AND CARDS



Don't forget your members, speakers and special guest. Birthday, Thinking of you, Sympathy and Get Well Cards or Write your own cards are available from Headquarters.

- Item #101 Birthday (\$8/doz)
- Item #102 Thinking of You (\$6.50/doz)
- Item #104 Get Well (\$8/doz)
- Item #108 Sympathy (\$8/doz)
- Item #110 Sojourner Blank (\$1.50/doz)

CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

Our 2012 Annual Convention in Burlington, Vermont approved the above pictured trophy to be awarded annually to the chapter which best accomplishes the purposes of our Order during the year. A national directive will be published listing the criteria necessary for consideration to receive it. The initial requirement will be that the chapter apply and qualify for the Chapter Excellence Award as set forth in National Circular 9.1.2. It should be noted that many chapters which qualify for or could meet the criteria for the Chapter Excellence Award, do not submit a report to qualify. The trophy is 25 inches in diameter, of walnut and bright brass.



CHAPTER NEWS

DETROIT #1, S/SGT Armand Cote, Secretary, P. O. Box 297, Dryden, MI 48428-0297. We completed doing the ROTC/JROTC awards. Lt. Gene Pisha and Armand Cote presented 28 medals. Armand Cote installed the President and Commander with their respective officers for the year 2012-2013. We will again be doing Toys for Tots.

NARRAGANSETT BAY #14, Mr. Rick Baccus, Secretary, 80 Kingswood Road, Bristol, RI 02809-1617. On Wednesday, July 25, 2012 we met for fellowship at Gregg's Restaurant in Warwick, RI. With 21 in attendance, we enjoyed dinner and afterwards, a brief period of recognition for two of their members. President Bradford Barco offered his thanks to all that were in attendance and stated that the Chapter has gotten stronger in its membership and would be conducting more meetings in the future with their Ladies present. He also thanked Bro. Charles Maxson and his Lady Peg, for traveling from CT to be a part of the fellowship and for the many hours that he put in helping the chapter get back on its feet. He then turned the floor over to Jon Wilson, Area Rep. for Southern New England, and a member of Chapters in CT and RI, who was accompanied by his Lady Donna. Bro. Jon presented certificates of recognition to Raymond Hassell and Bradford Barco for all of the time and energy they had put in helping the Chapter thru its revitalization and expressed confidence that the efforts of its members would certainly bring the Chapter continued success.



L-r: Bros. Bradford Barco, President; and Jon Wilson, Area Rep.



L-r: Bros. Raymond Hassell and Jon Wilson, Area Rep.

Out of the ashes, onto the shore and into the air we climb. Under the leadership of Bradford Barco, our chapter continues to move forward to becoming a truly healthy and functional chapter. Our rebirth has been slow, but steady and we are truly optimistic in the progress we have made to date. In support of this optimism, we installed two more new members at our last meeting. Herb McGuire, PGM of RI and Donald Higgins took their oath and obligation on June 18, 2012. We still have several individuals waiting to take their obligation and several more applications to be read and posted. The Chapter is definitely moving forward.



L-r: Bros. Jonthan Wilson, Area Rep; Rick Baccus, Secretary/Treasurer; Herb McGuire, Donald Higgins and Bradford Barco, President.

During our June Meeting, our Secretary/Treasurer Rick Baccus was presented with a Certificate of Congratulations from the State of Rhode Island Senate for his personal effort in the restoration our chapter. As we look forward to resuming our work at the end of summer, we will invite our wives and significant others to join us for the meal and meeting. It is always important to include our families as often as we can, and this too will assist in solidifying the organization.



L-r: Bros. Bradford Barco, President presenting General Rick Baccus with his award letter.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN #16, Mr. Leonard Bezar, Secretary, 31455 Valley Forge Circle, King of Prussia, PA, 19406-1150. During the summer months our Chapter has been "dark". Consequently, we'll report at this time on just two "of interest News" items. July 4th has been a special day each year for Bro. Edwin S. Moore, III. Since 1973, Bro. Ed has participated in an annual special bell ringing ceremony

in the bell tower atop Independence Hall in Philadelphia. This activity is manned by members of the 'Independence Hall Bell Ringers Society' which was formed by a small group of veterans just after WWII. The actual number of "bell ringers" each year of course is limited because of the very small space in the tower. This year, though, was a special feeling for Bro. Ed, along with his son Jay, and grandson William, age 14 - three generations of family. Together they climbed the narrow/steep stairway up the Tower and performed the necessary honors. The Centennial Bell (placed in 1876) in the Independence Hall Tower was rung in coordination with the tapping of the actual Liberty Bell, now located in a secured visitor center in nearby Independence Square. Bro. Ed reports that his two most memorable ceremonies were: in 1976 - when his team rang the Bell 200 times, in celebration of the 200th year of the signing of the Declaration of Independence; and again in 1990 - during the 200th year celebration of the Funeral of Benjamin Franklin. Over the past year, member Walt West, (WWII, USAAF), went with Valor Tours, ltd. to attend three non-celebratory but moving and sincere occasions related to WWII. First, on Guadalcanal for the Annual U.S. Memorial ceremony on August 7th. About twenty countries also solemnly and gratefully placed their wreaths. Bro. Walt had donated a Tree and Plaque in his brother's name in the beautiful Memorial Grove located just outside the entrance to famed Henderson Field. His late brother, a Mason, was with the First Marine Division on the island. Walt was so impressed with the beauty and meaning of this Memorial Grove for all who had served in the Pacific Theater, that this year he also donated another Tree and Plaque - this one from **National Sojourners Benjamin Franklin Chapter #16**. This past March, he then attended the annual joint U.S.-Japanese "Return with Honor" Memorial Ceremony on Iwo Jima. Finally, in June, following a week touring USAAF and RAF historical and active sites in England, he was privileged to attend the dedication of the new RAF Bomber Command WWII Memorial near Buckingham Palace. Bro. Walt states that he was impressed by the sincerity of the British people who approached him and unabashedly and enthusiastically still expressed their appreciation for what our country had done for them during WWII.

