

A
SALUTE
TO
LOUISIANA
VETERANS



NOVEMBER 9-11, 2006
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY



HALL
OF
HONOR
INDUCTEES



Irwin J. Becnel, Sr.
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Army



The late Irwin J. Becnel, Sr., received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant through LSU ROTC in 1931 and was called to active duty in 1942. He served his country during World War II in England, North Africa, and Italy, returning to the United States in 1944 as a Major. He was assigned to Fort Knox, Ky., until he was discharged in 1945. He immediately joined the U.S. Army Reserve and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1964.

He was awarded the Purple Heart in 1943 and also received the Bronze Star and the Legion of Merit Legionnaire award.

Mr. Becnel earned his bachelor of science in entomology at LSU in 1931 and his master's degree in 1932. He also did graduate work at Ohio State University in 1938-1939.

Upon graduation from LSU, Mr. Becnel was employed by Shell Oil Company at Norco, where he stayed until he joined the LSU Agricultural Experiment Station in 1937. Following World War II, he was named director of agricultural research at Freeport Sulphur Company in New Orleans and was promoted to assistant vice president when the company changed its name to Freeport Minerals Company (now part of Freeport-McMoRan).

Mr. Becnel was an active member of the LSU Alumni Association until his death in 1980, serving as its president in 1964-1965.



Jeff H. Benhard

2nd Lieutenant, U.S. Air Force



When his father became seriously ill in 1949, Jeff H. Benhard was forced to abandon his senior-year studies at LSU to take over management of the family's business interests. He has served as president and chief executive officer of family owned investments since that time, among them, Benhard Grain, Inc.; Louisiana Premium Seafoods, Inc.; and Palmetto

Angus Farms, Inc.

While at LSU, Mr. Benhard served as Cadet Lieutenant Colonel, First Air Group, LSU ROTC, and was a member of Scabbard and Blade. He received a regular commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, but a disabling injury precluded active duty.

Mr. Benhard has long been a volunteer for campus organizations and a generous supporter of University endeavors. He is a former president and current member of the LSU Foundation Board of Directors, a founding member of the Junior Division (now University College) Advisory Board, a member of the College of Agriculture Dean's Council, and serves on the LSU AgCenter Livestock Advisory Board. He is a major benefactor of the Tiger Athletic Foundation, is listed on the Lod Cook Alumni Center's Wall of Honor, and has received the LSU Foundation President's Award for Lifetime Support at the Star Benefactor level.

Over the years, he has served on and chaired numerous state and parish boards and commissions, was former president of the Louisiana Angus Association, and the founder and president of the Louisiana Simmental Association. He served on the board of the Pan American Life Insurance Company, as executive vice president of Washington State Bank, and a member of the Goodrich Petroleum Corporation Board of Directors. Mr. Benhard resides in Palmetto.



Colonel David W. Couvillon

Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps



Colonel David W. Couvillon is currently the Deliberate Plans Officer for the U.S. Marine Forces European Command, conducting planning and special projects for MARFOREUR and EUCOM. From 2001-2003, he mobilized and commanded a 900-member reserve military battalion from a four-state area in combat and security operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom, attached initially to Task Force Tarawa, then to 1st Marine Division. He also served as Military Governor of Wassit Province, Iraq.

A combat veteran of Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Colonel Couvillon has served as commander, coordinator, or director of numerous military training exercises. Among his many awards are the Bronze Star, Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon with One Star, Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation, Southwest Asia Service Medal with three stars, and Iraq Campaign Medal.

Colonel Couvillon graduated from LSU in 1982 with a bachelor's degree in business management and was commissioned through the Reserve Direct Commissioning Program while completing his undergraduate studies. He has taken part in numerous military planning schools and workshops, most recently the Command and Staff Course and Reserve Officer National Security Decision Making Course.

A regional vice president of Weiser Security Services, Inc., Colonel Couvillon, resides in Port Allen, where he is a volunteer, member, and officer in numerous organizations, among them the Marine Corps League, Knights of Columbus, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Toys for Tots, and the Boy Scouts of America.



