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*A Society of the Descendants of Confederate Officers & Elected Officials*

# Old Dominion Officer's Call

The Official Newsletter of the Virginia Society  
Military Order of the Stars and Bars

Oct 2007

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## FROM THE COMMANDER



Compatriots,

The year 2007 has been a busy one for the Order. The Virginia Society Convention was held in Fredericksburg on 28 April and the Virginia Society hosted the 70<sup>th</sup> General Convention in Richmond from 21 to 23 June. My sincere appreciation is extended to those who assisted in these endeavors. Thanks to Commander Charles Embrey and Adjutant Henry Knauf of the Magruder Chapter 258 for arranging the Virginia Society Convention. A very special thank you is extended to Society Adjutant Lee Scouten, Pickett Chapter Commander Allen Mock, and Past Commander General Josiah Gay for assisting me in planning and implementing the National Convention. Thanks also go to everyone who attended the convention and who helped make it a huge success.

The year 2008 is an election year for Society and National offices. I encourage everyone to step up and commit to serving and to nominate those who wish to serve. There is important work to be done and the Order needs good men to do it.

A limited quantity of Convention medals and limited edition Commemorative medals remain and are for sale. All proceeds from these sales benefit the Virginia Society. Order details may be found in this issue.

The General Convention of the MOS&B will be held in Springdale, Arkansas in May of 2008. Details will be available soon. Our Virginia Society Convention will be held in April at a place to be determined. If any of our members or Chapters would like to make a proposal to host this event, please contact me by November 30, 2007.

*Deo Vindice,*

*Raymond Gill*

### THANKS TO JIM POLLEY

On behalf of the Virginia Society, Genealogist Jim Cooke recently accepted a nearly complete set of **Confederate Veteran**, generously donated by Jim Polley of Richmond, Virginia. These volumes are available for our member's research however we do not have the essential three-volume index. If some generous Compatriot would like to arrange a donation of the index, the collection will be much easier to use. We also need the last eight volumes of the series to complete the set. Our sincere appreciation is extended to Mr. Polley for his generosity and consideration of our organization as recipient of his gift.

**The Virginia Society seeks a dedicated individual to serve as newsletter editor. Is anyone willing to help us produce a quarterly communication to our members?  
Contact Ray Gill, Commander**

## DUES NEWS

Member dues are essential to all non-profit heritage organizations. These dues enable them to meet operating expenses, grant scholarships, and make charitable donations. Such projects are necessary to continue to preserve our history and heritage.

This year International Headquarters (IHQ) undertook a campaign to contact delinquent members and to encourage them to renew their memberships. In turn, many members paid their national dues directly to IHQ as requested by the letter. The Virginia Society, as well as other Societies in the Order, has a long history of collecting all member dues, National and State, and submitting them to IHQ. There are several advantages to this approach. It gives Chapters and the Society another opportunity to interact with valued members and it permits members to submit only one check to one person for all dues commitments.

Members who have not submitted dues by 31 December 2007 are considered delinquent and can be dropped from the rosters. The Order does not want to lose any of its valuable members. To meet the criteria, the Virginia Society has set a deadline of 15 November for dues payments. This permits time for recording, depositing and forwarding by our Virginia Adjutant.

If you have already paid your National dues directly to IHQ, please notify Adjutant Scouten. If you have not paid National dues, send them to your Chapter Adjutant. If you are unable to contact your Adjutant or other Chapter officer, you may send them directly to Adjutant Scouten for processing.

Life Members do not pay National dues, only Virginia Society dues. If you are a Life Member, new membership cards are not automatically generated but replacement cards are available on request from IHQ, P.O. Box 100, Daphne, AL 36526-0100.

National member dues	\$25 per year
Virginia Society dues	\$10 per year

Make checks or money orders payable to Virginia Society MOS&B and send them to:  
Adjutant R. E. Lee Scouten, P.O. Box 301, Charlottesville, VA 22902.