WICHITA #24, LTC Larry G. White, Secretary, 4409 W 10th, Wichita, KS 67212. The following Bros. were elected as the officers for 2012-2013, John W. McCarty, President; David F. Snyder, Vice-president; Larry G. White, Secretary/Treasurer; Paul L.

Miller, Chaplain, Wayne L. White, Marshal/Sentinel. A certificate of appreciation was presented to our outgoing president Bro. Floyd W. Piper for his outstanding leadership over the past year. We continue to meet monthly on Wed. at the Rolling Hills Country Club. The Annual Bridge of Light ceremony was held on 2 May 2012. The ceremony was presented by Bro. Wayne L. White who is the Chairman. Invitations were sent to 12 Masonic Lodges in the Wichita area inviting the WM and Secretaries to attend.



Outgoing chapter President Floyd W. Piper and his Lady Elizabeth.

VADM HOMER N. WALLIN #40, SSGT Donald J. Beck, Secretary, 15928 55th Place West, Edmonds, WA 98026-4747.

I want to pass this email around to inform you that your effort to promote ROTC in our high schools and universities does not go unrewarded or unnoticed. As Secretary, I received this very nice letter from Ms. Kendra Sterkel, Program Coordinator for the Air Force ROTC at Central Washington University. Our two brothers, CMSgt William C. Harker, Sr. and CMSgt Steven L. Pennington, both retired USAF carpooled to Ellensburg on May 18th to present the awards to the distinguished cadets and with honors. They have been doing this for the past several years and surprisingly, their uniforms still fit. Bill is also on the production line along with Bro. Bob Colton in assembling and framing these annual Awards. So give them an attaboy the next time you see them.

Dear SSgt Beck, On behalf of Air Force ROTC Detachment 895 and the Army ROTC Wildcat Battalion, I'd like to thank you and the National Sojourners, Inc. - VADM. Homer N. Wallin #40, Edmonds, WA for your outstanding support at the 24th Annual Presidential Day Retreat and Awards



Presentation on 18 May 2012. L-r: Award Recipients Army ROTC Cadet Alexander

M. Lograsso (MS III) and Air Force Cadet Nathan B. Ryser (AS200). We greatly appreciate you and the National Sojourners, Inc. - VADM. Homer N. Wallin #40 for helping us recognize our outstanding cadets of the Army and Air Force ROTC programs. A special thank you goes to CMSgt William C. Harker, Sr., USAF (Ret), PP and CMSgt Steven L. Pennington, USAF (Ret), VP and Trustee of VADM. Homer N. Wallin #40 for their generous contributions and presenting these ROTC awards! We have already started preparations for next year's 25th Commemorative Event. So, please mark your calendar for Friday, 17 May 2013. We look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our ROTC cadets. Again, we wish to thank you for your time and continued support of our military commissioning programs. We look forward to your participation in next year's PDR. v/r, Kendra L. Sterkel, Program Coordinator, Department of Aerospace Studies (Air Force ROTC), Central Washington University

FT. LEE - RICHMOND #72, LTC Lawrence B. Smith, Secretary, 13811 Greyledge Terrace, Chester, VA 23836-5788.

At our July, 2012 Meeting, we met in conjunction with Tuckahoe Lodge No. 347, A.F. & A.M., Richmond, VA, and provided the program for their Stated Communication, which was their annual family night cookout. Everyone was dressed casually. Following Tuckahoe's Meeting, we had dinner and then assembled in the Lodge Room. Due to the heat and humidity we stayed indoors, opened the Chapter, and then initiated two new members. Following the business meeting, we closed the Chapter and adjourned outside, where a concrete block pit had been prepared. In proper form, ritual, and respect, we then retired in excess of 40 American flags which had given their all in support of our country. The members of Tuckahoe Lodge, most of whom knew nothing about the National Sojourners prior to this meeting, were appropriately impressed. They will be remembering this program for a long time and we even handed out some Petitions for membership.



HARRISBURG #76, Brig Gen Earl T. Kuhn, Secretary, 37 North 15th Street,

Camp Hill, PA 17011-3902. Flags placed by our members for the Memorial Day Tribute at the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery.



Plaque presented by our chapter and the PA Squadron, Navy Club of the USA.



L-r: Bros. John A. Judge, retiring secretary after 23 years on the job; Glenn Kurzenknabe, receiving a plaque for his successful year as President; Norman A. Beard, incoming President.