Arthur L. Gayle, Jr.
Lieutenant Colonel, US. Army



Arthur L. Gayle, Jr., graduated from LSU's College of Commerce (now the E. J. Ourso College of Business) in 1939 and was commissioned that same year through LSU ROTC, where he was Cadet Colonel in 1937-1938 and Commander of Scabbard and Blade.

Mr. Gayle reported for active duty in 1940 and served at Camp Shelby, Miss., at the Pentagon, and in the European Theater of Operations as Assistant Chief of Staff G-3 87th Infantry Division. He was released from active duty in 1945 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. For service to his country, he was awarded the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, and the Croix de Guerre of the Duchy of Luxembourg. He was also a graduate of Command and General Staff College.

A lifelong resident of Lake Charles, Mr. Gayle was owner of Property-Casualty Insurance Agency, a member of the executive committee of the Calcasieu Insurance Exchange, and a member of the Independent Insurance Agents of Louisiana.

He was an active member and officer in many community organizations, among them, the Calcasieu Parish School Board, Lake Charles Kiwanis Club, Lake Charles YMCA, Calcasieu Area Safety Council, and Greater Lake Charles Chamber of Commerce and received numerous awards for his service and contributions. He is past senior warden, junior warden, and treasurer of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd and past chairman of the board of Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School.

Mr. Gayle has also served on the boards of the LSU Foundation and the LSU Alumni Association.



Wilmer Griffin “Griff” Jones, Jr.

Major, U.S. Air Force Reserve



Wilmer Griffin “Griff” Jones, Jr., graduated from LSU in 1955 with a bachelor of science degree in chemistry and zoology and was commissioned that same year as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force through LSU ROTC. During his senior year, he was chosen Cadet Senior Colonel, serving as Corps Commander of 2,650 cadets.

Mr. Jones served on active duty until March 1960 at Lackland and Randolph Air Force bases and with Strategic Air Command, Little Rock Air Force Base. While serving overseas, he was injured during temporary duty and disqualified from flying duty. He was relieved from extended active duty in March 1960.

In April 1960, Mr. Jones joined the 9914th Air Reserve Squadron in Corpus Christi, Texas, and was recommissioned as a 1st Lieutenant in the Medical Services Corps in 1962. He served at the 634th USAF Hospital, USAFR, in New Orleans and at Keesler AFB Hospital in Biloxi, Miss. He was promoted to Captain in 1964 and transferred to the 926th Troop Carrier Group at USNAS, New Orleans, in 1965. He was promoted to Major in 1972, the year he retired from Reserve service.

As a banking and financial industry manager, Mr. Jones was associated with IBM Corporation and the Bank of New Orleans and for many years was President and CEO of Griffin Properties, Inc., in Dallas, Texas.

A life member of the National Eagle Scouts, Mr. Jones has served for 62 years with the Boy Scouts of America and is currently in his fifth year as the Dallas Council’s representative to the National Council BSA. He is also active in numerous professional and civic organizations.

Mr. Jones is a founding and life member of Cadets of the Ole War Skule and a member of the LSU Alumni Association, for which he served as president in 1990. He resides in Rockwall, Texas.



Whitney Antoine Langlois

Captain, U.S. Army



During his years at LSU, from 1937-1940, the late Whitney Antoine Langlois helped to buy LSU's first Bengal tiger mascot, Mike I, and helped build the north end zone of Tiger Stadium. He earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture education in 1940 and was commissioned through LSU ROTC as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He later earned a master's degree in agriculture from the University.

Following Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, Okla., Mr. Langlois reported to Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. A member of A Battery, 23rd Field Artillery, he was sent to the Philippines, in charge of the Filipino Scouts. On April 9, 1942, American forces surrendered to the Japanese and the Bataan Death March began. As the Japanese stripped the soldiers of personal possessions, Mr. Langlois swallowed his LSU graduation ring, which he had to hide after retrieving it. He survived three Japanese prison camps and three Japanese "Hell Ships" and spent more than three years in a Korean prison camp.

He was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Presidential Unit Citation with two Oak Leaf Clusters, POW Medal, American Defense Medal, American Campaign Medal, and Asiatic Pacific Campaign with star battle medal, among others.

In 1946, he joined the Army Officers Reserve Corps and retired at the rank of Captain.

