

# THE SHIELD & SWORD

## *Cadets of the Ole War Skule*



Preserving LSU's military history and heritage.

Fall 2009

## Harmon Reports for Duty – Again!

### *One of 350 Reenlisted Reserve Retirees*

As Stephen Harmon puts it, “this old soldier is in a new phase of life.”

Lieutenant Colonel Harmon, USAR (R), reported for active duty on July 5, 2009, assigned to Human Resources Command in Alexandria, Va., under the Army Retiree Recall Program. The new job tops off 28 years of active and reserve military service and a professional career in fundraising and non-profit management. And with two sons and a grandson in the military, it's a natural.



Harmon started down the road to reenlistment in January 2009. “Someone mentioned the retirement program, so I looked it up on the Web to see if my past service and civilian experience might be of interest to the Army. I wanted to support our troops on active duty.”

He filed an application, filled out security forms, was interviewed, and in March – the Army's interest piqued by his nonprofit management expertise – Harmon was accepted and went to Ft. Jackson, S.C., for refresher training.

Harmon's career in philanthropy began at the LSU Alumni Federation (now Association) as director of the annual fund and was

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## New Commander

Lieutenant Colonel John A. Wright assumed duties as LSU's Professor of Military Science and Commander of LSU's Tiger Battalion in July. He had served a two-year tour in Stuttgart, Germany in the U.S. Africa Command as the Chief of Sustainment, Operations and Logistics Directorate.

Wright's military education includes the Ordnance Officer Basic and Combined Logistics Officer's Advanced Course, Combined Arms Service Staff School, Army Command and General Staff College, Support Operations Course, and Army Airborne, Air Assault and Pathfinder courses. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Louisiana-Monroe, where he was commissioned as a Distinguished Military Graduate and a master's degree in history from LSU.

Wright has served as platoon leader and maintenance control officer with the 801<sup>st</sup> Main Support Battalion and the 311<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Air Assault; as Commander, HHC, 142<sup>nd</sup> Corps Support Battalion, Fort Polk, Louisiana; Assistant Professor of Military Science, University of South Florida; Commander, 95<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Company, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama;



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**LSU SALUTES 2008** – Inducted into the military Hall of Honor on Nov. 8, 2008, were, front row, left to right, COL Debra Conrad Rondem (U.S. Army Ret.), Mary Weldon McHugh accepting for Weldon C. McHugh, Frankie Platte accepting for Alfred William Platte, Jr., LTC Robert Roy Taylor, Jr. (U.S. Army Ret.), COL William H. Waters (U.S. Army and Louisiana Army National Guard Ret.), and John T. Shelton, Jr. Back row, COL Frank P. Simoneaux, (U.S. Army Ret.), Judge John S. Hood accepting for Judge John T. Hood, Jr., LTC Frank Morat O'Quinn, (U.S. Army Ret.), Brig. Gen. Ralph J. Melancon (U.S. Air Force Ret.), COL James E. Boutté, LTC James R. McCall (U.S. Army Ret.), Joan Kelly accepting for Gary Garcia Kelly, Dr. Ben Box accepting for Alex Box, and Richard E. Gerard accepting for his father, the late Richard E. Gerard, (U.S. Army).

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## Memorial Day 2009

# LSU Pays Tribute to Military Deceased

The University honored its military deceased May 25 at the LSU War Memorial on the Parade Ground. The annual observance, sponsored by LSU and Cadets of the Ole War Skule, began as the Memorial Tower chimes struck noon and included a presentation of arms, the laying of a wreath and the playing of Taps. A luncheon followed at the LSU Union. The National Anthem was sung by Terry Patrick-Harris, professional-in-residence, LSU School of Music, and LSU alumna Catherine Pletsch. Cadets of the Ole War Skule President Harry J. "Skip" Philips made brief remarks.



Warren Miller, Minister of Music at University Baptist Church, played "Taps."



Left to right, CPT Mia Douglas, Army Cadre; John Milazzo, Jr., president elect, Cadets of the Ole War Skule; MG Skip Philips, president; and Capt. Michael Krum, Air Force Cadre.