L-r: Bros. John B. Ewell receiving his Hero Certificate from E. Thomas Kuhn.



L-r: Mr. Gary Cassell receiving a certificate of appreciation from Bro. Glenn Kurzenknabe after making a nice powerpoint presentation at one of our meetings.



L-r: Bros. David Methlie, Perry Byers Commander, and Mark Decker, two of

them returning after a two year absence. They complained about the temperature of the water.

PASADENA #265, LTC Joe Ryland, Secretary, 5215 Kauffman Ave, Temple City, CA 91780-3948. At the June chapter meeting we gave pause for a candlelight memorial service to honor the memory of three members of our chapter who recently hung up their working tools and who now reside with the GAOTU. They are John Arnold, Jim Vann, and Lee Williams. Red, white, and blue candles flickered while a most inspiring eulogy was delivered for these brothers. The red candle message was given by Jim Hoerricks. The white candle message was delivered by Tony Fairfield. The blue candle message was communicated by Jeremy Chongco. Our Chaplain, Harvey Lyman, gave the prayer. Last year we had a total of 144 MIP chapter members. Our 2011-2012 chapter president, Bruce Ivie, challenged members of the chapter to work for a goal of 150 MIP members. Then, at the end of the year there were 161. This indicates a chapter that works together for a common goal. At the 2012 National Convention at Burlington, VT there were approximately 31 members of Pasadena #265 from many states.



L-r: Bruce Ewald, Jose Fiss, Joe Ryland, and Dan Hood

LANCASTER #292, CW3 Antonio Cerase, Secretary, 847 Goshen Mill Road, Peach Bottom, PA 17563.

On 6 June 2012 we presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Honorable Jeffery D. Wright for "Proudly Serving the Cause of Patriotism". Judge Wright is the Presiding Judge for the Lancaster County Veterans Court every Thursday afternoon since February of this year when the court was established. He gave a presentation on what the Veterans Court is, what are its goals and the benefits to the community and the veterans. The Veterans Court mission is to promote public safety and reduce recivism in a cost-effective way by providing veteran offenders with intensive court supervision and a comprehensive Veterans Administration driven treatment program. Judge Wright believes in the Theodore Roosevelt statement which says "A man is good enough to shed his blood for the

country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards". This court is taking care of those veterans that upon return did not find a way to adjust into society due to economics, prescription addictions, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) or Post Traumatic Syndrome (PTS). He also pointed out that Bro. Tony Cerase is the Lancaster County Court's Mentor Coordinator and his wife (MAJ Dina Cerase) is one of the court's mentors. Also during this meeting two new MIP certificates were presented to some of our members.



L-r: Judge Jeffery D. Wright receiving his certificate from Bro. Stephen Benedict.



L-r: Bros: Tony Cerase, Bob Hubbard, Tom Sell, and Stephen Benedict.

PORTSMOUTH #386, Maj. C. William Willey, Secretary, PO Box 1264, Dover 03820 On August 4, 2012 for the sixth year our chapter and camp and Green Mountain #527/General John Stark Camp had the privilege of leading the Grand Lodge Officers of the Jurisdictions of Vermont and New Hampshire at the annual Maple Sugar Shrine parade. They also had the privilege of presenting the Flags at the start of the Maple Sugar Shrine game. This was the 59th game the first one being on Labor Day in 1954. The overall out-come of the series of the games is 43-13-2 in favor of New Hampshire. The sponsoring Shrine centers are Bektash Concord, New Hampshire, Cario Rutland, Vermont and Mt. Sinai Montpelier, Vermont. All proceeds from the games benefit the following Shriner's hospitals for children, Springfield Shriner's Hospital Springfield, Massachusetts, Montreal Shriner's Hospital Montreal, Quebec. Canada and the Boston Burns Institute Boston, Massachusetts.

Since 1954 these games have raised more than \$5,000,000.00 for the hospitals.



L-r: John A. Ring, 2nd VP Portsmouth #386, COS; Andrew F. Hirst, PNC, North East Area Rep, PP Portsmouth #386 PC; Paul M. P. Kelley, DOD; F. Randall Carry, President, Green Mountain #527, PC, Calvin Kyler, PP, Green Mountain #527, PC.

HUNTER #502, CSM Charles V. Deloe, Secretary, 12449 Northwood Road, Savannah, GA 31419. On 13 June 2012 we held our annual meeting and installed the officer for 2012-2013, and presented several awards.. Area Rep C. Wayne Barnes installed the following Bros. Wally J. Crews as President, replacing Ernest A. McCorkle who became Camp Commander, replacing Bruce H. McNall, PC, who moved out to pasture. Ms. Tommie T. Patrick, Business Manager of Alee Shrine was recognized for her devotion to and respect for the flag, which she flies, properly illuminated, 24/7.



L-r: Bro. Ernest A. McCorkle, Ms. Patrick and Bro. Charles Deloe.



L-r: Bros. C. Wayne Barnes, Bruce McNall, Ernest McCorkle, displaying their "Past" certificates.



L-r: Bros. C. Wayne Barnes, Wally J. Crews, and Ernest McCorkle.