Mr. Langlois was director of vocational education of the Louisiana Department of Education, as well as the owner of Bellingrath Water Company and a cattle ranch. He lived in Greenwell Springs and was active in community, parish and state activities with groups such as the Knights of Columbus, Kiwanis Club, the Greenwell Springs Youth Riders, and the Louisiana Association of Teachers. He was a charter member of the Red Stick Chapter of the American Ex-POWS.

Mr. Langlois was a contributor to and active member of the LSU Alumni Association. He died in April 1988.



Harry Lee

Colonel, U.S. Air Force



Harry Lee, a native of New Orleans and sheriff of Jefferson Parish since 1980, received a bachelor of science in geology from LSU in 1956. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force through LSU ROTC, where he served as Captain and Commander of Squadron G. He was on active duty from 1956-1958, and then joined the Louisiana Air National Guard, in which he served for 26 years. He currently serves as the Commander of the Louisiana State Guard with the rank of Major General.

Sheriff Lee entered service as a Junior Officer in Strategic Air Command and rose through the ranks to Colonel in the ANG at Callender Field Naval Air Base in New Orleans. While on active duty, he was nominated for the rank of Brigadier General, but physical limitations precluded further action on the nomination.

When Sheriff Lee returned from active duty, the Lee family opened the famous House of Lee Restaurant. While working 72 hours a week managing the restaurant, Harry Lee earned his Juris Doctor degree from Loyola University and began the practice of law. He was sworn in as the first U.S. Magistrate for the Eastern District in 1971 and elected president of the National Council of U.S. Magistrates in 1973.

After resigning as magistrate, Mr. Lee was appointed and served as Jefferson Parish Attorney until his election as sheriff.

Among Sheriff Lee's many awards are the AMVETS Silver Helmet Americanism Award, National Conference of Community and Justice First Annual Founders Award, and Foundation for Improvement of Justice Award.

He received a Doctor of Laws *honoris causa* from the University of New Haven in 2000 and was inducted into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame in 2001.



Rear Admiral Daniel Barfield Lestage, M.D., M.P.H.
Medical Corps, U.S. Navy (Retired)



Dr. Daniel B. Lestage attended LSU from 1957 to 1959, where he participated in Air Force ROTC and completed medical school admission requirements. He earned his M.D. degree at the LSU School of Medicine in 1963 as an ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve and spent the next three decades in the Navy Medical Corps, retiring as Commander of the Department of Defense's largest teaching medical command and CEO of the first Champus/TriCare program.

Following Flight Surgeon training, he deployed to Southeast Asia, the Mediterranean, and the North Atlantic. Admiral Lestage earned a Master of Public Health degree from Tulane University and graduated from Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University. He completed his residency in preventive medicine at the Naval Aerospace Medical Institute.

Operational and staff assignments in the fleet and ashore culminated in his selection to Flag Rank in 1985.

Among his numerous military awards are five Legion of Merits, Meritorious Service Medal, two Air Medals, Vietnam Service Medal for five campaigns, Navy Commendation Medal, and two Navy Unit Commendations.

Dr. Lestage is Vice President of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida. He resides in Orange Park, Fla., and is active in numerous civic and professional organizations.

A member of the LSU Alumni Association, he serves as secretary of the First Coast LSU Alumni Chapter, and he is a life member of Cadets of the Ole War Skule.



Stanley M. Maillet

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Air Force



Stanley M. Maillet earned a bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering from the University in 1958 and was commissioned that same year as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force through LSU ROTC. He served 21 years on active duty, retiring in 1979 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

His active duty service in Vietnam included responsibilities as the administrative officer for the 17th Special Operations Squadron for missile combat crew evaluation and standardization. Other positions included B-52 standardization crew member and chief – 2nd Bomb Wing Command Post. In addition, he flew 280 combat missions in Vietnam, including four over Hanoi and North Vietnam.

Among his military awards are a Distinguished Flying Cross with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal with 13 Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal.

After leaving military service, Lt. Col. Maillet, who resides in Bossier City, was foundry superintendent at KAST Metals Corporation and sales engineer for Zimmerman Company. He is a lifetime member of the Military Officers Association and Air Force Association, a board member of the Barksdale Air Force Base Military Golf Retirement Tourney, served four terms as president of the Parkway High School Band Boosters, and is a member of Cadets of the Ole War Skule, Tiger Athletic Foundation, and the Tiger Athletic Association.



