A Salute to Louisiana Veterans

November 12-14, 2009
Louisiana State University
HALL OF HONOR INDUCTEES

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 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: 225-578-0420; e-mail: cadets@lsu.edu
John M. Allred
Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy

John M. Allred, a native of Hattiesburg, Miss., attended LSU in 1951-52 completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Mississippi in 1956. He was commissioned through Ole Miss Naval ROTC, in which he served as Unit Commander, that same year.

He became a Designated Naval Aviator in 1958 and served on two carrier fighter squadrons in the U.S. Navy Pacific Fleet as a primary fleet instructor in Utility Squadrons 9, 173, 22, and 4; with the Fleet All-Weather Training Unit, Key West; as an instructor with the Primary Fleet, Pensacola; and as Safety Officer, Squadron Administrative Officer, and Operations Officer. He received a Letter of Commendation for his part in saving a fighter, as well as one for saving a trainer.

After leaving the Navy at the rank of Lieutenant Commander, Allred went to work for Lockheed-Martin, serving from 1960-71 in several management positions including senior project engineer, project manager, and project director. He also programmed computer controls for the Lunar Receiving Lab, which analyzed lunar artifacts. Allred joined ARAMCO Corporation in 1971 as a senior engineer and was promoted to senior project engineer then project manager, the title he held at the time of his retirement in 1982.

Allred and his wife, Pat, reside in Lockhart, Texas, where he served as mayor and is an active member of the community and his church. He served three terms as senior warden of the Episcopal Church Parishes and worked on numerous church committees, among them the building, vestry, and finance committees. He was the founding chairman of the Lockhart Community Theater, serving on its board of directors and taking part in plays and other theatrical performances. He received an outstanding service award from the Lockhart Kiwanis Club and also served on the board of the Dr. Eugene Clark Library.

Allred is a member of Cadets of the Ole War Skule.
St. Clair Bienvenu, Sr.
Lieutenant Senior Grade, U.S. Navy

St. Clair Bienvenu, Sr., was born in Laurel, Miss., and arrived as a freshman at LSU only to attend one year before World War II began. He received his commission through LSU ROTC and immediately joined the Navy – becoming the youngest fighter pilot in his squadron.

Bienvenu served four years on active duty, first with Air Group 32 aboard the U.S.S. Langley in the South Pacific. He participated in more than 100 missions before being shot down on Sept. 14, 1944, during the Philippines Campaign. After being hospitalized for the better part of a year, he returned to Pensacola Naval Air Station where he served as a flight instructor until the end of the war.

Upon discharge, Bienvenu was awarded two Air Medals. Years later, he received 20 more Naval Air Medals and two Navy Flying Crosses for his valor.

Following the war, he returned to Baton Rouge, married, and – while working to support his family – began studying to complete his college degree. It took him 12 years to earn his degree, a B.S. in accounting, and his 11-year-old daughter proudly took his photograph when he received his diploma in 1958. While at LSU, he was a member of Theta Xi social fraternity, the honorary accounting fraternity Beta Alpha Psi, and the honorary business fraternity Sigma Iota Epsilon.

Bienvenu was president and CEO of Baton Rouge Lumber Company. During his career he founded JAST Development Corporation and was founder/owner of Gulf Coast Cypress, Inc.

He was active in professional and community affairs, having served as chairman of the Baton Rouge Better Business Bureau, a member of the board of directors of the Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce (now Baton Rouge Area Chamber), and was chairman of the U.S.S. Kidd Commission. He also was a Key Club sponsor for University High School through Downtown Kiwanis Club and a Boy Scout troop leader. He is a member of the LSU Alumni Association and Cadets of the Ole War Skule.

Bienvenu served as state president of the Louisiana Lumber Dealers Association and served on the board of directors of the national association. He also helped found LSU’s Department of Construction Technology (now Construction Management).