At our regular meeting held on 11 July 2012 we conducted the Candlelight Memorial Service in memory of CW2 Duette I. Thomas, USMC, LTC Vernon Coursey, USA, and MSgt Richard W. Hall, USMC. Bro. Wally J. Crews presented Widows pins, cards, and certificates to Ms. Betty Coursey and Ms. Barbara Hall.



L-r: Bro. Wally J. Crews, President, presenting widows pins, cards and certificates to Ms. Betty Coursey and Ms. Barbara Hall, with Bro. Charles Deloe, Secretary.

GREEN MOUNTAIN #527, Mr. Cederic Smith, Secretary, P.O. Box 586, South Barre, VT 05670-0586. We initiated two new members Bros. Harrie S. DeMers, Sr. and John Mayville. These two new Brothers were true workers in the quarries. Their dedicated participation at the 2012 ANC was tremendous addition to the success of the ANC.



L-r: Bros. Cedric Smith, Secretary, PGM; Roger Crouse, Commander, Deputy GM; Calvin Keyler, PGM, Randy Cary, President; Phillip Scott, Lt. Governor of Vermont; Palmer Martin, Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge of Vermont; John R. Campbell, Jr., PGM, and the General Manager of the National Sojourners, Inc. Annual Conference held in Burlington, VT June 18th to June 23rd.



L-r: Bro. Calvin Keyler, PP, presenting the Musket to Bro. Button.

EXPEDITIONARY #535, LTC David W. Alderfer, Secretary, 9397 Villas Drive, Foley, AL 36535. Our meeting was called

to order by 2nd VP Bro. Bill Greschel, at the 2012 ANC, Burlington VT on June 19th with 41 members in attendance. The major item of business was the report of the establishment and the initial meeting of Kabul Detachment #2. Three MIPs from Kabul Detachment #2 have already been processed with up to seven more pending.



Congratulations were expressed to Charter OIC Bro. Terry Gigure and all the charter members. Muster reports for Presley Neville O'Bannon Camp have been received from five separate bivouacs and encampments: 1st Camel Corps SC-SWACE on 27 February, Hawaiian #9/Liholiho Kai Moi Camp on 25 April 12, Fort McPherson #60/ James Jackson Camp on 22 Feb, Milwaukee #27/ Paul Revere Camp, et al, at GLACE on 5 May and John J. Harris #397/ Oso Camp at SCACE on 8 May. The chapter voted to contribute \$300.00 to Collingwood and \$300.00 to the SEM Fund. After refusing to accept the nominees, the following 2012-2013 Officers were duly installed by Bro. Ben Yudesis: President 1LT Leon Feldt, 1st VP LTC Bill F. Greschel, 2nd VP LtCol Woody Bentley, Sr., 3rd VP MAJ William D. Means, S/T LTC David W. Alderfer, Chaplain CAPT Merlen Howe and Camp Commander PO3 Rafael A. Rivas, CoS LtCol Keye E. Perry, Sr., A/CoS LTC Charles N. Wallens, OoD LT George T. Copes, Adj LTC David W. Alderfer, Chaplain CAPT Merlen Howe.

ROHUE VALLEY #538, CSM Wiliam E. Best, Secretary, 904 North Mountain Ave, Cantral Point, OR 97502-3604. We participated in the Eagle Point, Oregon 4th of July parade. We received the Blue Ribbon (First Place) for our trailer and banners.



The weather was a very nice 80 degrees, with a slight breeze. We had nine members present. You might notice that we wore our polo shirts with our National and Heroes patches. The color of the shirts reflected the branch of service.



CHATTANOOGA #540, LTC Albert E. Piatt, Secretary, 1721 Julian Ridge Road, Chattanooga, TN, 37421-3321. On August 11, 2012, we participated in the Second Annual Chattanooga Area Boy Scout Academy sponsored by the Chattanooga Scottish Rite Bodies, Alhambra Shrine Legion of Honor, our chapter, and several local Masonic Lodges. The Academy was coordinated by Sojourner and Bro. Jerry Venable. A total of twenty-two Boy Scouts, six adult Scout leaders, twelve Masons, and three guests in attendance this year's event. The purpose of the Academy was to assist the Scouts in fulfilling the requirements for the American Heritage and Citizenship in the Nation merit badges as part of the prerequisites for the Rank of Eagle Scout. We provided the "Building the Flag" program and members of the chapter participated in the interviews of veterans.



Bro Clyde Caldwell with the twenty three Boy Scouts from Cherokee Council who participated in the second annual Chattanooga Area



Boy Scout Academy
Bro Clyde Caldwell, 1stVP, presents the "Building the Flag" program to Chattanooga area Boy Scouts.

JESSE B. THOMAS #547, Sgt Donald R. Barrett, Secretary, 84 East Lake Drive, Murphysboro, IL 62966. On 4 July 2012

some of our members dressed in Heroes attire presented the colors during the National Anthem at J. L. Willis Park for the fireworks celebration. The presentation also received coverage in the local newspaper. Picture courtesy of The Carmi Times.



TIMES PHOTO/TAMMY KNIX

L-r: Bros. Dickie Mobley, Donald Barrett, Guy Wilcox, Norman Trousdale, Earl Knight.