John B. Perry

Captain, U.S. Army



John B. Perry, a native of Marietta, Ohio, began his college career at LSU in 1968 and received a bachelor of science degree in business administration in 1972. He was commissioned in the U.S. Army through LSU ROTC, where he was a member of Scabbard and Blade and designated a Distinguished Military Graduate. He earned his Juris Doctor from the LSU Law School in 1980.

Mr. Perry served four years as a Regular Army officer in Infantry, Adjutant General's Corps, and was discharged in 1976 at the rank of 1st Lieutenant. After 9/11, he joined the U.S. Army Reserve as a Captain, Judge Advocate General's Corps, and was activated in 2004 and deployed to Iraq. He was honorably discharged in May 2005.

For his service, he was awarded the Bronze Star, ARCOM, GWOT Expeditionary and Service medals, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal w/m device, and Overseas Service Medal. He has been approved for an Iraq Service Medal and nominated for a Combat Action Badge.

Following his graduation from law school, Mr. Perry clerked for the Louisiana Supreme Court for a year, and since 1984 he has been in private practice.

Mr. Perry is a member of the LSU Alumni Association and organized and contributed to two scholarships in the LSU Law Center. He is a longtime supporter of the Guatemala Children's Medical Mission, coaches with the Slidell Youth Soccer and Baseball associations, and is a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, American Legion Post 374, and VFW Post 5735.



Frank B. Stanly

Colonel, U.S. Army



Frank B. Stanly served his country on active duty and in the U.S. Army Reserve for more than 30 years, retiring in 1969 at the rank of Colonel. His college career was interrupted by World War II, during which he served as a platoon leader, executive officer, infantry company commander, and Regimental S-4. Following the war, he resumed his studies, graduating in 1948 with a bachelor of arts degree in industrial psychology.

During the Korean War, Col. Stanly served as a personnel team member for the AGLO, Washington, D.C., Chief Personnel Director of AGO USAK and the Adjutant General Southwest Command in Japan. As a reservist, he has served as the Secretary of the USAR School in Jackson, Miss., and Orlando, Fla., where he was also Assistant Commandant and Adjutant General of the 81st USAR, Atlanta, Ga.

Col. Stanly is a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College. His military awards include the Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Purple Heart, three Battle Stars each for World War II and the Korean War.

Col. Stanly spent his civilian career with Texaco, Inc. One of two regional managers, he supervised several divisions of the company across the United States.

A native of Haynesville and resident of Longwood, Fla., Col. Stanly has played an active role in civic and professional organizations, serving as vice president for his homeowners association, a board member and chairman of Methodist churches in Winter Park, Fla., St. Louis, Mo., and El Paso, Texas; a member of the executive committee of the Missouri Oil Council, and a member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of Cadets of the Ole War Skule and the LSU Alumni Association and a contributor to the LSU Foundation.



John B. Staples

1st Lieutenant, U.S. Army



John B. Staples had been at LSU two years – a Cadet Sergeant in LSU ROTC and a Cadet Lieutenant in the Army Specialized Training Program – when he was called to serve his country in World War II. He completed basic training and was commissioned through Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Okla., then reported as Battery Officer with the 429th Field Artillery to Camp Gruber, Okla. He served as team leader for U.S. and Philippine army officers in the Recovered Personnel Division in Manila, then returned to Fort Sill as an instructor in the Artillery School.

Mr. Staples resumed his studies at LSU in 1946, earning a bachelor of arts in 1948 and a master's of education in 1951. He served with the U.S. Army Reserve from 1946-51 and was deployed with the 300th Armored Field Artillery during the Korean War. He was honorably discharged as a 1st Lieutenant.

Among his military honors are the American Campaign Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign with Combat Star, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Emblem, World War II Victory Medal, Korean Service with Combat Star, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, and United Nations Service Medal.

Mr. Staples spent nearly 40 years with Borden, Inc., as a trainer, territory sales representative, sales coordinator and sales manager of the ice cream division for Louisiana and Mississippi.