## RECOGNITION FOR MAINTAINING A VETERAN'S GRAVESITE

### “JACKSON MEDAL”

Adopt a Confederate officer's grave, commit to its care and you might wear the “Jackson Medal”. This is not a commitment to be taken lightly, nor was it intended to be. If you accept this challenge, do so with two thoughts in mind:

1. It is a year-to-year commitment
2. Your efforts should be towards perfection

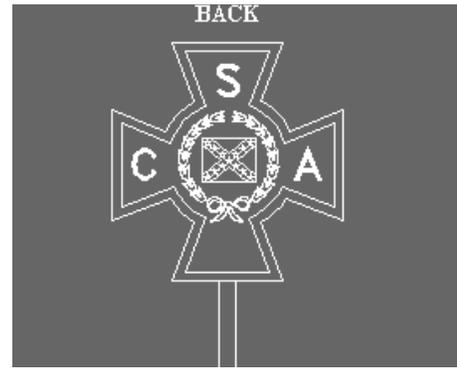
Certificates and medals are awarded on a point basis. For application forms contact:

Joe B. Gay, III, Chairman  
904 North High St  
Franklin, VA 23851  
757-562-6077

Ray Gill  
10938 Tidewater Trail  
Fredericksburg, VA 22408  
540-373-8846  
raygill2@juno.com

## VIRGINIA GRAVE MARKING PROJECT

Compatriot Arthur Watkins, Hupp-Deyerle-McCausland Chapter #237, and his son Jacob (below) are working to restore and mark the grave of 1st Lieutenant Shepherd Pollard of 28th Virginia Infantry. The grave is located in the Carvins Cove Reservoir Watershed. Lt. Pollard is buried beside his wife on their old homestead. We encourage the Watkins family to document their project and to apply for the Jackson Medal described in this issue.



## FROM THE PENS OF VIRGINIA SOCIETY MEMBERS

***Grant Captured!*** by Compatriot Colonel Wallbrook D. Swank.

This historic narrative is a marriage of fact and fiction. It presents a factual picture of the operation of American's greatest Civil War military supply base at City Point, Virginia and what might have happened to Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant, the captured commander-in-chief of the armies of the United States.

Contact White Mane Publishing, P.O. Box 709, Shippensburg, PA 17257, (717) 532-2237 or [marketing@whitemane.com](mailto:marketing@whitemane.com)

***Tragedy in the Shenandoah Valley*** by Compatriot Robert H. Moore II.

"Try to meet me in Heaven where I hope to go." These words were written in the summer of 1865 by twenty-year old Confederate Sergeant Isaac Newton Koontz, in a letter he penned for his fiancé just hours before his death at the hands of a Union firing squad in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley. This book chronicles the execution of Koontz and Captain George Summers after the surrender at Appomattox Court House. The execution remains one of the most tragic yet little-known events of the War Between the States.

Contact History Press, 18 Percy St, Charleston, S.C. 29403 or [www.historypress.net](http://www.historypress.net).

## ANV MEETING IN HISTORIC DANVILLE

The Army of Northern Virginia held a meeting on 20 October in Danville, Virginia, the Last Capitol of the Confederacy. The meeting venue was the famed Sutherland Mansion where President Jefferson Davis and his cabinet conducted business during the last days of the Confederacy from 3 April to 10 April 1865. ANV Commander Brett Bradshaw led the meeting from the desk at which Jefferson Davis signed the final proclamations of the war.



## VIRGINIA SOCIETY CONVENTION – Fredericksburg

The Virginia Society held its annual convention on 28 April at Masonic Lodge #4 in Fredericksburg. Attendees were treated to a tour of one of the oldest lodges in the country and to a trolley ride of historic sites around Fredericksburg. Formed in 1728, Fredericksburg was the scene of many significant conflicts in the War Between the States. We offer our gratitude to Commander Charlie Embrey and Magruder Chapter 258 for hosting this very enjoyable event.