Building the flag at the Murphysboro Masonic Children Home on Flag day. Donald R. Barrett/Sec and Guy Wilcox past President building the flag.

NATIONAL COMMANDERS MESSAGE



Greetings Fellow Heroes of '76 and Sojourners, If you look in a Merriam-Webster dictionary for the word "Landmark", you will find this word defined in several different ways. It is used as a "marker" of a boundary of land; a conspicuous object marking a locality; a structure used as a reference point to other structures; a structure with Historic or Aesthetic importance; a structure set aside for preservation. There is one other definition; an event or development that marks a turning point or a stage.

It is this last definition that applies to the Directives listed in our Heroes Manual. Much like the Law Books issued by every Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter, Grand Council and Grand Commandery throughout this great land of ours. It is by the issuance of these Laws or Landmarks that the governing bodies intend to keep that particular

Body operating on a level (straight and narrow if you will) road or playing field ensuring continuity throughout the jurisdiction. Since I live in Texas, I am bound by my honor to adhere to the Laws of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas. I can tell you from experience that the Grand Master himself will not set aside Grand Lodge Law here in Texas for the appeasement of anyone. It is for this reason that I love and respect a good many of our Past Grand Masters.

The vast majority of us would not entertain the notion of breaking or going against the Laws of the Grand Bodies under whose jurisdiction we reside. The primary reason for our strict adherence to the Laws of the Grand Bodies is the Obligation we took while kneeling at an Altar, our hands on the greatest and most notable History Book ever published and uttered words like "so help me God". During the Heroes Degree, the Recruit is administered an Agreement with Stipulations. This Agreement is not referred to as an Obligation but should be taken as such with the same solemn honor as if you were kneeling at an Altar with your hands upon the HBS&C.

At the National Conventions and Mid-Winter Meetings the Heroes Manual Committee meets and lots of things are discussed, not just about the Heroes Manual. Some things that have been brought up during these meetings in years past are that some Heroes Camps do not follow the Landmarks (Laws) as explained in Chapter V, "Directives and Awards" section of the Heroes Manual.

Most newly made Heroes go straight to the Ritual and a lot of us forget that there is a section of the Manual prior to the Ritual. This is Part One, Organization, and explains who and what we are and under what Authority we exist. Part One is basically "everything you wanted to know about Heroes of '76 but didn't know to ask about".

So Brethren, at your Bivouacs, when you issue the new Hero his copy of the "Official Manual of the Heroes of '76®" (as you should be doing), explain that if they take the time to read Part One, they will have a better understanding of The Ritual Script located in Part Two of the Manual. Reading and understanding the importance of the Landmarks and Directives of our Order located in Part One could prevent any deviation of those Landmarks in the future and give us a smooth road to travel till we at last reach that last Camp Ground above. Also Brethren, remind your new Hero that our alliance is with the local Chapter of National Sojourners, Inc. and that the Camp exists to support the Chapter.

Till next time, I remain your servant.

David H. Gardner
National Commander

CAMP NEWS

ANTHONY WAYNE CAMP (Detroit #1).

The Heroes were gathering for their usual meeting when there was a disturbance heard outside the room. Upon investigation the individual claiming to be a member of Detroit #1 wished to be a member of the camp. After going through the customary examination, CPO Emmett Mills, USN was admitted as the camp's newest hero.

KING KALAKAUA (Honolulu #11). The 2012 Color Guard Team that led the Masonic Family of Hawaii in yesterday's 4th of July Parade in Kailua, Hawaii.



L-r: Bros. Jim Davis (#11), Pete Larson (#11), Bruce Bonnell (#439) and Roy Ota (#11). Also, all are members of Pearl Harbor Lodge.

ERWIN R. BLECKLEY CAMP (Wichita #24).

The following were elected as camp officers for 2012-2013: Floyd O. Britting, Commander; Chuck E. Arens, COS; Larry G. White, Adjutant; Paul L. Miller, Chaplain; Wayne L. White, Sentinel. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented posthumously to Commander Leo W. Magnuson who passed away on 6 February 2012 for his outstanding leadership during the time that he served as Camp Commander. We continue to present the "Building the Flag" program to various organizations in the Wichita Area.

FORT TRUMBULL CAMP (New London #58).



Camp had the honor and privilege of carrying the replica of the Stonington Battle flag in the Stonington village Parade. Each year the Stonington Historical Society organizes

a participatory parade where the town's people come out aided by the Society's members and the towns fire trucks, ambulances and others to have a parade. The replica flag, 18 X 11 feet in size, is copied after the Battle Flag from the War of 1812.



The first celebration took place on August 10, 1815, a year after the battle, the first year of peace. Stonington's battle flag, the huge, shot-torn banner of sixteen stars and sixteen stripes, was raised at the 1814 fort, shown on old maps as a curved rampart facing to the south and west. A procession marched to the Congregational church, listened to an address by the Rev. Ira Hart, and returned to the fort, where a prayer closed the day. The historic Stonington flag, a very rare 16 star, 16-stripe example and possibly the only period 16 star flag in existence, had been on display for many years in the Ocean Bank building in Stonington, Connecticut. Recently it was taken down for cleaning and assessment and a replica made, as the original is very fragile. On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812, a special display was established at the Lyman Allyn Museum featuring the Stonington Battle Flag.