He and his wife, the former Martha Sewell, are parents to three children, all of whom are LSU alums.
Glenn Curtis  
Brigadier General, U.S. Army National Guard

Brigadier General Glenn Curtis is director of the Joint Staff, Louisiana National Guard and is dual-hatted as the Joint Task Force Commander, Joint Task Force Pelican. Curtis enlisted in the Louisiana National Guard in 1982 and was commissioned in 1984 while attending LSU. He earned a bachelor’s degree in agricultural business in 1986 and in 2003, received a Master’s of Strategic Studies from U.S. Army War College.

From 1986 to 1997, Curtis served in positions of increasing responsibility – Platoon Leader, Construction Officer, S-4, Company Commander, Plans Officer, S-3, and Executive Officer. He was Battalion Commander of the 1088th engineer Battalion, Plaquemine, from 1997-2000 and of the 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry, Lake Charles, from 2000-01, when he was assigned as Commander of the 225th Engineer Group and served as the J-4, Director of Logistics, Joint Force Headquarters-Louisiana.

He was mobilized in 2004 and served as Chief of Staff, Purchasing and Contracting Officer in Baghdad, Iraq. Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, Curtis was assigned as Chief of the Joint Staff, Joint Force Headquarters-Louisiana, a position he held until his current appointment in 2007.

Curtis’ recognitions include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation and Army Achievement medals, Combat Action Badge, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Iraq Campaign medal, Humanitarian Service Medal with one Bronze Star, Global War on terrorism Medal, and numerous other awards and decorations. He received the General Douglas MacArthur Award in 1989, was named Battalion Commander of the Year in 1999, and was a Business and Industry Top 40 under 40 recipient in 2002.

Curtis, a native and resident of Alexandria, La., is married to the former Jill Juneau and is the father of three children – Megan, an LSU student; Nicholas, and Jacob.
Joel Lafayette Fletcher, Jr.
U.S. Naval Reserve

The late Joel Lafayette Fletcher, Jr., a native of Grant Parish, earned a bachelor’s degree in agriculture from LSU in 1918. A year earlier – with other LSU ROTC cadets – he had volunteered for World War I duty with the U.S. Army but was turned down for medical reasons. He enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve and was assigned to Officer Training School in Chicago after graduation and completed deck officer training while stationed at Pelham Bay, N.Y. The war ended and those in the class were offered honorary discharges, so Fletcher did not see combat duty.

Fletcher earned an Associate degree from Louisiana Tech University in 1914, a M.S. from Iowa State in 1926, and received four honorary degrees, including one from LSU.

A well-known and influential teacher and educator for 46 years, Fletcher was a professor of agriculture, dean of the College of Agriculture, and president (1941-66) of the University of Louisiana-Lafayette – until 1999 known as Southwestern Louisiana Institute and the University of Southwestern Louisiana. Under his leadership, the school’s agriculture department became a nationally recognized entity and achieved university status.

During World War II, he provided military support by securing military training programs at the school, created newsletters for former students serving in the armed forces, and was senior vice commander of the American Legion-Southwestern Post. During peace negotiations, the United States, England, and Germany were seated at the main table, with France and Italy seated separately. Fletcher’s letter to the chairman of the U.S. Foreign Relations Committee demanding that the Free French be seated at the main table had its desired results and earned for him a Chevalier Legion of Honor from France.

In years following, Fletcher received a French Medal of Gratitude for the role he played in improving international relations and establishing student exchanges. He secured the college’s first Works Progress Administration project in the 1930s and was president of one of the first southern colleges to integrate (1954).

Fletcher was named Man of the Year in Louisiana by Progressive Farmer and Humanitarian of the Year at the Louisiana Dairy Festival, served as chairman of the Presidents Council of State Colleges, of the Evangeline Trail Committee, and of the Young Business Club, and state chairman of the National Foundation of March of Dimes.

A former member of Cadets of the Ole War Skule, Fletcher was an ardent LSU supporter. Three of his grandchildren and one great-granddaughter graduated from LSU, one of whom honored his memory with the endowment of the Joel Lafayette Fletcher Graduate Award in French Studies.
Frank W. Harrison, Jr.
First Lieutenant, U.S. Army

Frank W. Harrison, Jr., a native of Bastrop and resident of Lafayette, earned a bachelor’s degree in petroleum geology from LSU in 1950 and was commissioned through LSU ROTC that same year. A Distinguished Military graduate, he was Cadet Lieutenant Colonel and Battalion Commander, as well as Vice Commander of Scabbard & Blade. He also served as president of the College of Arts & Sciences and was a member of several honorary fraternities, as well as Kappa Sigma social fraternity.