Cadets of the Ole War Skule board member COL Jerry Juneau with May 2009 graduate 2nd Lt. Charles J. "Josh" Johnson, who was recognized as the Outstanding SMP Cadet (Simultaneous Membership Program, ROTC and National Guard) at the Army Awards Ceremony. He also served for five years as student assistant for Cadets of the Ole War Skule.

## New Commander

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Battalion Executive Officer, Phoenix Army Recruiting Battalion; and Support Operations Officer, 3/2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Baghdad, Iraq.

His awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, five Army Meritorious Service Medals, two Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, the Iraqi Service Medal, and the airborne, air assault, and pathfinder badges.

Wright is married to the former Sondra Stephens of Wisner, Louisiana, and they are the parents of 15-year-old Caroline, 13-year-old Mackenzie and 11-year-old Morgan.





# LSU SALUTES

Co-Sponsored by LSU and Cadets of the Ole War Skule  
November 12–14, 2009

## Thursday, November 12

12 – 4 p.m. . . . . Registration, Memorial Tower

1 – 4 p.m. . . . . Reunion Groups

## Friday, November 13

9 – 11 a.m. . . . . Registration continues, Memorial Tower

11:30 – 1:30 p.m. . . . . Commandant's Luncheon, LSU Union

2 – 5 p.m. . . . . Reunion Groups

5 – 6:30 p.m. . . . . LSU Salutes Reception, LSU Union

## Saturday, November 14

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. . . . . Continental Breakfast, Memorial Tower

9 a.m. . . . . Annual Assembly and Hall of Honor Induction,  
LSU War Memorial, Parade Ground

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.\* . . . . Cadets of the Ole War Skule Annual Meeting/  
Brunch, Memorial Tower

6 p.m.\* . . . . Pre-game Activities, Tiger Stadium

7 p.m.\* . . . . LSU vs. LA Tech football game

\*Changes may occur in schedule based on television and weather. A limited number of tickets for the LSU vs. LA Tech football game will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis for members of Cadets of the Ole War Skule.

For more information, e-mail [cadets@lsu.edu](mailto:cadets@lsu.edu) or call 225-578-0420 or toll free 1-866-SALUTES.

## 11 Named to Hall of Honor

Eleven individuals who have distinguished themselves in their military and professional careers will be inducted into the Hall of Honor Nov. 14. The induction ceremony, which highlights LSU Salutes weekend, begins at 9 a.m. at the LSU War Memorial on the Parade Ground.

### *Named to the 2009 Hall of Honor are:*

**LCDR John M. Allred** of Lockhart, Texas, U.S. Navy, attended LSU in 1951-52

**St. Clair Bienvenu, Sr.**, of Baton Rouge, LT, U.S. Navy, B.S. 1958

**BG Glenn Curtis** of Alexandria, Louisiana Army National Guard, B.S. 1986

**Joel Lafayette Fletcher, Jr.**, (deceased) of Lafayette, U.S. Navy Reserve, B.S. 1918

**Frank W. Harrison, Jr.**, of Lafayette, 1LT, U.S. Army B.S. 1950

**LTC Morton C. Hurston, Jr.**, Baton Rouge, U.S. Army, B.A 1973

**Lt. Col. Samuel Eugene Lawrence, Jr.**, (deceased) of Columbia, S.C., U.S. Air Force, B.S. 1938

**LTC Sanford A. Redock** of Brooklyn, N.Y., U.S. Army, B.S. 1951

**COL Percy Vilas "Pete" Rougon** (deceased) of Lakeland, U.S. Army, B.S. 1937

**Alfred M. L. Sanders** of Rockledge, Fla., Maj., U.S. Air Force, B.A. 1942

**Harley Jesse Walker** of Baton Rouge, Maj., U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, Ph.D. 1957

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followed by a 20-year stint with a private colleges consortium in Tennessee. He also served as director of planned giving with the LSU Foundation and was assistant to the chancellor for development with the LSU AgCenter.

Today, he is one of an elite group of 350 reserve retirees serving at home and abroad as active-duty officers.

