



# LONE STAR DISPATCH

NEWSLETTER OF

THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS—TEXAS SOCIETY

2024, Summer Edition

Volume 7, Issue 1



## COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

by George W. Williamson

I trust everybody is having a wonderful summer. What a great time it is to be able to be with our children and grandchildren!

For those of you who were able to attend the General Convention in Springfield, we thank our Missouri compatriots for being such wonderful hosts. A big congratulations goes out to our new Commander General, Thomas B. Rhodes III and Lt. Commander Terry R. Phillips. I feel the Military Order of the Stars and Bars is in good and trusted hands for these next two years. Great leadership spells a great future for our organization.

I was so pleased that our Texas Society Convention in College Station was such a success! I was honored that Lt. Commander General Terry R. Phillips and Executive Director Jon Trent attended and participated in our Convention. I was impressed with the passion from all who were involved.

I was so impressed with the passion that was displayed from our attendees to grow our organization and keep it the largest society in the MOS&B. By everyone doing their part by securing new members, we will achieve our goal. Not only is it important to grow our Society but it is equally important to develop manpower for our leadership positions.

A big congratulations goes out to our newly elected ATM Commander - David P. McMahon, ATM Executive Councilor - Taylor Conner and ATM Executive Concilor - Larry Joe Reynolds.

## COMMANDER'S COMMENTS *cont...*

As the Texas Society Commander, I believe in what you expect, you get and I'm expecting every Chapter Commander to do their very best in the job of recruiting. And every Chapter Commander should expect the same thing from all their compatriots.

God bless the MOS&B,  
George W. Williamson



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**DAVID MCMAHON**

Commander of Major Benjamin Ficklin  
Chapter 310 San Angelo  
Commander of the Army of Trans-Mississippi  
Lt. Com. of the Texas Society

Another season of meetings is over and Major Benjamin Ficklin, Chapter 310 has walked away with honors once again. Our chapter Lt Commander Steven Melton was dully honored for all his hard work putting the Chapter newsletter together and his efforts at running the Texas Society as it's Adjutant.

His fine work was rewarded by the presentation of the Texas Society Bronze Star and the National Ribbon for the Newsletter.

The chapter was awarded again, with the Ribbon for 100 Retention and for attendance at the National Reunion. It is always my honor to represent the Chapter at these events. I would like to remind you that our organization, of all the large heraldry groups did not loose membership this year. Through friendship and brotherhood, we have grown for the third straight year. Texas was proud to play it's part in this record.

At our chapter quarterly meeting that is fast approaching, we have a great treat in our youngest member, Mac Johnson will be our guest speaker with the topic of the American railroad system. This will be his first event to be a guest speaker and we should all look forward to hearing and seeing his photos of his great love.

Deo Vendace  
David McMahon  
Commander 310



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**TEXAS SOCIETY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING**

October, 2024  
Date and Place to be Announced

**88TH ANNUAL NATIONAL GENERAL CONVENTION**

May 29—June 1, 2025  
Foley, Alabama

**TEXAS SOCIETY MOS&B CONVENTION**

June, 2025  
Date and Place to be Announced



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THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS—TEXAS SOCIETY

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**CHAPLAIN'S COMMENTS**

by Raymond Holder



**THE SPIRITUAL SAINT**

The following article is my interpretation and thoughts about a talk given by Oswald Chambers in a compilation of talks given by him during his ministry and later put together by his wife which are called "My Upmost for His Highest". The name of this particular devotional appears on my birthday, July 11<sup>th</sup> called The Spiritual Saint.

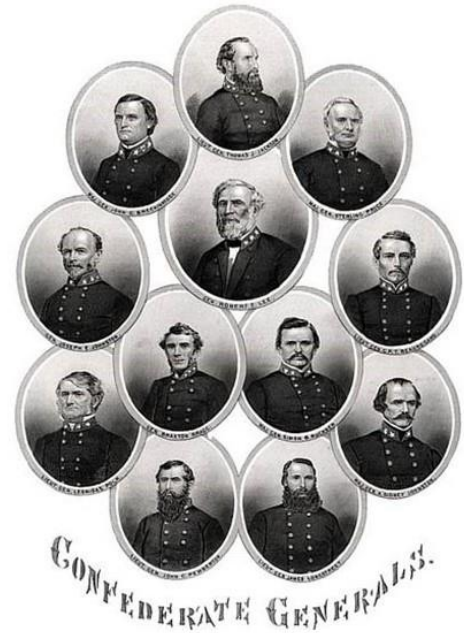
Philippians 3:10, "That I may know Him", is the point of scripture that the apostle Paul writes in the under lying basic of the following by Oswald Chambers.