## 70<sup>th</sup> GENERAL CONVENTION – Richmond

The Virginia Society hosted the 2007 General Convention at The Jefferson from 21 to 23 June. In addition to business meetings, attendees were treated to presentations by keynote speakers, Robert Krick, Jr. and Frank O'Reilly. Tours of Tredegar Iron Works, Historic Pamplin Park, Blandford Cemetery and the grave of Homer Atkinson, the first Commander-in-Chief of the Order, were conducted. The Commander General's Reception was held in the Museum of the Confederacy. The convention was rounded out by a performance of Southern Horizon at the Grand Ball overlooking the Palm Court of The Jefferson. A most memorable and successful convention!



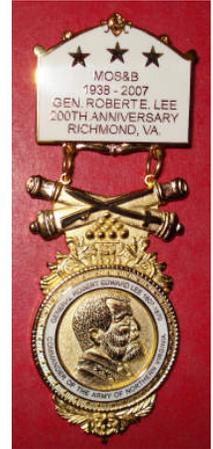
## COLLECTABLE MEDALS AVAILABLE



A few **Limited Edition R. E. Lee 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative** medals are still available (left). You will not be disappointed with these high quality collector's items and their value will only increase with time. Each medal has a unique serial number and comes in its own presentation case. They are shipped insured to your door for \$110 each.

Make check or money order payable to:  
**Virginia Society MOS&B**  
**10938 Tidewater Trail**  
**Fredericksburg, VA 22408.**

The 2007 **70<sup>th</sup> General Convention** medal issued to all registrants (right) is still available. This fine medal is available for \$25 each postpaid. Send check or money order to the address indicated at left.



## LEE CHAPEL PROJECT

The MOS&B worked closely with Washington & Lee University to support the Lee Chapel renovation now underway. The Order is donating funds to provide interpretive panels which will be installed near the "Recumbent Lee," the marble statuary that dominates the interior of the Chapel. Major donor levels range from \$50 to \$1,000 but donations of any amount are welcomed and appreciated. Every donor will be recognized depending on their level of participation. Please consider donating to this important project. Donation forms may be found in Vol. 16, Issue 2, of The Officer's Call and in the upcoming issue of The Confederate War Journal and Officers Call.

Make checks payable to MOSB, Lee Chapel Fund, IHQ, PO Box 100, Daphne, AL 36256-0100.



Left:  
Adjutant General Max Waldrop and Chief of Staff Ray Gill visited Lee Chapel on 20 October to meet with museum officials and to accept appreciation from them on behalf of the MOS&B.



## COMPATRIOT LYDAY RECEIVES UDC HONOR

Compatriot Travis Quinton Lyday of White Chapter #48 was presented the Cross of Military Service by the Virginia Division United Daughters of the Confederacy. The presentation was made on 5 October at the Sheraton Reston Hotel in Reston, Virginia. Congratulations to Compatriot Lyday and thank you for your service during the Vietnam Conflict.

## **VIRGINIA'S OWN FAVORITE SON TO RUN!**

The Hon. Richard Bender Abell has announced his intention to run for Lieutenant Commander General of the MOS&B. Judge Abell has served us as both Adjutant and Commander of the General Samuel Cooper Chapter in Alexandria where he received the MOS&B Distinguished Commander's Award. He then served as both Adjutant and Commander of the Virginia Society followed by service as both Councilman and Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia. He has written many articles and a book of his ancestor's letters and diary from the War Between the States. Rick is a decorated combat veteran who served in Viet-Nam, retired for wounds received in action. He also served in several Presidential appointments during all eight years of President Ronald Reagan. He is married and has three children.

## **PLEDGE OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS**

"We the posterity of the Officer Corps and civil officials of the Confederacy do pledge ourselves to commemorate and honor the service of leadership these men rendered in the cause of the fundamental American principles of self-determination and states rights and to perpetuate the true history of their deeds for the edification of ourselves, our society, and for generations yet unborn."

Virginia Society-MOS&B  
10938 Tidewater Trail  
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