A resident of Baton Rouge, Mr. Staples supports numerous community organizations, among them, Rotary Club of Baton Rouge, University Methodist Church, St. James Mason Lodge, Cadets of the Ole War Skule, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Kappa Sigma fraternity. He served as a member of the Supreme Executive Committee and as Worthy Grand Scribe for Kappa Sigma and has received the fraternity's District Grand Master of the Year Award and the Stephen Alonzo Jackson Award, its highest honor.



Walter G. Thomas

Captain, U.S. Army



Walter G. Thomas graduated from LSU in 1943 with a bachelor's degree in accounting and business management. A member of Scabbard and Blade, he was 1st Sergeant in his junior year, and Captain of the Honor Battery in his senior year.

Mr. Thomas was commissioned through Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Okla., and was one of 20 graduates sent to executive school. Assigned as executive officer to the newly activated FA Battalion 559th, he led his unit into combat in five major campaigns in the European Theater, including the Normandy Invasion and the Battle of the Bulge.

He was awarded the Bronze Star and five Campaign Stars for his service and recalls as one of his fondest memories the farewell speech delivered by Gen. George S. Patton. Mr. Thomas was transferred to 8th Corps Artillery Headquarters commanded by Gen. Troy H. Middleton.

A career employee of Borden, Inc., Mr. Thomas was manager of the Borden ice cream plant in Baton Rouge; coordinator of Borden's Louisiana operations; manager of the New Orleans ice cream plant; manager of the Beaumont, Texas, milk plant; and manager of the San Antonio milk and ice cream plants. He served as president of the Dairy Products Institute of Texas and was inducted into the Dairy Industry of Texas Hall of Fame.

A native of White Castle, Mr. Thomas resides in San Antonio, Texas, and is an active member of the community. He has served as president of the San Antonio Rotary Club – the world's largest – and is on the boards of the Salvation Army and Baptist Hospital. He is a member of the LSU Alumni Association and Cadets of the Ole War Skule.



Henry Erlich Walden

Colonel, U.S. Army



The late Henry Erlich Walden of Cheneyville received a bachelor of arts degree from the Ole War Skule in 1915. He was captain of the 1914-1915 baseball team and lettered in baseball, basketball, and football. In 1911, he was a cadet in a University infantry battalion and from, 1912-1917, rose from Private to Sergeant Major in the 1st Louisiana Infantry. The following year, he was appointed 2nd Lieutenant in the 11th Infantry, then assigned to the 64th Infantry serving with the 14th Infantry Brigade, 7th Division, AEF. He served with the National Guard from 1919-1940 when he was called into active service as Chief of Staff, 31st Infantry Division.

Mr. Walden graduated from Small Arms School and served in Chatillon sur Seine, France during World War I. He also graduated from Motor Transport School, Holabird, Md., and from Command and General Staff School, Leavenworth, Kans.

He retired at the rank of Colonel after 40 years of service on active, National Guard, and reserve duty.

Mr. Walden's military honors include the Silver Star for Gallantry during World War I, and the American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, American Defense Service Medal, American Commendation Ribbon, among others, from World War II.

A dedicated teacher and coach, Mr. Walden was considered the "father" of varsity athletics at Louisiana College, where he was head of the physical education department, as well as journalism teacher, college publicist, dean of men, and dormitory director. He also served as principal of 5th Ward School in Lake Charles and Pineville Elementary and coached in Lecompte.

A member of the LSU Board of Supervisors from 1960-1972, Mr. Walden was a contributor to the LSU Alumni Fund and an original member of Cadets of the Ole War Skule. He was active with the Red Cross, Civil Defense, and YMCA, Masons, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion,

Mr. Walden died in 1976 at the age of 84.



Charles L. Wascom Colonel, U.S. Army



Colonel Charles L. Wascom served his country in the Louisiana National Guard for two years and on active duty in the U.S. Army for 27 years. He retired in 1989 at the rank of Colonel.

He served two tours in Vietnam, the first as Battery Commander, Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Artillery; the second as Senior Advisor, 2nd Battalion, 15th Regiment, 9th Infantry Division. He also served as chief of public affairs for the Pacific Command, Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii, and Headquarters, 5th Army, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Colonel Wascom, a native of New Orleans and current resident of Folsom, graduated from LSU in 1962 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He was Cadet Captain and a Distinguished Military Cadet in LSU ROTC. A graduate of U.S. Army War College, he also completed studies at Defense Information Officer School, Field Artillery School, Company Commander School, and the Defense Language Institute.