JAMES JACKSON CAMP (Fort McPheerson #60).



L-r: Bro. Rick Conn, PP of Ft McPheerson #60 presenting the quilt made by Lady Patti Turner to the winner Bro. Jim Lester, Sr. Bro. Lester was not only surprised but well pleased with the beautiful quilt. That night in meeting, a fund raiser for a 1 year old baby that needs a kidney transplant was announced. Children need to be at least 3 years old to receive a kidney. Little Brody Johnson is going to have to go for dialysis for the next two years. This, on top of the

already high hospital bill, will cause a lot of expense and hardship for the family. The father is a member of Fergus Lodge AF&AM, in Loganville Georgia. The Lodge held a fund-raiser for the family to help them with this expense. An all-day affair that raised over \$40,000 for the family. Bro. Lester felt led to help, so he donated the quilt for a raffle to help raise money for this child. As Lady Patti put it.... "A gift that keeps on giving".... it will assist in this child's treatment. Thanks Lady Patti for the beautiful quilt, and thanks to Bro. Jim Lester for his donation of it for this worthy cause.

JOHN J. PERSHING CAMP (Pasadena #265). At twilight on July 7, 2012 there was a gathering of a truly magnificent group of Heroes at old Fort El Bekal. In the early part of the evening, when the lamp-light was beginning to lower, a "dog-eared" scoundrel was apprehended in the back part of our camp. This knave appeared to be a chow-hound as he was seeking illegal admission to the back door of our mess tent. He was caught by our ever-vigilant Sentinels, Dave Chernik and Simon McIlroy. Our able Camp Commander, Don Regis, who is a strict disciplinarian, assigned various work duties to this rogue while the camp inquired into his true identity and qualifications to remain at our bivouac. Through the efforts of Bob Reynolds and Doug Bridges this reprobate was thoroughly investigated and later found to be Dan Hood who is a Master Mason and a member of Pasadena #265. After crossing the frigid Delaware with only minor prodding, he was found worthy and well qualified, and was duly mustered into our camp as a full-fledged member.



L-r: Bros. Jim Lenon, Joe Ryland, Bernie Harris, and Jeremy Chongco.

ANDREW JACKSON CAMP (Northeast Florida #435).



We presented a "Building the Flag" program at the Ridgewood Baptist Church in Orange Park, Florida on 9 July, 2012. The

program was well received by the crowd at this patriotic Happy Independence Day program. L-r: Bros. Tom Sorenson, Commander, Treasurer; Corbin Elliott, COS, PP; Gilbert H. Porter, Asst. COS, President; Charles R. Cooper, PC, PP.

SAM HOUSTON CAMP (Houston #513). We recently performed a "Building the Flag" program on the KBR Stage at the Freedom Over Texas celebration on the 4th of July. At the end of the program the viewer's gave the camp a standing ovation.



L-r: Bros. Graham Cull, Commander; Terry McKee, PC; Tom Boone, PC; Julie Knutson, Camp follower and behind the Bennington Flag is Bro. Bert Cull, PC.

CARL L. SITTER CAMP (Shenandoah Valley #543). At the 6 June 2012 stated communication of Unity Lodge #146 A.F. & A.M. we did a "Building the Flag" presentation. The presenters were: Charlie E. Davis, Narrator; Wieland Johnson, Bob Mertens, Assistants; Wanda Lawson, Irene Mertens, Camp Followers. After the ceremony Bro. Charlie Davis made a special presentation to WM Scott Cabazolo of the Masonic Banner that was displayed during the ceremony. Thanks were expressed by WM Cabazolo on behalf of Unity Lodge. We will have more "Building the Flag" and "Folding the Flag" presentations coming up in the months ahead.



L-r: Bro. Charlie Davis, Wanda Lawson, Bro. Wieland Johnson, Irene Mertens



L-r: Wanda Lawson, Bro. Charlie Davis, WM Scott Cabazolo, Irene Mertens, Bro. Wieland Johnson

NEW MEMBERS
SSG Everett W. Burdick, #527

Sponsor: Cedric L. Smith

CPT Juan J. Diaz, #266

Sponsor: Steven M. Fowler

SP4 Herbert J. Lindberg, #289

Sponsor: Alan E. Kulevich

SSG Jerry Osborne, #154

Sponsor: Unknown

Mr. Glenn Volkert, #547

Sponsor: Dickey Mobley

MEMBERSHIPS-IN-PERPETUITY

18351 SFC Paul K. Mccullough, #338
 18352 CAPT James N. Higdon, #378
 18353 MAJ Richard W. Williamson, #550
 18354 MSG Robert L. Ochoa, #357
 18355 Mr. Douglas L. Amyx, #548
 18356 MSG Thomas E. Hayden Jr, #548
 18357 MAJ Richard W. Williamson, #527
 18358 CW3 Joseph F. Zito, #527
 18359 MAJ Charles A. Folsom, #527
 18360 Mr. David W. Wolfe, #17
 18361 1LT John C. Jones, #17
 18362 Mr. Chester F. Willey, Jr., #23
 18363 CAPT Todd J. Tedeschi, #535
 18364 1SG Andrew F. Hirst, #527
 18365 Mr. James N. Turner, Jr., #28
 18366 Mr. L. Forbes Getchell, #386
 18367 MAJ Mark D. Miles, #542
 18368 CWO4 James A. Baker, #542
 18369 MSG William J. Smith, #289
 18370 Mr. Archie B. Davis, #28
 18371 SFC Jeffrey J. Miller, #112
 18372 CAPT James N. Higdon, #397
 18373 Mr. Roland G. Havens, #17
 18374 Mr. Ernest Brognine, #134
 18375 Sir Winston L. Churchill, #134