"The initiative of the saint is not towards self-realization, but towards knowing Jesus Christ. The spiritual saint never believes circumstances to be haphazard, or thinks of his life as secular and sacred; he sees everything he is dumped down in as the means of securing the knowledge of Jesus Christ. There is a reckless abandonment about him. The Holy Spirit is determined that we shall realize Jesus Christ in every domain of life, and He will bring us back to the same point again and again until we do. Self-realization leads to the enthronement of work; whereas the saint enthrones Jesus Christ in his work. Whether it be eating or drinking or washing disciples' feet, whatever it is, we have to take the initiative of realizing Jesus Christ in it. Every phase of our actual life has its counterpart in the life of Jesus. Our Lord realized His relationship to the Father even in the most menial work. "Jesus knowing...that He was come from God, and went to God...took a towel...and began to wash the disciples' feet."

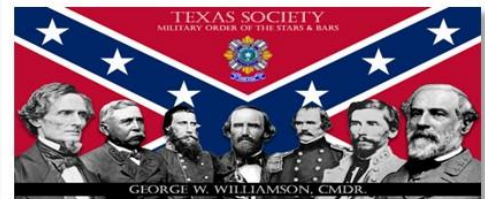
The aim of the spiritual saint is "that I may know Him." Do I know Him where I am today? If not, I am failing Him. I am here not to realize myself, but to know Jesus. In Christian work, the initiative is too often the realization that something has to be done and I must do it. That is never the attitude of the spiritual saint; his aim is to secure the realization of Jesus Christ in every set of circumstances he is in."

Knowing Jesus Christ is to recognize God's providential way in our lives, and this recognition can best be done by knowing Him through prayer and reading God's Holy Word, the Bible. This is the continuing challenge of the spiritual saint, to know Him and His providential path for his live.

Raymond Holder, B.S., M. Div., B.C.C.  
Chaplain  
Military Order of the Stars and Bars



**MOS&B TEXAS SOCIETY  
FACEBOOK PAGE**



We encourage you to join our Facebook page, set up by Commander Michael Gonzales.

Type in Texas Society—Military Order of the Stars and Bars, click to join and answer the ques-



tions. You will wait to be approved by the Page Administrators. Also, our Military Order of the Stars and Bars—Texas Society website will include the link to our new Facebook page.



## AWARDS CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

By Joe Reynolds  
ATM Executive Concilor



Compatriots,

As the Newly Elected Executive Councilor of the Army of Trans-Mississippi, I wanted to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the men of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars for having the confidence in me to elect me as your ATM Councilor. It is a great honor to lead such an outstanding group of men.

I have always believed that one of the signs of a successful leader is the ability to grow their organization, while at the same time, maintaining constant communications with its members. I want each of you to know that my door is always open to any of you at any time. I have worked with our new ATM Commander and Society Lt. Commander, David McMahon for a number of years and I can only see great things happening during our tenure.

During the upcoming months you will be hearing from me about some new and innovative ideas on just how we can attract new members and grow our society. I will be looking at ways to attract potential members that may not be in the close proximity of a current Chapter, therefore, in order to allow these members, the advantage that others have, I am looking at starting a Virtual "Zoom" Meeting. This will follow the format of any Chapter Meeting and is just one more way to keep our members informed of what is going on in the Society.

I also want to again stress the importance of our society continuing to recruit new, motivated members. We must continue to build the organization to promote the mission and values of the MOS&B with members of good standing and look for new ideas to execute our mission.

Know that my door is always open to anyone and if you have any questions or comments, contact me at any time.

I would now like to take just a few minutes to address the Texas Society Awards Program. When Commander Williamson took over as the Commander of the Texas Society, I told him that I would take the responsibility of Awards Committee Chairman. Texas is one of the very few Societies that has its own Awards Program, most only issue National Awards to its member. For individual awards we have the Lone Star Award, the Gold, Silver, and Bronze Stars, as well as the various Certificates of Appreciation, Recognition, etc.