Following graduation, he served two years on active duty – a year of it in Korea – in the U.S. Army Reserve. A Platoon Leader and Company Commander, he was discharged at the rank of 1 LT, earning a Commendation Ribbon with Medal Pendant, U.N. Service Ribbon with two battle stars, a Korean Service Medal, and a Letter of Commendation.

A petroleum geologist, Harrison is president of Optimistic Oil Company and Optimistic Energy, as well as a consulting geologist specializing in oil and gas unitization. He has participated in the discovery of 15 major oil and gas fields in South Louisiana.

Harrison has served as an officer and on boards of numerous civic and professional organizations, among them Premier Bank (later Banc One), Entergy Louisiana, Public Affairs Research Council, Lafayette General Medical Center, Salvation Army, Rotary Club of Lafayette, Asbury Methodist Church, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Gulf Coast Geological Society, Lafayette Geological Society, and the Louisiana Geological Survey. He was a legislative appointee to the Select Council on Revenues and Expenditures and a member of the Committee of 100.

Harrison, a charter member of the LSU Geology Endowment, cochaired the LSU Geology Camp Endowment Campaign, and has established three professorships in the geology department. He served as national secretary of the LSU Alumni Association (then Foundation) in 1967, was named Lafayette LSU Alumnus of the Year in 1985-86, and is a longtime member of the LSU Foundation. In 2005, he was named to the College of Basic Sciences Hall of Distinction and to the Kappa Sigma Hall of Honor. He is also a member of Cadets of the Ole War Skule.

He is married to the former Patricia McCoy and they have 2 children.
Morton C. Hurston, Jr.
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army Reserve

Lieutenant Colonel Morton C. Hurston, Jr., was born in San Diego, Calif., and grew up in Baton Rouge, earning a bachelor’s degree in international relations from LSU in 1973.

Hurston participated in LSU ROTC in 1962-63 and served with Special Forces and Military Intelligence in the Louisiana National Guard from 1963-2006. He served as Project Officer, Commander Bravo Liaison Officer, Mobilization Movement Control Officer, and Program Officer on active duty stints in Cambodia and Laos, in Operation Desert Storm, and in Azerbaijan. Reserve assignments included Radio Operator; Detachment, Company, and Battalion Commander; Intel, Operations, Executive, and Civil Affairs Officer. He retired at the rank of LTC.

His military education included, among other courses, Officer Candidate School, U.S. Army Special Warfare School, Jump Master School, HALO School, and Command and General Staff College. His MOS qualifications are Infantry (prefix 3SF), Engineer, Military Police, and Military Intelligence.

Hurston’s civilian work history includes employment in industrial sales management with Air Liquide Corporation and GDC Engineering Company, as security supervisor with Wackenhut Corporation, and program manager with the Department of Homeland Security American Defense Systems. He also worked with the Military Police, as a reserve officer with the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff’s Office, and as an investigator with the East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney’s Office.
Samuel Eugene Lawrence, Jr.
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Air Force

Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Eugene Lawrence, Jr., arrived at LSU in 1932 from his home in New Boston, Ind. and graduated in 1938 with a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering. He earned a commission in the U.S. Army Air Corps through LSU ROTC. While at LSU, he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha social fraternity and served as an ROTC officer.

Lawrence earned Fighter Pilot credentials through the Air Force Flying School, Class 39B, Kelly Field. He was shot down over North Africa in late 1942 and spent 29 months of World War II in a German prisoner of war camp. From 1952-53, he flew 42 missions in Korea and retired from active duty in 1960 at the rank of Lt. Col.

Following the war, LSU became a “family affair” of sorts for the Lawrence family. The late Col. S.E. Lawrence, Sr., retired from the War Department (now the Department of Defense) to teach hydraulic engineering at the University, and Lawrence Jr.’s two sisters graduated from LSU.