TAPS
CPL Charles S. Butler, #76, MIP

DOD: 8/4/2012

CPT James R. Corry, #528, MIP

DOD: 9/6/2011

MAJ P. H. Davis, #373, MIP

DOD: 7/6/2012

SGT Herman A. Dechent, #549, MIP

DOD: 7/11/2012

SGM Roderick F. Evans, #531, MIP

DOD: 8/15/2012

MSG Paul J. Finegan, #447, MIP

DOD: 7/15/2012

COL Franklin M. Gray, #134

DOD: 7/31/2012

LT(Jg) Isaac P. Hansen, #353, MIP

DOD: 7/13/2012

1stSGT Otto W. Haversat, Jr., #28, MIP

DOD: 7/27/2012

MAG Therman P. Hudson, #540, MIP

DOD: 7/23/2012

LTC Wayne A. Kirkbride, #37, MIP

DOD: 9/25/2011

Mr. Warren D. Lichty, #19, MIP

DOD: 5/23/2012

CPO Thomas Lou, #80, MIP

DOD: 7/4/2012

PO1 John I. Lund, #413, MIP

DOD: 7/26/2012

LTC Thomas F. Mack, #303, MIP

DOD: 5/6/2009

MAJ Joseph F. Nahan, #440

DOD: Unknown

SMAJ Robert M. Ohman, #409, MIP

DOD: 4/23/2011

1st Lt Harold E. Richardson, #80, MIP

DOD: 7/7/2012

Capt William F. Ruckerhousen, #1, MIP

DOD: 1/13/2010

CW3 Salvadore F. Sanchez, #17, MIP

DOD: 8/2/2012

MAJ James R. Thomas, #177, MIP

DOD: 6/12/2012

CPL Paul B. Tobias, #533, MIP

DOD: 7/29/2012

LtCol Lauritz W. Young, #44, MIP

DOD: 7/16/2012

3-6-5 CLUB
Roland G. Havens, #17**Richard Williamson, #527, #550****David Wolfe, #17**

SEM FUND
In Memory of Otto W. Haversat, Jr.

Charleston Chapter #28

In Memory of Bailey M. Morrow

Charleston Chapter #28

In Memory of James E. Vann

Jackson & Pamela Lee

FUTURE MEETING INFORMATION

The Mid-Winter Meeting will be held on January 7-9 2013 at the Best Western in Alexandria, Louisiana. Point of Contact is Brother James F. Benson, Jr. 760-940-0224.

The 93rd Annual Convention will be held June 17-23 2013 at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio, Texas. Point of Contact is Brother James F. Benson, Jr. 760-940-0224.

AREA CONFERENCES AND ENCAMPMENTS

The next GLACE (Great Lakes Area Conference Encampment) will be held on April 26 & 27, 2013 at the Holiday Inn, Gateway Centre, Flint, Michigan. Point of contact is Brother Armand Cote-810-796-2002.

ROTC

Gentleman:

I was greatly honored to receive the National Sojourners ROTC Award for Americanism. It was a great honor to be recognized by such a prestigious organization composed of American Veterans. I am especially honored to be seen as promoting Americanism by men who have done so much for their country. I would like to especially thank CDR Michael Hansen, USN (Ret.) who took time to present the award on March 31. Once again I would like to offer my sincerest thanks for the award and to CDR Hansen for presenting the award. Very Respectfully, Midshipman James D. Kokjohn, USMCR, Iowa State University NROTC.

The Alaska Interior JROTC Instructor staff would like to thank the National Organizations and their presenters, local military recruiters, the Alaska Guard, and the Governor of Alaska for supporting JROTC – THANK YOU!!

The National Sojourners award for Americanism was presented to CDT CSM Megan Mullican at the Mansfield High School Ceremony in Mansfield, TX on April 19, 2012 by CW3 Bill Staton, USA, Ret. Member of Chapter #463.