His military awards include two Legions of Merit, two Bronze Stars, four Meritorious Service medals, and two Army Commendation medals, the Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star, and Staff Service Medal, First Class, Republic of Vietnam.

Following retirement from the military, Colonel Wascom accepted the position of director of the San Antonio American Red Cross, and during his 12 years there led the chapter to meet or exceed its donation goals for two years. He served as executive director of the San Antonio Fiesta Commission for 10 years, then retired again, this time to Folsom, where he is an active volunteer in church and community activities. He is also a member of the Tiger Athletic Foundation.



Colonel Roy J. Young

U.S. Army



Colonel Roy J. Young, a 1953 graduate of LSU's College of Education, spent 20 years on active duty in the U.S. Army, retiring as Colonel following a distinguished military career. In LSU ROTC, he was Cadet Lt. Colonel and Battalion Commander and a member of Pershing Rifles and Scabbard and Blade.

A graduate of Command and Staff College and the U.S. Army War College, Colonel Young's assignments included Platoon Leader, Company Commander, Battalion Commander of the 327th airborne Mobile, 101st Airborne Division, Executive Officer, Comptroller of the Army, Senior Regimental Advisor of the 7th Vietnam Regiment, and Operations Advisor for the 5th Vietnamese Infantry Division.

For his service in more than 100 aerial missions in Vietnam, Colonel Young was decorated on five separate occasions for heroism in battle and cited as the University's "most often decorated" alumnus when he was named "Alumnus of the Year" in 1966 by the LSU Alumni Federation (now Association). His military awards include the Silver Star, two Bronze Star for Valor medals, Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart, Senior Parachute Badge, Legion of Merit, British Parachute Badge, three Vietnam Cross of Gallantry medals and the Republic of Vietnam Medal of Honor.

Following his tour of duty, Colonel Young helped write a textbook on tactics and techniques of helicopter operations in Vietnam and, on returning to the states, served as an assistant operations officer at XVIII Airborne Corps headquarters in Fort Bragg, N.C.

After his retirement from the military, Colonel Young moved to Alexandria, where he started an import-export business. He was killed in an airline crash at Idlewild (now JFK) Airport in 1975.



LSU MILITARY ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

THE HERITAGE

Louisiana State University boasts a long, proud history of educating leaders for the state, the nation, and the world. Among its alumni are CEOs of business, industry, government, and education; celebrated artists and distinguished politicians; religious leaders and prominent philanthropists.

LSU alumni are also counted among chief military leaders in the United States armed forces and are some of the country's most highly decorated heroes – a proud reflection of the University's military heritage that began in 1860. A great many of these men and women were members of the LSU Corps of Cadets. It was here they became part of the “long purple line,” perpetuating LSU's military traditions.

THE TRIBUTE

The University wants to honor its military heroes and the men and women in the country's armed services – yesterday's, today's, and tomorrow's – and toward this end, has embarked upon a capital campaign to renovate and restore Memorial Tower to its original purpose by creating the LSU Military Museum.

The museum will be the repository for artifacts and memorabilia reflecting the University's rich military history and heritage. Its hallowed halls will offer a nostalgic stroll through University military history and will showcase the contributions of LSU men and women and who have served and are serving their country in the armed forces.

The Military Museum will augment and complement LSU's other military memorials: The War Memorial – honoring students, faculty, staff, and alumni killed or reported missing in action during World War II and subsequent military conflicts; Memorial Oak Grove – remembering the 30 LSU students and alumni who lost their lives in World War I; and the T-33 Jet – a memorial for all LSU graduates who have died in the defense of our nation during the “jet age.”

LSU invites you to be part of restoring the glory of Memorial Tower. Prestigious naming opportunities for galleries and rooms and sponsorships of permanent and temporary exhibitions in the LSU Military Museum are available. For information, contact: The Military Endowment Campaign, Memorial Tower, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. Telephone: 225-578-0402; e-mail: cadets@lsu.edu



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