## AWARDS CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS *cont...*

I have never believed in giving awards for just being there, or doing your job. Awards are not just eye candy, but should be earned and deserved, however when a member does a job worthy of an award then we as leaders should recognize them by nominating them.

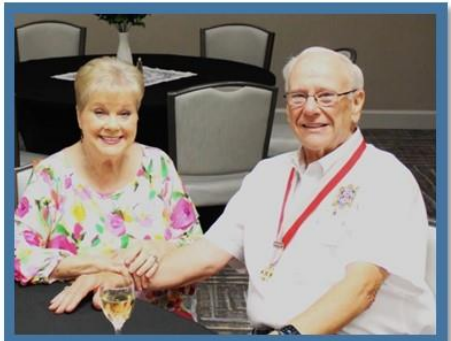
That being said, I am looking for a replacement as the Awards Chairman. I have recently also been appointed as the Webmaster General for the MOS&B, and elected as President for the Descendants of Confederate Veterans. I really need to take a little load off myself. Anyone who is interested please let me know, or contact Commander Williamson.

Larry "Joe" Reynolds, DCS  
Past Society Commander  
ATM Executive Councilor  
Webmaster General  
Texas Society Webmaster  
Texas Society Awards Chairman



**MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS**  
Texas Society Convention— College Station, Texas

**Welcome Evening**



# MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS

Texas Society Convention— College Station, Texas

## Opening Ceremonies



# MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS

Texas Society Convention— College Station, Texas

## Last Roll Call



# MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS

Texas Society Convention— College Station, Texas

## Awards Luncheon





# MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS

Texas Society Convention— College Station, Texas

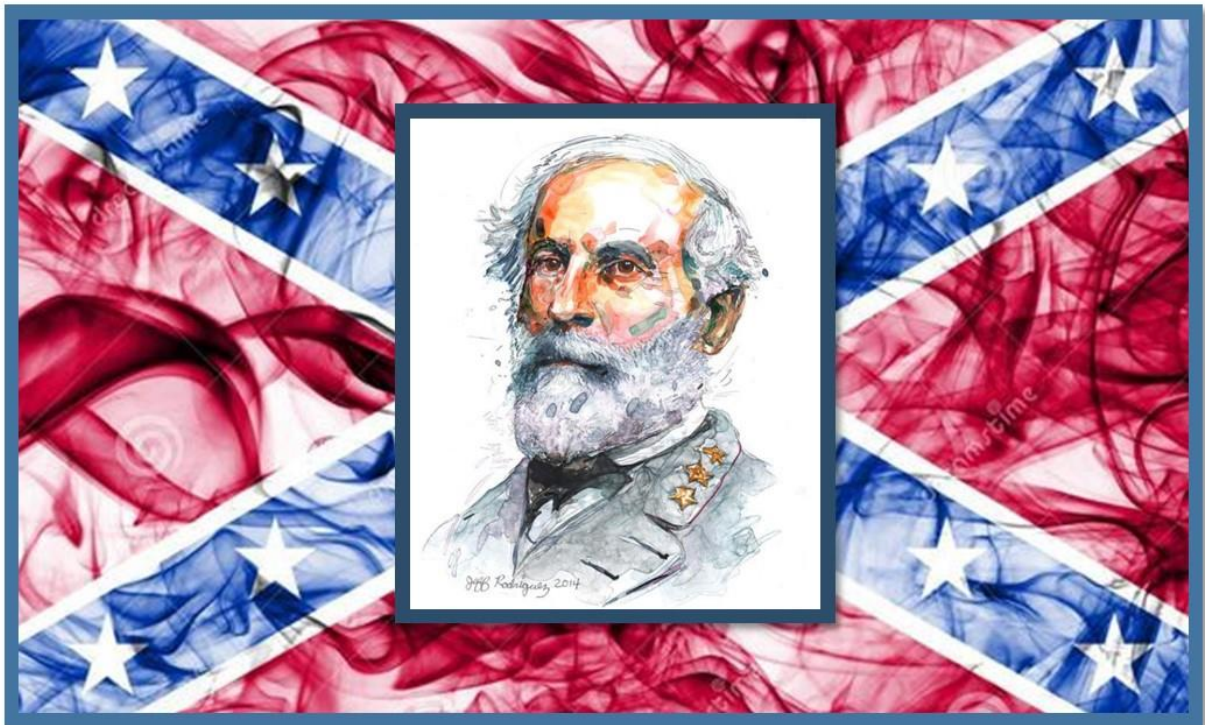
## Awards Luncheon cont...



**MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS**  
Texas Society Convention— College Station, Texas



Military Order of the Stars and Bars Texas Society Convention Member Attendees



## The Angel's Glow



There are many strange and interesting stories from the Civil War, some rooted in truth and some became folklore, embellished by the horrors of war. But there are a few of these stories that have been proven to be more than just a story. One of these is the legend of “The Angel’s Glow”.

After the Civil War battle of Shiloh, Tennessee, in 1862, 16,000 injured soldiers were strewn across the battlefield. So great were their numbers that neither army was able to retrieve and treat them quickly. Thousands were left lying in the mud, in some cases for two days and two nights. Many died from their wounds and the consequent infections.

But at night, some of the injured men noticed a strange blue glow emanating from their wounds. The light could be seen from a distance. Field surgeons observed that the soldiers whose wounds emitted this blue light healed more quickly and had a higher rate of survival than those who didn’t. They called it The Angel’s Glow.

What was it? At the time, people believed it was divine intervention: these men must have been touched by the healing hands of angels.

It took almost 140 years for a scientific explanation to emerge... this is the story of the science behind The Angel’s Glow. For almost 140 years, this phenomenon was told and retold with little or no one to believe it. In 2001, Bill Martin, a 17 year old Maryland high school student, visited the Shiloh Battlefield Park. He heard the story about the glowing wounds and was intrigued. His mother, a microbiologist for the USDA Agricultural Research Service, had been studying a bacterium that was luminescent. So, Bill asked for her opinion. Her advice was “research and experiment” to find the answer.

Bill teamed up with another student, Jon Curtis, and began research on the bacteria, *Photobacterium luminescens*, a bacteria that lives in the digestive system of parasitic worms. These worms live in the soil and feed on insect larvae, burrowing into their blood vessels. The *P. Luminescens* bacteria are then released gradually killing the insect and any other bacteria that it may carry. When it is present, it emits a soft blue glow.

It was determined that *P. Luminescens* could not live at normal body temperature. After studying the records of 1862, they found the weather in April at Shiloh was very wet with cold nights. After two days of exposure, the injured soldiers on the field would be in or near hypothermia. This lower body temperature would allow the *P. Luminescens* to live in the soldier’s open wounds. This proved the *P. Luminescens* could enter into the flesh of soldiers from insects carrying nematodes from the soil. It also proved that the rain and cold nights of April, 1862, would create the right conditions for the bacteria to thrive by a lowering of body temperature. And since *P. Luminescens* isn’t harmful to humans, it would only kill harmful bacteria invading the injury which would stop infection from forming. An increase in body temperature would then kill *P. Luminescens* and the immune system would eradicate the nematodes. In conclusion, *P. Luminescens* in the right conditions was a natural occurring antibiotic that glowed when it was present.

The study of “The Angel’s Glow” phenomenon earned Bill and Jon first place in the team competition of the 2001 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. It was also mentioned by the Smithsonian Institute on their web page of “8 Obscure Facts You Didn’t Know about the Civil War”.

*Researched and written by Ella Hanna, Bossier City, LA*


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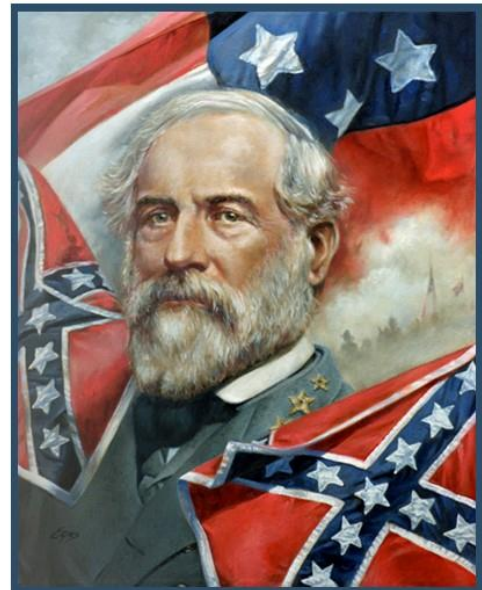
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“Do your duty in all things.  
You cannot do more, you  
should never wish to do  
less.”

*Robert E. Lee*