Dear Mr. Hancock & National Sojourners, I would like to thank you for the award and medal presented to me at our award ceremony. It was an honor to receive an award for my patriotism. I am extremely proud to be an American, and looking forward to serve our great Country in the Marine Corps. Thank You again. Very Respectfully, Conor Kelley

To the members of National Sojourners; Many thanks for presenting the National Sojourners Award each year. It was an honor receiving the award for this year. Thanks again, Sarah Wolf, Henley Valley High School, AFJROTC, Klamath Falls, OR

Dear Sojourners,
 Thank you so much for giving me this award. I am truly honored. I appreciate it. Thank You, Cadet Eryn Kraus, Diamond Oaks CDC, Army JROTC

Dear National Sojourners,
 Thank you for giving me the honor to have this medal. I promise to take care of it and wear it with pride. Thank you so much. Sincerely, Cadet Catherine Mackay, Sgt Eugene Ashley High School, NJROTC

Dear National Sojourners Inc.,
 Thank you for supporting my JROTC Award. I greatly appreciate this award. It was an honor to receive it. Thanks, C/MAJ Hannah Dixon, East Rowan High School JROTC

National Sojourners,
 I just wanted to thank you for the award presented to me on May 4, 2012. I am humbled to receive this award and I cannot thank you enough for the support you show to the Midshipmen and service members throughout this Nation. Your organization represents true Americanism and I am proud to be characterized by such ideals. I am grateful to have organizations like this in our country and, again, thank you for your support that you continue to provide to young leaders across the United States. Very Respectively, Matthew Wehrle, The Ohio State University, NROTC.

Dear Sir,
 The University of Wyoming Joint Army/Air Force ROTC Awards Ceremony was held on April 26, 2012. At that time the National Sojourners Award was presented to Cadet Heather Gould, a sophomore. Mr. George Anderson and Bill Smith, both past Presidents of National Sojourners, Cheyenne Chapter #5, presented the award. Thank you for your continued support of the University of Wyoming ROTC program. Sincerely, Michael E. Tuers, LT. Col., USAF, Commander/Professor of Aerospace Studies.

Dear National Sojourners,
 I would like to thank the organization for providing the National JROTC Award at our annual Military Ball on April 28, 2012 to our instructor, LTC Wright, to present to me. I would also like to thank your organization on behalf of JROTC and myself. I was surprised to get a award at all during the Military Ball. I honestly did not think I would get a award. I am honored that I received the National Award out of the other cadets that were there. I am proud of my accomplishments and that I have come this far in two years in the JROTC program. I will be honored to be able to wear the medal and ribbon on my uniform. Sincerely, Cadet Sydney Everett, Centennial High School JROTC.

Dear National Sojourners,
 I would like to thank you for the National Sojourners JROTC award presented on May 5, 2012 to Cadet Jimmy Blakley, by Lt Col John Marcucci, Past President of Fort Jackson #184. Thank You, William A. Jennings, Col, USAF (Ret.) Senior Aerospace Science Instructor, Lakewood High School.

Maj. Newcombe,
 Thank you for providing the National Sojourners award package for our AFJROTC recipient. The award medal, Ribbon and certificate were presented by Lt. Col Ray Ott, USAF (ret.), on May 8, 2012. The recipient of your award was Cadet Technical Sergeant Brooke Wooleyhand. I appreciate your organization's support. Sincerley, Dan Lettieri, MSgt, USAF (Ret.) Aerospace Science Instructor, Polytech High School

Dear Sirs,
 I would like to thank you for the award presented to Purity Clark on May 11, 2012 at our awards ceremony. Thank you, Robert B. Barnette, MSgt, Newark High School

Dear National Sojourners,
 We would like to extend our thanks for your support by providing the National Sojourners Awards for Americanism. The recipient was Cade Col Emily Reeves. Again we thank you for your support. Sincerely, Melvin J. Simmons, SMSgt, USAF (Ret.), Leadership Instructor/Aerospace Science Instructor, Treasure Coast High School



Lt Col Brian Landry, Commander, AF-ROTC Det 012 presented the National Sojourners Award to Cadet Stephen Brown at our annual Leadership Lab on Thursday, May 10th, 2012.



Valley HS – Presented for Saigon Chapter #409 to Cadet-2nd LT Jimdah Coden

Dear Sirs,
 The National Sojourners Award was pre-

sented to Cadet Samantha Schwartz on 11 May 2012 at the Patchogue-Medford High School Ceremony. We would like to thank you for your continued support.

Col Robert Atkinson, USAF (Ret.) Senior Aerospace Science Instructor.



Centennial HS – Presented for Ft McPherson Chapter #60 to Cadet Silvey Lindsy

Dear Sirs,
 On Behalf of out Unit I would like to thank you for supporting our ROTC program. LtCol Robert F. Wendel, Senior Military Instructor, Redmond High School



Cadet Logan Falco receiving the ROTC Medal.

Dear National Sojourners,
 Our annual awards ceremony was conducted on May 10, 2012 and the recipient of the National Sojourners JROTC Award for Americanism was Cadet Jonathan Baker. The awards was presented by Mr. William Chishko. Sincerely, Gary M. Wolbert, Lt Col (ret.), USAF, Senior Aerospace Science Instructor, Marion Center Area High School



Dear National Sojourners, On behalf of Los Alamos NJROTC, we would like to thank you for the National Sojourners Patriotism Award that was presented to Cadet Richard Whittemore. We would like to express their sincere thank you for your

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recognition and encouragement. The LAHS JROTC appreciates your continued support.

Dear National Sojourners,
Thank You for your support in providing the National Sojourners Award for Americanism. It was presented at our awards ceremony on May 17, 2012 to Cadet Jezavya Rivera by Mr. William Greene. Thank You again for your support. Thomas E. Cleland, USAF (Ret.) Senior Instructor, Central High School



TECHNOLOGY CORNER

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