In 1948, Lawrence married Lillian Bollin of Columbia, S.C., and the couple has a daughter and two sons as well as a grandson and granddaughter. After leaving the military, the family moved to Panama City, Fla., where they maintained a cattle ranch until retiring to Columbia.

Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence developed Alzheimer’s and, prior to his death resided in the Dorn Veterans Home in Columbia. “He was a Tiger first, last, and always,” says his wife Lillian Lawrence. “Until his illness, he never missed an LSU football game in person – or on TV.”
Sanford O. “Sandy” Redock
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army

Lieutenant Colonel Sanford O. Redock, a native of Bronx, N.Y., earned a bachelor’s degree in education from the University in 1951. He received his commission in the U.S. Army through LSU ROTC where he was a member of Pershing Rifles. He is also a graduate of the Armored School, Ft. Knox, Ky., and Command and General Staff College.

Redock spent more than three years on active duty, initially with the 1st Armored Division, and the rest of his 28 years of service in the U.S. Army Reserves, retiring in 1978 at the rank of LTC.

His active duty assignments included Platoon Leader, Ft. Hood, Texas and Senior Instructor in psychological warfare at prisoner of war camps Koje and West Pusan, Korea. His reserve duty included a variety of assignments, among them Platoon Leader, Supply Officer, 98th MP Company, 98th Infantry Division, Elmira, N.Y.; Executive Officer and Company Commander 351st Psychological Warfare Company, Bronx, N.Y.; and five tours at the Pentagon as Staff Action Officer with PSYOPS Section ODCSOPS. In addition, he was assigned to the Foreign Area Officer program as a Theater Augmentee to PACOM and to the Joint Staff at CINPAC; attached to the U.S. Marine Corps, Camp Smith, Hi.; and was Liaison Officer-in Charge for West Point Admissions for the New York City area.

Among Redock’s military honors are the Korean Service Medal, three Battle Stars, Meritorious Service Medal, West Point Commendation, and commendation in the 1957 book Heroes Behind Barbed Wire by COL Kenneth K. Hansen.

In civilian life, Redock taught history and social studies, coached varsity basketball, and served as a guidance counselor at several high schools in New York. A licensed professional boxing and wrestling ring announcer for 27 years, he has to his credit more than 100 professional shows. He served as ring announcer for numerous charities and is the recipient of the American Association Improvement of Boxing Humanitarian Award. A member of the Screen Actors Guild, he boasts numerous background roles and principal roles as a boxing ring announcer.

Redock is married to the former Sandra Greenberg and they reside in Brooklyn, N.Y. A member of Cadets of the Ole War Skule and the LSU Alumni Association, he cofounded with Ro Sussman the New York City Alumni Chapter in the 1950s.
Percy Vilas “Pete” Rougon
Colonel, U.S. Army

The late COL Percy Vilas “Pete” Rougon, a native of Chenal, La., earned both bachelor’s and master’s degrees at LSU, in 1933 and 1936, respectively, and was commissioned through LSU ROTC. While at LSU he was a member of Epsilon Pi Tau, Phi Delta Kappa, and Scabbard and Blade.

He was ordered to active duty two weeks following the attack on Pearl Harbor, and after a two-week refresher course at Ft. Benning, Ga., was assigned to the 338th Infantry Regiment of the 85th Division. On landing in North Africa, the 85th was assigned to the 5th Army under Gen Mark Clark and saw military action across the mountains of Italy from the tip of the peninsula, across the Alps, to the border of Switzerland. While a member of the 338th, Rougon held positions as Motor Transportation Officer, Company Commander, and Regimental and Evacuation Officer. Near the end of the war, he was transferred from the Infantry to the Ordnance Corps.

Rougon joined the U.S. Army Reserves after the war and retired after 30 years of service. His last assignment was Commander of the 4157th U.S. Army School, Baton Rouge.

Among Rougon’s military awards are the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal with three Bronze Stars, Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and Unit Meritorious Service Wreath.