"It seems that 68 year olds who are in good health and meet manpower needs are welcome," he says. "With a shortage of officers, retirees have been filling mostly staff positions both in USA and overseas deployments. I am a special projects officer in Casualty Affairs (Surviving Family Benefits). It's a one-year, extendable job."

Harmon earned a bachelor's degree from the College of Arts & Sciences in 1963 and was commissioned through LSU ROTC that same year. He served on active duty until 1966 with the 8<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group in Panama and upon discharge joined the reserves, from which he retired in 1991.

"I am especially grateful that LSU ROTC taught me leadership, patriotism, and military pride," he says. "Serving in the armed forces is a great privilege, and supporting the Global War on Terror as a retired Army Reserve officer and LSU retiree is indeed an honor."

Military fervor is a family affair. Son Steve is acting chief of the Army's awards and decorations branch and works in the same building as his father. Son Joshua, an LSU senior and LSU ROTC cadet will join military intelligence after graduation next year. And grandson Stephen IV, who has just returned from his second deployment in Afghanistan, is in his sixth year with the Army. In May 2010, there will be four Harmons on active duty.

"What an adventure," Harmon says, adding with a laugh, "I want to assure my Cadets of the Ole War Skule buddies that I am 'bazooka-proof,' even though we aren't issued personal weapons – afraid we might shoot our feet while engaging an alligator on the beltway!"

Keep in touch at: [stephen.h.harmon@conus.army.mil](mailto:stephen.h.harmon@conus.army.mil)

## From the President...

Greetings! A new academic year is under way at the Ole War Skule, and among the nearly 30,000 new and continuing students on campus are young men and women in the Corps of Cadets. I know you join me in sending a hearty "Welcome Back" to our returning cadets and "Welcome to LSU" to our new arrivals. These young soldiers represent the best and brightest for the future of our armed forces.

A hearty welcome also to LTC John A. Wright, our new Commander of LSU's Tiger Battalion. We look forward to working with him as we "Restore the Corps . . . Restore the Glory." And to Dr. Gaines Foster, newly appointed interim dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, who replaces Dr. Guillermo Ferreyra on our Board of Directors. Dr. Ferreyra has returned to full-time teaching in the Department of Mathematics. We extend our appreciation to Dean Ferreyra for his outstanding support of ROTC and Cadets of the Ole War Skule, and we are confident that Dean Foster will provide the same level of support.

Membership renewals are high on our "To Do" list, closely followed by registration for LSU Salutes, scheduled for Nov. 12-14, 2009. We hope that you will not only renew

your membership but also encourage others to join us. The board has approved new efforts to promote more corporate membership involvement. And, we hope you will attend LSU Salutes as we again join the University in recognizing eleven outstanding military alumni as they are inducted into the Hall of Honor.

As I begin the final months of my term as president of this outstanding organization, I wish to express my deep appreciation to you for the honor of serving you. I believe we have made great progress toward some of our goals, but we have much to do. I am confident that under the able leadership of the president-elect, John Milazzo, Jr., Cadets of the Ole War Skule will continue to march forward and increase the awareness of LSU's rich military history and heritage.



Harry J. "Skip" Philips, MG, USAR  
President  
*Cadets of the Ole War Skule*

## Retirement Dinner Honors Pugh

Cadets of the Ole War Skule hosted a retirement dinner at the LSU Faculty Club on May 6 to honor LTC Phil Pugh for his years of military service and his dedicated leadership of LSU's Army ROTC/Tiger Battalion. The dinner was attended by Pugh's family, member of Cadets of the Ole War Skule,

and LSU and Southern University officials and cadets. Pugh demonstrated a deep appreciation for LSU's military history and heritage and worked tirelessly to ensure that the Corps' message was communicated to both new and continuing cadets. The dinner was coordinated by COL Jerry Juneau.



1LT William Conger, CPT Daniel Hofstra,  
LTC Philip Pugh, CPT Matthew Fox,  
and CPT Mia Douglas at the retirement dinner.



*Cadets of the Ole War Skule President MG Skip Philips  
congratulates LTC Pugh on his retirement.*