

Section 4
Organizational, Division and Camp
Programs

BRIGADIER GENERAL MICAH JENKINS CAMP 1569
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
MEMBER HANDBOOK
ORGANIZATIONAL, DIVISION AND CAMP PROGRAMS

Military Order of Stars and Bars

(Organizational Program)

“Why a separate organization for commemoration of the Confederate Officer Corps and the officials of the civilian Confederate Government?”

With few exceptions, the officers of the armed forces of the Confederate States of America are without memorials, biographies, or any other commemorations. The attention given to the memory and history of the Confederate elected and appointed officials is even less. These heroic men suffered unbelievable hardships for their honored cause, without once wavering, without once shying from their terrific responsibilities. The story of the “Immortal Six Hundred” chronicles the conditions in which the Confederate officers were held while prisoners of war. Even after the war had ended, the officers were singled out by their former adversaries for revenge. Through every test, these brave men stood tall.

Though not usually exposed to service in the field, the elected and appointed members of the Confederate Government exhibited the necessary moral courage to lead the heroic Southern people through a vicious four-year struggle for personal freedom. Their homes were singled out for destruction by the invading Yankee armies, many were charged with treason by the U.S. Government, and after the war they faced imprisonment. Despite threats, abuses, and deprivations, these civil leaders held the Confederacy together when lesser men would have capitulated.

The members of the MOS&B bear an extra responsibility to their Confederate heritage. Not only should we take an active part in the affairs of our local camps of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, we should also strive to preserve the special place in our Southern history for the Confederate officers and civil leaders. In doing so, we accomplish the goals of both organizations.

Membership in the Military Order of the Stars & Bars is limited to male descendants, either lineal or collateral, of the Confederate Officer Corps, members of the Confederate Congress, or any elected or appointed member of the Executive Branch of the Confederate Government. All members must be at least sixteen years old and maintain active membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Ancestral documentation must accompany all applications for membership.

For additional information on the chapter closest to you, contact our national headquarters:
Military Order of the Stars & Bars
P.O. Box 59, Columbia, Tennessee 38402-0059
or call (615) 380-1844

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Life Membership Programs

(Organizational and Division Program)

Life memberships are available on both the Organizational (National) and Division levels.

National Life membership costs \$300. A National Life member is relieved of that portion of dues renewal that is levied by National (\$20). A National Life member is still subject to Division and Camp dues (Unless he is also a Division Life member in which case he is only subject to Camp dues). A National life member will receive a Life Member certificate and pin. National Life memberships payments can be made in installments and there are discount rates for seniors depending on age. To become a National Life member or to find out more about installments or discounts, contact SCV Headquarters.

Division Life membership costs \$100. A Division Life member is relieved of that portion of dues renewal that is levied by Division (\$5). A Division Life member is still subject to National and Camp dues (Unless he is also a National Life member in which case he is only subject to Camp dues). A Division Life member will receive a Life Member certificate and pin. To become a Division Life member, contact SCV Headquarters.

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Guardian Program

(Division Program)

The Guardian Program was established to see that the final resting places of our Confederate dead are not forgotten and are perpetually cared for. A Guardian is expected to maintain and care for a specific grave of a Confederate soldier. An individual may be a guardian for more than one Grave and the grave does not necessarily have to be that of the member's ancestor. The responsibilities include periodic cleaning and weeding of the gravesite, ensuring that the grave is marked appropriately and honoring the soldier on Confederate Memorial Day. This care is not a one time event, it is expected that the Guardian provide the care and honor for as long as he is physically able and then ensure that the responsibility is passed on to another responsible individual.

A Guardian applicant is required to submit an application including the soldiers name and location of the grave site, a photograph of the grave site, a map to the grave site and a \$10.00 application fee. Upon acceptance of the application by the Guardian Committee, the applicant will be designated a Guardian Pro-Tern for a period of two years. After two years of satisfactory service, the applicant's status will be changed to Guardian and he will be awarded his Guardian pin.

For more information about the program and for an application, contact the Camp Adjutant.

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Camp Awards

(Camp Program)

Samuel B. Mendenhall Legion of Merit Award

Pursuant to Article 9 of the Camp Bylaws entitled Awards, the Camp has established the *Legion of Merit Award*. The *Legion of Merit Award* is the highest award that the Camp can bestow. It is intended to recognize a Camp member who has exhibited extraordinary service to the Camp, the organization and to the memory and honor of the Confederate Soldier. The *Legion of Merit Award* was established in 1991. After the death of Camp Member Sam Mendenhall in 1999, the *Legion of Merit Award* was renamed as the *Samuel B. Mendenhall Legion of Merit Award*.

The receiving member must be nominated by another member of the Camp on or before the October meeting of any year. A confirmation vote will be held on or before the November meeting and must be unanimous in favor of the presentation of the award.

The award does not have to be presented each year, but only if the membership feels that it is warranted.

The award will be a certificate worthy of framing or a plaque or some other token worthy of the honor.

Letters of Commendation and Respect

The Camp Commander may present “Letters of Commendation and Respect” to anyone he deems worthy of such actions.

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Rank System

(Camp Program)

THE RANK SYSTEM HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED UNTIL THE CAMP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CAN ESTABLISH AND INSTITUTE GUIDELINES FOR RE-ENSTATEMENT OF THE PROGRAM.

In 1993 at the January meeting, the Camp decided to begin a rank system to encourage meeting attendance and participation in camp activities. The system is formulated on the military style of progressive ranks, they are as follows:

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| 1. Private First Class | six (6) points |
| 2. Corporal | twelve (12) points |
| 3. Sergeant | nineteen (19) points |
| 4. 1st Sergeant | twenty six (26) points |
| 5. 2nd Lieutenant | thirty three (33) points |
| 6. 1st Lieutenant | forty (40) points |
| 7. Captain | forty seven (47) points |
| 8. Major | fifty four (54) points |
| 9. Lt. Colonel | sixty one (61) points |
| 10. Colonel | sixty eight (68) points |
| 11. General Officer | eighty two (82) points |

Note that beside each rank is a point value. This is the number of points that must be earned before being eligible for that promotion. To earn points a member must attend the Camp meetings and participate in the functions of the Camp. One point is awarded for every meeting attended and seven points for each camp activity participated in. The camp activity can be anything involving the camp (examples: functioning as a camp officer, getting a letter to a newspaper published, attending State or National Conventions or recruiting a new member). In short, anything involving the Camp or the SCV. Also, the points are accrued and never lost. Points earned in one year are carried over to the next and so on and so on. At the December meeting each year, promotions will be awarded in the form of a certificate stating the new rank and suitable for framing. All promotions and awarding of points will be subject to review by the elected officers of the camp.