Rougon taught in LSU’s Department of Industrial Education from 1939-77 and was chosen Most Outstanding Professor in the College of Agriculture by the Agricultural Student Association in 1974-75.

Colonel Rougon was active in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Lakeland and was a member and commander of American Legion Post 248. He was also a member of the LSU Alumni Association.
Alfred M.L. Sanders
Major, U.S. Air Force

Alfred M.L. Sanders, a native of Kentwood, earned a bachelor’s degree in education from the University in 1942. While at LSU, he was a member of the track team and served two years in ROTC.

Sanders served 20 years on active duty. A combat pilot, he flew 44 missions during World War II over Germany, France, and Belgium and piloted the “Spirit of LSU” B-24 Liberator Bomber, 8th Air Force, 832nd Squadron, 486 Bombardment Group. He also served as a B-32 instructor pilot, Squadron Commander – Aircraft Electronic Maintenance, with OLC War Reserves Supplies in Turkey and, during his last three years of service, flew single-engine jet fighter bombers out of Moody Field, Valdosta, Ga. His military experiences are the subject of a movie, Nazi Train, and a book, Le Courage Et-Lies Pour Le Liberator of Ronquières 1944-1945, by Wylie Felix.

His military honors include two Army Commendation Medals, Air Force European Theater Operation Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Purple Heart, National Service Medal, POW War Medal, and Special Air Medal.

Sanders’ civilian occupations included laying oil pipelines from Louisiana to northeast terminals and construction work at Harding Field (a military installation, United States Army Air Corps base, now Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport) and Ethyl Corporation in Baton Rouge. He was on the faculty at Brevard Community College in Florida for 17 years, retiring as Professor Emeritus in 1980.

Major Sanders and his wife, the former Mildred Allen, reside in Rockledge, Fla. They have a son, a U.S. Air Force captain; a daughter, a former LSU Golden Girl; three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Sanders is a member of Cadets of the Ole War Skule and the LSU Alumni Association.
Harley Jesse Walker
Major, U.S. Marine Corps

Harley Jesse Walker, LSU Boyd Professor Emeritus of Geography and Anthropology, a native of Vickeryville, Mich., earned his Ph.D. at LSU in 1960 and joined the University faculty that same year. And, although he retired 26 years ago, he still maintains his campus office, conducts University-related research, and publishes frequently.

Walker entered the University of California, Berkeley in 1939 and signed up for the U.S. Navy flight program during spring semester registration in 1942. That summer, he reported for active duty with the Flying Golden Bears – 50 UC cadets – to naval air stations in California and then to Corpus Christi, Texas. He was promoted to Captain and commissioned in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves as an Aviator in 1943. For the next two and a half years he served in duty stations in the states and in the South Pacific, as a co-pilot, then pilot, and flew numerous routes over the Pacific. He flew the first load of flame throwers to Peleliu.

He resigned active-duty status, maintaining inactive status, and enrolled at the University of California, Los Angeles for one semester then returned to UCB, where he graduated with an A.B. in geography and began work on a master’s degree. He accepted a teaching position at the Atlanta Division, University of Georgia in 1950 and began service as an instrument instructor for a USMCR fighter squadron in Atlanta. During his “weekend warrior” career, he was promoted to Major. Walker retired from military service with 13 years of duty and more than 300,000 miles of flight time.

Walker earned an M.A. from UCB in 1954 and began work on his Ph.D. at LSU the following year.

Walker’s awards and honors are many. His military commendations include the Naval Presidential Unit Citation, Asiatic/Pacific Campaign Medal with two stars, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, and American Campaign Medal. In addition to his Boyd Professorship, LSU’s highest academic recognition, he holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Uppsala, Sweden. And among his awards are a number of “firsts,” including the first LSU faculty member to receive the Patron’s Medal from the Royal Geographic Society, London; the Laureate d’honneur Award from the International Geography Union, a recognition earned by few Americans; the Distinguished Career Award in Geomorphology for the Association of American Geographers; the R.J. Russell Award in Coastal Research; and the first Fellow of the International Association of Geomorphologists.

Walker is a member of Cadets of the Ole War Skule.
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